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Have vacancy for Accounts Clerk in Konapathar Tea Estate situated near Pengre, Tinsukia and Rani Tea Estate near Guwahati. Commerce graduate with experience will be preferred. Apply with expected salary & preferred location to director@kmta@gmail.com. SW/P/13337/1

Urgently required SM (30+), Training Consultant (Retired/Housewife), Financial Consultant in Financial company. #9864362436, SW/P/A2251/8

**SITUATION VACANT**

Akash Hyndal, Guwahati looking for Young & Dynamic Sales Professionals.

1. Team Leader:
Graduate with minimum 4 years of experience in Sales. Transportation is mandatory for the candidate to have two wheeler vehicle with a valid four Wheeler Driving License.
Minimum salary 10K. Salary is negotiable in case of good candidates.

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Candidate has to be graduate (any stream) with Sales Experience and good Communication skills.
Preference will be given to candidates with 2 wheeler Fresher and 10+2 pass candidates with suitable experience may also apply.
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Venue: Akash Hyndal
Neel Saran Plaza
Local, Guwahati
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Short listed candidate would be called for interview.

Contact :
7002957663 / 8876522946

CD/SV/...../1

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Application in standard form (as published in Assam Gazette Part IX) with Bio-data including Photo No. and Email Address and copies of testimonials from HSLC onwards are invited from the interested candidates having attained U.G.C. norms for filling up the post of Assistant Professor against the sanctioned posts in the following address as soon as possible of Rs. 1500/-39100/-AGP. Rs. 600/-pm. with other allowances.

1. Chemistry (One post) – Reserved for ST (H)
(Preference will be given to candidates of inorganic special paper)

2. Political Science (One post) – Unreserved

Application along with a Bank Draft of Rs. 2000/- (Two thousand only) (non-refundable) in favour of Principal & Secretary Commission of Control over Banks in Assam, Charilat Branch, must reach the college office within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of the advertisement.

1. The age of candidate should not be more than 43 years as on 01/07/2017 and not less than 40 years for ST/SI candidates.

2. Candidates must have minimum 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in point scale) at the M.A. level in the concerned relevant subject. A relaxation of 5% may be provided for the S/C ST Differently abled candidates.

A maximum of 5% of posts may be provided to SC/ST holders who have obtained their Master Degree Prior to 19.09.1991.

3. Candidates must have cleared the NET/SET/SELEX conducted by UGC/CSIR.

4. However, the candidates who are or have been awarded a Ph.D. Degree in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Minimum standard and procedure for award of Ph.D. Degree) Preference will be given to those from the requirement of the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SET/SELEX.

5. Candidates must submit Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC) and must know local language.

6. Candidates who are in service must apply through proper channel with an NOC from the concerned authority.

Sd/- Principal
Biswanath College, Charilat Biswanath, Assam

CD/SV/1500/1

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Applications are invited from the candidates for full Bio. data having NET/SET/SELEX for the under mentioned sanctioned posts having at least 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in point scale) at the M.A. level in the concerned relevant subject. A relaxation of 5% may be provided for the S/C ST differently abled candidates as well as the PWD holders who have obtained degree prior to 19.09.1991.

Hence the application for award of M.A. Degree Regulation 2009 shall be exempted from the regulation of NET/SET/SELEX. The concerned posts shall not be more than 15 years as on 01.01.2017 and released up to 5 years for SC/ST candidates. Candidates must know local languages and they must submit their applications with all relevant documents and test results. PRC and mobile no within 15 (fifteen) days from the publication of the advertisement along with minimum 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in point scale) at the M.A. level in the concerned relevant subject (Regular) with minimum 50% marks of having BT/B.Ed degree. The candidate must be a permanent resident of Assam and must have MIL (Assamese) in HSLC or equivalent examination. Date of interview is 15.07.2017. Principal, Rangia Girls Higher Secondary School, P.O. Rangia, PIN-781354, Dist. Kamrup, Mobile No. 9435119365. SW/P/13363/1

Required staff for Highend women clothes showroom in G.S Road, Guwahati - 1. Cashier: Having worked experience in retailing. Qualification: 10th pass. Minimum salary 10K. Salary is negotiable in case of good candidates.

2. Asstt Prof in Economics (E):
(i) Reserved for S.C. (H) (Roster point No. 10)
(ii) Reserved for S.C. (Roster Point No. 22)
(iii) Asstt Prof in Philosophy:
(i) Reserved for S.T. (H) (Roster point No. 10)
(ii) Reserved for S.T. (H) (Roster point No. 11)

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Required staff for Highend women clothes showroom in G.S Road, Guwahati - 1. Cashier: Having worked experience in retailing. Qualification: 10th pass. Minimum salary 10K. Salary is negotiable in case of good candidates.

3. Asstt Prof in Economics (E):
(i) Reserved for S.C. (Roster point No. 10)
(ii) Reserved for S.C. (Roster Point No. 22)
(iii) Asstt Prof in Philosophy:
(i) Reserved for S.T. (H) (Roster point No. 10)
(ii) Reserved for S.T. (H) (Roster point No. 11)

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(iii) Asstt Prof in Philosophy:
(i) Reserved for S.T. (H) (Roster point No. 10)
(ii) Reserved for S.T. (H) (Roster point No. 11)

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SFS College, AAOL Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Geography is looking for teachers with minimum qualifications of M.A. in Geography and 2 years of experience. Contact: No.9420-07313-E-mail: st.francisalo@gmail.com

CD/SV/P/AP94/2

A required Tea Estate in Dibrugarh District is looking for a registered Nurse (ANM) having Star Nursing certificate with at least 10 years experience. Remuneration would be as per applicable scales. Interest candidates may apply to the following address within 10 days. Box No. 265, Assam Tribune Office, Convey Road, Chirang Chirang, Dibrugarh.

Required Nursing Trainer For Skill Development Government project, Qualification: B.Sc. in Nursing or above/GNM with 3 years experience. Salary would be negotiable. Office location 1st floor old BSNL building. Near Over Bridge, Dibrugarh. Contact No. 9706733566, 0732327954, SV/P/13341/1

Teachers required (Graduate/ Post Graduate/B.Ed.) for English S. S. Math, Science, English at Oil Valley Girls & Boys School Dibrugarh. Candidate having fluency in English may apply (with photograph) to the Chairman Oil Valley Girls & Boys School Nizam Kadomoni Ward No. 2, P.O. Boiramguri, Dibrugarh, PIN-786000 within 7 days. Stop.../1

Required Nursing Trainer For Skill Development Government project, Qualification: B.Ed. or B.Sc. in Nursing or above/GNM with 3 years experience. Salary would be negotiable. Office location 1st floor old BSNL building. Near Over Bridge, Dibrugarh. Contact No. 9706733566, 0732327954, SV/P/13341/1

Don Bosco Institute requires One MIS coordinator with excellent knowledge in MS Excel. Interested candidates having 2-3 years experience in related field can send their CV to bdm@dbi.org.in. Phone: 7002267772. Stop.../1

Teachers required (Graduate/ Post Graduate/B.Ed.) for English S. S. Math, Science, English at Oil Valley Girls & Boys School Dibrugarh. Candidate having fluency in English may apply (with photograph) to the Chairman Oil Valley Girls & Boys School Nizam Kadomoni Ward No. 2, P.O. Boiramguri, Dibrugarh, PIN-786000 within 7 days. Stop.../1

Urgently require driver for private vehicle on Commission basis, driver should have good driving behaviour. Call@ 7086054241. SW/P/A2337/1

Required ICU doctor (MBBS) 1 year experience, Fire Officer. Monthly income - 20,000 - 30,000. Ph: 9508793307. SW/P/13351/1

ASPerD's letter No. GB-EST/Vacancy Post (PGT) (II)/2017/22, 22, 23 & Jnt 17. Applications with all self attested educational documents are invited from the TEI and B.Ed. degree holder intending candidates for filling up the Post of PGT in English (UR). The applications must reach on or before 15th July, 2017 and the interview for the same will be held on 17th July, 2017 in the school Premises. No separate communication will be made for the applicants for interview. Principal, No. 2 Jigipara LBSAHS School, P.O. Malibari Bazar, Dist: Kamrup (Assam), PIN-781136. Cont. No: 9613356139 (M). SW/P/13356/1

Required ICU doctor (MBBS) 1 year experience, Fire Officer. Monthly income - 20,000 - 30,000. Ph: 9508793307. SW/P/13351/1

Required ICU doctor (MBBS) 1 year experience, Fire Officer. Monthly income - 20,000 - 30,000. Ph: 9508793307. SW/P/13351/1

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Direct joining: Callcenter, Receptionist, Backofice, EMI Collection, Hotel, Security, Contact: 7896354324. SW/P/1338/1

Application are invited from the intending TET qualified (PGT) candidates for filling up the following posts. 1. One Subject Teacher in Economics (Unreserved). 2. One Subject Teacher in English (Reserved for OBC/MOB). Qualification: Master Degree in relevant subject with B.Ed./B.Ed as per Govt. norms. Application with documents must reach on or before 13th July /17. Interview: 15.07.2017 at 11 A.M. Principal, Dardas H.S School, P.O. P.D. Daroda, PIN- 781104 (Kamrup). SW/P/1338/1

Urgent require Back Office Showroom, Call center, Dataentry, Receptionist, Backofice, Teachers, Ph: 9769043505, 9435049029. SW/P/1336/1

Application are invited from the intending TET qualified (PGT) candidates for filling up the following posts. 1. One Subject Teacher in Economics (Unreserved). 2. One Subject Teacher in English (Reserved for OBC/MOB). Qualification: Master Degree in relevant subject with B.Ed./B.Ed as per Govt. norms. Application with documents must reach on or before 13th July /17. Interview: 15.07.2017 at 11 A.M. Principal, Dardas H.S School, P.O. P.D. Daroda, PIN- 781104 (Kamrup). SW/P/1338/1

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Application in prescribed form are invited from the interested candidates for admissions in Post Semester of M.Sc in Radiological Physics (2017-20) from 05-07-2017 to 14-07-2017. Prospectus can be obtained from the Office of Rs. 500/- (Rs. 400/- for students). Application forms can be submitted in the form of Demand Draft in favour of the Director, Dr. B. Borcach, Department of Physics, Guwahati, at the Head Office, Assam, Gopinath Nagar Branch. For details, candidates are requested to visit www.bcmgionline.org (advertisement section) or www.gmuh.ac.in

NEAV Education for Audiography & Sound Engineering Ultramodern Studio with FTI Faculties. For details 9864756470, 700218665, Edup/13324/2

Application with full bio data, 3 recent passport size sized photographs and self attested copies of mark sheets and certificates are invited for the following posts of Assistant Professor and Office Staff on or before 19.07.2017. Posts: Information Technology/E-Commerce, No of Posts: 1; Posts: Finance, No of Posts: 1; Posts: Grade IV, No of Posts: 1; Posts: Grade V, No of Posts: 1; Qualification for Assistant Professor: M.Com/ M.Sc/M.A. in the concerned subject with the required U.G.C. norms. Qualification for Office Assistant: Graduation in any stream with proficiency in Computer skills (Tally, DTP & MS-Office). Qualification for Grade IV: H.S. Passed. (Dr. Sikhamoni Konwar), Principal, K.H. Salkia College, P.O./Sankhar, Dibrugarh, Assam.

Required A.S.M. (Gh. Silchar & M.R. Silchar/Sibsagar/Tun/Tin Shillong): Contact: 7867503147, 8786750319, SW/P/13342/4

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CITY

Bank employees' body opposes financial resolution Bill

GUWAHATI, July 4: The Bank Employees Federation, Northeast Region, has opposed the Financial Resolution & Deposit Insurance Bill, 2016, cleared by the Union Cabinet last month.

In a press release issued by its general secretary Dinesh Chakraborty, the Federation said once the Bill is passed, it would ensure overnight closure of banks, spelling doom for scores of depositors, not to speak of lakhs of bank employees across the country.

Under the legislation, a 'resolution corporation' ('corporation' in short) would be established with only government nominees on its board. The board would have sweeping powers to order amalgamation, merger, liquidation and acquisition of any bank, including SBI and other nationalised

banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks and payment banks, any insurance company, including the LIC, and other nationalised general insurance companies, and any non-banking financial institution, if, in its opinion and judgement, the institution concerned has got "imminent" or "critical" risk to viability, the release stated.

The 'corporation' will be authorised to hand over any such institution to another entity, public or private. It has also been authorised to order discontinuation of service of employees and/or transfer of their employment and/or reduction of their remuneration upon such "resolution", i.e. amalgamation, merger, liquidation

and transfer of ownership. Accusing the Centre of lacking political will to recover the non-performing assets (NPAs) from defaulting corporates, the Federation said the government is more interested in accommodating and patronising the defaulters through various subterfuge like loan restructuring, assets reconstruction, even write-offs and outright loan waivers. Hence, the government attempts to show the performance of the PSBs in poor light and then liquidate them through the new Bill, the Federation stated.

The press release further claimed that the "draconian Bill" will have affect the safety and security of people's deposits as also the emoluments and job security of employees. But, it said, the most dangerous consequence of it will be that the Bill will take out the issue of very existence or liquidation of the SBI from the domain of public debate and leave it to the whims of bureaucratic dictats.

The United Forum of Bank Unions, in a meeting held in Mumbai yesterday decided to observe an all-bank strike on August 22, followed by a dharna in Delhi on September 15 and a two-day strike in October-November, the release informed.

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ACHIEVEMENT



Mrs. Papi Sen Assistant Professor, in the department of Bengali, Rangia College, Rangia has been awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by the university of Gauhati in the Department of Bengali for her thesis entitled "The Novels of Pruliflora Roy: Its Themes with Multifaceted Dimension". She carried out her research work under the guidance of Dr. Binita Rani Das, Associate Professor, Dept. of Bengali, Gauhati University. She is the eldest daughter of Mr. Dulal Chandra Sen and Sebika Sen Hojai and wife of Dr. Partish Chandra Das, Rangia College, Rangia. Achieve/P/13338/1

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I, Irish Terapi, D/o Lt. Hemari Terapi, R/o Balijuri, P.O/P.S-Angjokpani, Dist- Karbi Anglong, Assam shall henceforth be known as Irish Terapi in all academic certificate which has been wrongly recorded my surname as well as my father's surname. Affidavit No. 18AA 814744, dated 20th June, 2017. My Public Kamrup (M) at Guwahati Dated 15 June, 2017.

PN/P/13347/1

I, Smt. Babita Poddar declare that Babita Poddar & Babita Devi Poddar is same & one person by an affidavit before the Notary Public Kamrup (M) at Guwahati date 30 June.

PN/P/13342/1

I have changed my name from Manas Kumar Saha to Manas Kr. Saha by an affidavit before the Notary Public, Barpeta, Date: May 23, 2017. Henceforth, I shall be known as Manas Kr. Saha.

PN/P/13346/1

I, Kamakhya Poddar declare that Kamakhya Poddar & Kamakhya Prasad Poddar is same & one person by an affidavit before the Notary Public Kamrup (M) at Guwahati date 30 June.

PN/P/13345/1

I, Kamakhya Poddar declare that Kamakhya Poddar & Kamakhya Prasad Poddar is same & one person by an affidavit before the Notary Public Kamrup (M) at Guwahati date 30 June.

PN/P/13345/1



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on Monday. - UNI

225 killed in Sri Lanka's worst dengue outbreak

COLOMBO, July 4: Sri Lanka is suffering its worst-ever dengue outbreak, with the mosquito-borne virus killing 225 people and infecting more than 76,000 this year. Alarmed by the magnitude of the crisis, the government deployed 400 soldiers and police officers today to clear rotting garbage, stagnant water pools and other potential mosquito-breeding grounds.

Dr. Ruwan Wijayamuni, Colombo's chief medical officer, said people's failure to clear puddles and piles of trash after last month's heavy monsoon rains had compounded the problem.

"It is pathetic that they don't keep their environment clean," Wijayamuni said. "Some residents do not allow officials to inspect the houses and clean them. This is really unacceptable."

The number of infections nationwide is already 38 per cent higher than last year, when 55,150 people were diagnosed with dengue and 97 died, according to the Health Ministry. The highest number of cases is in the region around the main city of Colombo, though cases were being reported across the tropical island nation.

"This is mostly an urban disease," said Dr Priscilla Samareeza of the National Dengue

Eradication Unit. Last month's heavy rains left the cities waterlogged, with puddles and rain-soaked garbage providing ideal spots for mosquitoes to breed and multiply.

In Colombo alone, 25 teams of soldiers, police officers and public health inspectors were knocking on doors at people's homes, advising them to clear clogged drains and empty outdoor pots that might have filled with rainwater. Health officials were also fumigating public spaces.

This year's strain is particularly dangerous, Samareeza said. There is no cure for any of the four strains of the virus, which causes a high fever, weeks of exhaustion and in some cases a vicious skin rash. Patients most at risk of dying are the elderly, children or those with other medical complications.

Hospitals were so crowded with dengue patients, the army was building two temporary wards at Negombo Base Hospital, about 38 kilometres (24 miles) north of Colombo, military spokesman Brig Roshan Seneviratne said.

President Maithripala Sirisena urged the public to cooperate with officials trying to fight the disease, saying it could affect "the lives of all the citizens of the country." - AP



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President Maithripala Sirisena urged the public to cooperate with officials trying to fight the disease, saying it could affect "the lives of all the citizens of the country." - AP

No compromise ... Guwahati Declaration...

(Contd from page 1)

(Contd from page 1)

Delhi and Dhaka. To delay a closer economic integration in such areas would, thus, be tantamount to contravening the strategic interests of the two governments..."

The Declaration stated that China and Bangladesh share a special bond which is "generic, granular and unbroken by sovereign boundaries of post-Westphalian republics. The bond is civilizational and is sanctified by the blood of those martyrs who fought together for the glorious independence of Bangladesh in 1971."

It further added, "The Eighth Dialogue is now convinced that the visionary progress made by the two countries over last seven years, and in particular with the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in 2015 and the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in 2017, ought to continue in stronger strides and deserves stronger institutional attention from the relevant ministries and agencies of the two governments."

The Declaration stated that the latest round of Dialogue has carefully assessed the impact of the changing world order on peace, stability and prosperity of South Asia, and in particular of India and Bangladesh.

"It has reassessed and measured progress in the areas discussed in the sixth and seventh rounds, particularly in managing peaceful and prosperous international borders and security, water security and Joint Basin Management, energy security and cross border generation and trade in power, connectivity and Integrated Multimodal Communication, with special emphasis on utilizing inland waterways, sub-regional and regional development and utilization of mega-architectures such as regional and continental highways, rail networks, sea ports and coastal shipping, and investment, production, manufacturing and service sector complementarities," said the document.

"The situation is grave and made me deeply worried. It is the first time that Indian troops have crossed the mutually recognised boundary and trespassed into China's territory, triggering a close range face off between Chinese and Indian border troops. Now 19 days have passed, but the situation still has not eased," Luu said.

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State to ...
(Contd from page 1)

institutions and facilities in the area of education and healthcare.

He said that transit of goods to the Northeast from 'mainland' India and other parts of the world through Bangladesh can benefit Dhaka not only by means of earning transit fee but it will also improve the services sector in Bangladesh and bring additional investments to the neighbouring country. Sarma said Bangladesh can also "come closer to China" by the land route through the Northeast.

"I remember what you told me in our first meeting - when it comes to India and Israel relations, the sky is the limit. But now, prime minister, let me add even sky is not the limit. We are also cooperating in space," Netanyahu told Modi.

Talking about the vast possibilities of cooperation between the two countries, he said, "We can do even more, even better together." Appreciating the special welcome accorded to him, Modi spoke a few words in Hebrew, starting with "Shalom (Hello), I am happy to be here."

"I thank my friend Prime Minister Netanyahu for receiving me (at the airport)," said Modi, while describing his three-day visit here as "path-breaking". - PTI

Warm welcome ...

(Contd from page 1)

"In their brief prepared speeches, they vowed to give a push to the bilateral relationship in all aspects and jointly deal with the common threats like terrorism."

Netanyahu's entire Cabinet was present at the airport to receive Modi, who was wearing a cream colour 'bandha gula' and a dark blue handkerchief in the pocket. Modi was also accorded a Guard of Honour after an Israeli military band played the national anthems of the two countries.

"I remember what you told me in our first meeting - when it comes to India and Israel relations, the sky is the limit. But now, prime minister, let me add even sky is not the limit. We are also cooperating in space," Netanyahu told Modi.

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Over 100,000 migrants entered Europe since Jan: UN

GENEVA, July 4: More than 100,000 migrants and refugees have made the perilous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe since the beginning of the year, and 2,247 have died trying, the UN said today.

Between January 1 and July 3, more than 85,000 migrants landed in Italy, nearly 6,500 arrived in Spain and over 270 landed in Cyprus, the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

While the numbers are staggering, they remain far below last year's figures. During the same period in 2016, 231,503 people made the crossing to Europe, with the 100,000 mark passed already in February that year.

But at that time, most of the migrants were crossing from Turkey to Greece, and an EU deal with Ankara in March last year effectively hit the breaks on that movement.

So far this year, Italy has taken in nearly 85

percent of the people crossing the Mediterranean. Rome will on Thursday host an informal meeting of EU justice and interior ministers to discuss the migrant crisis.

Italy has been pushing for other European countries to open up their ports to rescue ships in order to share the burden. IOM chief William Lacy Swing appealed on Tuesday for more solidarity with Italy in handling the crisis.

"The reception of rescued migrants cannot be seen as an issue only for Italy, but a matter for Europe as a whole," he said in a statement.

The UN refugee agency has also warned that Italy cannot continue absorbing the tens of thousands of migrants landing on its shores on its own.

"This is not sustainable. We need to have other countries joining Italy and sharing that responsibility," Vincent Cochetel, the agency's special envoy for central Mediterranean, said on Monday. - AFP

Catalonia referendum to seek independence from Spain in Oct

BARCELONA, July 4: Catalonia will declare independence "immediately" if a majority of the Spanish region's voters opt for independence in a Scotland-style referendum called for October, its ruling coalition said today.

"If the majority of votes are for creating a Catalan republic, obviously independence will have to be declared immediately," said Gabriela Serra, a member of the separatist coalition that governs Catalonia.

Her comments came as the coalition introduced a law aimed at extracting the northeastern region from Spain's legal system, in a bid to circumvent all legal and practical challenges to organising a referendum. It will be submitted to a vote in the regional parliament, where separatists hold a majority, at the end of August.

Catalonia, a wealthy region of 7.5 million inhabitants with its own language and customs, has long demanded greater autonomy. For years separatist politicians in the region have tried to win approval from Spain's central government to

CORIGENDUM Notice No. N/2017/03
The earlier E-Tendering Notice No. N/2017/03, dated 21-06-2017, contained the following errors:

The Tender No. N/2017K-1, N/2017K-2, N/2017K-3, N/2017K-4, N/2017K-5, N/2017K-6 & N/2017K-7 issued on 21-06-2017, respectively, to various tenders should ensure that they are GST compliant and their quoted tax structure / rates are as per GST Law. All other terms & conditions will remain same.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Kathar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Please see E-tender Notice No. N/2017/03 (Complaint & N/2017/03 (Reply))

E-Tender No. SHT-13-MB-2017

Open E-tenders are invited by Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Lumding for the work as detailed below:

Scope of work: Provision of SDH & PDH equipments, CPk, CPE-SCHT & SCE-HBN section of Lumding Division, Tinsukia, Assam.

Location: Lumding, Assam.

Contract period: 12 months

Contract value: Rs. 1000000/-

Other terms & conditions: All other terms & conditions of above tender will remain unchanged.

Divisonal Signal & Telecom Engineer, Lumding

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Days **ARR.** **DEP.** **STATIONS** **ARR.** **DEP.** **DAYS**

Monday — 05.25 — Guwahati 08.45 —

07.28 07.30 Goalpara Town 05.00 05.02

10.04 10.06 New Alipurduar 01.43 01.45

10.50 10.55 New Coachbehar 01.10 01.15

11.58 12.00 Mathabanga 00.08 00.10

13.17 13.19 Maynagar Road 23.15 23.17

13.55 13.57 Jalpaiguri Road 22.50 22.52

14.45 15.00 New Jalpaiguri 21.55 22.10

19.20 19.35 Maita Town 17.40 17.50

23.44 23.46 Bardhaman 12.50 12.52

03.40 04.00 Kharagpur 08.30 08.50

05.25 05.27 Balasore 06.51 06.53

09.35 09.40 Bhubaneswar 03.40 03.45

12.20 12.25 Berhampur 00.59 01.01

17.15 17.35 Visakhapatnam 20.35 20.55

00.01 00.20 Vijayawada 13.50 14.10

09.15 — Secunderabad — 07.30

Wednesday — — — —

Friday — — — —

Sunday — — — —

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The Assam Tribune**Difficult proposition**

There are few communities in India which seeks to protect their socio-cultural identity as fiercely as the Nagas. It needs to be noted that a sizeable segment of the Naga community had embarked on one of the most protracted struggles in independent India's history. After the British handed over the reins of power to India in 1947, the Nagas, led by Angami Zuphi Phizo, under the auspices of the Naga National Council, first held an internal plebiscite to gauge the mood of the people, and then declared secession from the Indian Republic. With the Indian Government refusing to concede the demand, what had begun as a peaceful agitation turned violent and armed militancy manifested itself in Nagaland. A corollary to the long-standing demand for independence has been the concept of 'Nagaland', or a single State which will embrace all Naga tribes dwelling in the Northeast. Naturally, during primordial times, when Mongolian migration to the hills commenced, there had been no political boundaries; but a continuous process of political developments up to modern times has entailed that not all groups belonging to the broader Naga tribe live in Nagaland, but also in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram. The concept of the bigger Naga State involves integration into a single political unit all Naga-inhabited areas, a near impossible task given the modern political scenario where different States jealously cherish their boundaries.

The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Surhozein Liezetsu, has done well to underline this reality while addressing a meeting of the Naga People's Front (NPF). According to him, while creating a political entity by integrating Naga-inhabited areas would be difficult under the circumstances, certain measures can be taken to create a feeling of belonging amongst the Nagas who live in different States. By having a political entity like the NPF in States like Arunachal or Manipur, the Nagas there would be empowered politically as well as emotionally. At the same meeting, former Chief Minister TR Zeling stressed the need for Nagas living outside Nagaland to learn Nagamese language so that the emotional and intellectual bond can be retained, since language is a strong binding factor. Such proposals for strengthening the sense of Naga unity in a peaceful way are far more preferable than trying to achieve similar goals through conflict and violence – but there are indications that recent developments among the Naga insurgents have opened up a window of opportunity for a permanent solution to the insurgency problem. At the same time, while protecting their socio-cultural identity within and outside Nagaland, the people must not forget that traditions such as a patriarchal system where women remain subservient to men do not fit into the contemporary ethos. The world has moved well into modernity and the Naga people, especially the young and educated generation, must do the same.

Vanishing forests

Even as our government authorities keep themselves busy with ritualistic observances like Van Mahotsav, Wildlife Week, Elephant Festival, etc – seeking in the process to paint a rosy picture of the invaluable bequeath in the form of forests and wildlife – the prevailing reality points to a picture in stark contrast. Shrinking forest cover, especially dense natural forests that account for much of the State's famed biodiversity, ought to be the biggest concern for not just our Forest authorities but for the Government as a whole. Regrettably, there is little to suggest from the actions of the authorities that any meaningful intervention is forthcoming to stem the rot. Indeed, a substantial portion of the State's dense forests has been lost forever in the past three decades, and the disturbing trend not slackening. This has also been laid bare by biennial assessments by the *State of Forest Report*. The rampant loss of forest cover should not come as a shock though, given that large-scale encroachment as well as illegal logging continues unabated across our forested landscape. Both protected areas (sanctuaries and national parks) and reserve forests have suffered extensively on this count. The rapidly-dwindling forest cover is not just the biggest threat to the State's wildlife and its overall biodiversity but it also stands to seriously impact climate conditions and raise pollution levels.

Notwithstanding the Government's rhetoric of according protection to forests, the fact that pressing concerns like manpower shortage, logistics constraints, etc., continue to hinder forest protection exposes the hollowness of the authorities' utterances. Large-scale corruption in the Forest Department is another concern that is impacting conservation adversely. That Assam has earned the dubious distinction of having maximum forestland under encroachment is certainly not the advertisement that the Forest Department would like to decorate itself with. Unless we have political will and bureaucratic efficiency, it will be impossible to save whatever little remains of this priceless asset. While many of our once-pristine reserve forests exist only on paper, some protected areas are heading towards the same direction unless immediate intervention is made. The rot has its roots in the Government's reluctance to accord due priority to preservation of forests. While the reserved forests hardly have any semblance of protection in the form of manpower and infrastructure, many of the protected forests face similar constraints. Things can improve only when the ground reality is acknowledged and meaningful interventions initiated. Holding meaningless wildlife festivals and seminars while allowing our natural heritage to decay will serve little purpose. The worsening situation warrants a mechanism involving foolproof security with matching infrastructure and manpower. Thrust should also be given on having the communities living in fringe areas as active stakeholders in the conservation process.

State handloom, handicraft sector**Moon Moon Sarmah**

The handloom and handicraft sector plays a very important role in the economic and social life of the country. Though the world is moving fast as the machines have taken over the manual power, yet there is one area that has till date survived this onslaught: Indian handicraft that are loved across the globe and have a hot growing market beyond the Indian boundaries as well. It is not just a source of livelihood for weavers and artisans but also an environment-friendly energy-saving form of art that specially belongs to the most marginalized sections of society. The decentralized handloom and handicraft sector embodies the traditional wisdom, culture, wealth and secular ethos of India.

Assam is the home of diverse ethnic communities. All these units have inspired a varied menu of art and crafts like ivory work, jewelry making, bell-metal, pottery works, cane and bamboo products, etc., which once flourished under the patronage of the Ahom kings. With the advent of modern technology, these units had lost its glory, some of them are dying, and some are reeling under poverty. Assam has over the centuries developed a symbolic culture which has been reflected into everyday customs, social mores and religious rituals. A variety of traditional symbolic objects are used to express sentiments like identity, pride, respect, devotion and friendship. These core symbols permeate the region's cul-

ture more than others – the *tamulpan* (betel nut and leaf), *gamosa* and *sorai*. *Gamosa* is a hand-woven towel; *sorai* is a perforated metal bowl on stand. The *japi* (a traditional bamboo sunshade) is the other widely recognized symbol of the State. Other usual symbols like lion, dragon and the winged lion are also used across Assamese art literature and architecture. Cane and bamboo grow abundantly across the State. Local artisans fashion the variegated bamboo and cane into a host of functional and decorative objects, from baskets and rain shield to furniture and hat to several fishing tools. Artistic offerings of Majuli are multifaceted.

Wood carvings for decorative artefacts are still going on in the centuries-old *Sattras*, while the *Mukha Silpa* (mask making) of the Samuguri Sattras has occupied a position in the prestigious London Museum. The villages of Assam are veritable treasure house of hand-woven, hand-spun textile with immense cultural significance. The lush tropical flora and fauna in the region are reflected in the textile designs. The exotic pieces of Assamese jewellery such as *dooog-dooog*, *loka-paro*, *bena-keru*, etc., have already caught the attention of buyers.

It is an open secret that handicraft are the handwork of people

who reside in remote villages or places with little or no access to markets for their artistic works. At present the handloom sector is facing competition from countries producing similar products and also from cheaper imported fabrics. The degradation of environment and the changing landscape have also affected the craftsmen like the *shilpkari*-makers of Goalpara district. To improve the economic lot of the weavers and to equip them

threats is called a cluster. Various traditional handloom and handicraft pockets of India have formed mega clusters producing some world famous products. Moreover, today the artisans are finding it difficult to pass on their legacy; therefore, innovative technique in production process is sine qua non to attract the new generation artisans. For example, the present generation of potteries of Assam is reluctant to continue the age-old trade of their forefathers. NID, Ahmedabad has already developed a special type of dress for the salt workers of seashore area. Such steps will ensure a new dawn for the potters of Assam scattered all over the State. Adoption of Assam's unique crafts in the syllabus of the skill development courses in educational institutions can provide a fresh lease of life to their alluring art form. A platform in the form of 'expo' or 'conclave' like the Surajkund Mela is essential to showcase their talent.

Adoption of Assam's unique crafts in the syllabus of the skill development courses in educational institution can provide a fresh lease of life to their alluring art form. A platform in the form of 'expo' or 'conclave' like the Surajkund Mela is essential to showcase their talent.

to face the challenge of globalized environment, the Government should adopt a flexible and holistic approach. United we stand, divided we fall! formation of clusters is the need of the hour for providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to the artisans thereby resulting in a balanced economic development. Concentration of units in a given geographical location producing same or similar types of products, facing common opportunities and

challenges.

The Government should appeal to the heads of the corporate houses like ITC, Reliance Industries Limited, TATA, etc., to consider sourcing their requirements of gifts and souvenirs from the State handloom sector. The corporate houses should adopt production clusters of handicraft and handloom under their CSR scheme so that new ideas, new inputs on design, product innovation and technical produc-

tion can be enthused in the clusters for achieving a higher market share. Thematic display of craft skills by national awardees and master craftsmen, introduction of catalogues consisting different product lines and details of producers are some of the steps which may open the floodgates of these products. Special focus should be given on overseas exhibition, setting up of warehouses abroad, authorized shops at museums, airports, metros, etc. E-commerce is an emerging platform which can drive sales by sourcing handloom products directly from weavers and artisans. Amazon India, for example, has partnered with various government bodies such as the Gujarat Tribal Development Department and West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd to enable weavers and artisans from interior places. This has enabled them to reach millions of new customers and offer faster and quicker delivery of products. No doubt such things will bring a paradigm shift in our handicraft and handloom sector by creating employment opportunities in rural Assam.

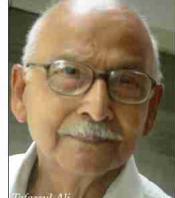
The Government is now aiming at marketing *khadi* as a global product identity of India, as it did for yoga. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is planning to increase its sale in the next fiscal. A recent global survey reveals that after yoga, *khadi* is the second most recycled item by a non-Indian. To grip the opportunity, it has become mandatory to make the Assam handloom sector a resurgent one.

Tafageet. appraisal of an unusual facet**Ranjan Kumar Dutta**

The world of Assamese music has been enriched by the individual and original creations of many of its exponents. There were those trendsetters who were successful in creating a wholly new musical environment which every Assamese could endorse as their own stream of neo-Assamese modern music. They did so by infusing elements from Assamese traditional folk music such as *Al-naam*, *Biyaa-naam*, *Satiya* songs and music and *Zikir* and *Jari*, freeing the evolving Assamese modern music of its overtly Bengali influence, and giving it an identity of its own. Amongst those who sought after the beauty of *Tafageet* along with those who sing and practise them are collectively known as '*Tafageet Anuragi*'. On the other hand, after his death in 2008, a foundation named the Tafazul Ali Foundation of Assam was formed at the initiative of his family. The acronym of the foundation also resolves to TAFATA. It is as if the term '*Tafageet*' seeks to scatter the colours of a rainbow of melody across the musical sky of Assam – something which everyone would welcome wholeheartedly!

There is a special appeal in the songs of Tafazul Ali, distinct from others. The songs written in the early days of his life are shrouded in a sense of mystery. A penchant for unbridled imagination is discernible in them. It is as if the presence of a mysterious woman is the essence behind most of them. It is not our intention to pass judgement on whether that lady is pass someone he admired or just a figment of his imagination, but glimpses of a female character is apparent in the stanzas of his lyrics. For example, the lyrics of a song written in 1955 are as follows: *Monorama, moi hadhu bur pahari*.

(dilehi) The lamps of a million stars (ajut tarar choki) I had wanted to tell you the tales of a thousand nights (hejar nishkarhadhu budi) But have you only one (atl matru hadhu kothi) / Monorama, I have forgotten those tales (Monorama, moi hadhu bur pahari).



This song was set to tune by two composers – Birendranath Datta and Jayanta Hazarika. Again, in the same year, he wrote the following song: *Madhumalati, go to sleep (Madhumalati tufani juwa)*. The beauty of a rendezvous on a silvery night (roop abhisar rupali nisar) When do you wait for? (tora kuthi) / Monorama, my tale has come to an end (Monorama mur hadhu sesh ho) How much of the night is left (rati nu kiman baki)? The dawn breeze has extinguished (prabhati hanire numai

This song has been immortalized in the voice of Jayanta Hazarika. However, although *Monorama* and *Madhumalati* lend entirety to their respective songs, the identities of these female characters remain vague. Again, the wordings of a song written in 1965 runs like this. Speak O' silent maiden ('O' nimati kanya tuni katha kuewa) On the stone inscription of my heart (mur hriday dilapit likhi juela) Etch the delicate dreams of your mind (lumar manon akhik hapin asusua).

Even though may have been influenced by a song with the same catchphrase (*Nimati Kanya Si-Lent Maiden*) by Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, the familiar fog of the mystery lady persists. In the same year, he had written yet another song: The touch of unknown fingers on the lute of my heart (prinor bindi kor angular shapan) Madhumalati where are you (Madhumalati nati, Madhumalati nati).

But the song which heightens the sense of mystery even more is given voice by Jyotirmoi Kakati: *Madumalata, mur kabitor* (the pleasant rhythm of my poems (kuon tumi madhuchanda)) Don't create waves (dhow mutliba manthara suru) / The Alakanda of my life flows smooth (gobon alakananda) You are the sweet, restive, runway rhythm of my poems (mur padukat palata tumi, chanchala madhuchanda).

The beauty of the *Tafageet* is incomparable. Exemplary selection of words and matching delicate tunes are their hallmarks. Sung by some of the most soulful and sensitive voices of the times, they achieve an unrivaled standard, and stir sublime emotions in human minds and hearts. As a result, the songs of Tafazul Ali have become an art in themselves, an art with a distinctive flavour of its own – an art self-sufficient enough to be awarded the recognition of a distinct genre of Assamese modern songs – the *Tafageet*.

(Published on the occasion of the lyricist's death anniversary today. Translated from the original Assamese by Rubayat Ali.)

Turmoil in the Darjeeling hills

For the long-suffering Darjeeling hills, the turmoil may seem like a return to the reality. Yours etc., ANIRBAN CHAKRABORTY, Birburi, Guwahati.

Unsuccessful students

Sir, – The results of both the HSLC and HS examinations were declared a month ago and the candidates who have passed are now studying in different institutions for their higher education. Right after the results were out, celebrations and facilitation ceremonies had their way. No doubt the successful candidates are the human resources of our country and are really proud of them. It's good to see many people, organizations, institutions, political parties and the Government coming forward to congratulate and financially help the successful candidates. We have huge expectations from the meritorious younger lot in the coming days. We hope that the young generation will come forward in future to guide the society and nation in the right direction. But at the same time,

we shouldn't forget about the candidates who failed to clear the exams in the midst of all these celebrations. Let's not forget about the unsuccessful candidates and offer the best possible support and encouragement to them so that they also can celebrate their lives in the days to come. Yours etc., KALYAN RABHA, Bhergaon, Udalguri.

Rajdhani Express

Sir, – Being a major railway junction of Assam, it is necessary for some important upper Assam-bound long distance trains to stop at the Furkating Junction. This specifically should apply to the New Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express. At present there are three sets of Rajdhani Express that ply between Dibrugarh and New Delhi – 12423/12424 (daily), 12435/12436 (biweekly) and 12235/12236 (weekly). Unfortunately, none of these trains have a stop at Furkating. I would like to suggest that at least one of these trains should stop at the Furkating Junction. Being a junction near

the important towns like Golaghat and Numaligarh, I believe this will benefit the people of Golaghat, Numaligarh and the adjoining areas. Yours etc., RIDDHIK PARASHAR, Golaghat.

Forest recruitment

Sir, – The State Forest Department will conduct a written recruitment test in all the districts of Assam on July 9, 2017 for the post of junior assistants. But due to the severe floods in a number of districts, the candidates are facing trouble and may not be able to appear in the test. Therefore, the authority concerned should take steps so that no flood-hit candidates will be deprived of the opportunity to appear in the said exam. Yours etc., AN ASPIRANT, Nagaon.

Elite clubs

Sir, – The article 'Of elite clubs in a democracy' (AT, June 29) by Patricia Mukhim has laid down a platform to go deep into such incidents that hurt one's self-esteem and sentiment of Indianness. There are many such incidents where the dress gets

priority over the character. Today, not only in Delhi, but in most of the cities there are clubs. Not only the clubs, but many public places and institutions have grown into elitist zones where people are judged by their dress only. There are many Taijin Lyngdohs in the country today who become an isolated Indian in their own country.

The writer is true in saying that Indians are more British than the British themselves were. We the Indians follow the British way of life all the time. As a result, there is a sense of British all around that has not left us even after the 70 years of Independence. Many Indians have become British in mind today. The elite clubs are actually 'established' in our mind. Otherwise, how can a person brought up with all the ethos of Indian culture and society act so cheap? Yours etc., RAJA DAS, Gauhati University.

Articles (within 1000-1100 words) and Letters to the Editor for publication in the editorial page may be sent to the email ID: editor@assamtibune.com.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – The moves for the upcoming municipal elections in the Darjeeling hill areas have been played well within the frayed fabric of the noisy politics. A short-sighted attempt at forcing the Bengali language on a large minority backfired, and led to a violent rejuvenation of the old demand for Gorkhaland. The Centre may invent yet another break model to stitch the disaffection from Bengal but the revived demand for statehood is popular and touching. It is no less emotive in the rest of Bengal which rejects division, when the reality of the Radcliffe line descended upon a population that had been neither asked for their opinion nor properly informed of what was to come. This wilful miscommunication was to cast long shadows over the subsequent events. The current crisis will come forward in future to guide the society and nation in the right direction. But at the same time,

In Loving Remembrance ...



USHA BAROOAH

31st July, 1931 - 5th July, 2011

6th Death Anniversary

Fondly remembered by
devoted daughter Anuradha
and

Gavin, Robin, Kim, & Shey
and all the colleagues & staff of
B & A Group of Companies

Bogibeel bridge opening likely within this fiscal

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, July 4: Work on the long-awaited Bogibeel Bridge is progressing at a fast pace and Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has completed launching of the 35th girder of the bridge.

NFR officials said that the 35th girder was launched in June. Another six girders remain to be completed and they are expected to be completed by September.

"The sub-structure works for the bridge have already been completed. There are 41 girders, out of which 35 have been launched till date," said an official.

Harassment alleged by sales tax personnel

OUR BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, July 4: Personnel of the Sales Tax Department, who do not always have a good name for fair practice, have come in for another volley of complaints from the business community here.

The business community here alleged that one sales tax superintendent and one sales tax inspector have been harassing traders here during the past couple of days in the name of enforcing GST compliance.

One such trader, Kaushal Bawari, owner of Shree Cloth Centre in New Market here submitted a written complaint to the Dibrugarh Deputy Commissioner yesterday, stating that Sales Tax Department people have been unnecessarily pestering the business community here. A Sales Tax Superintendent named P Mohan and another Sales Tax Inspector, one Borah, have been specifically mentioned in the complaint.

Bawari said corrupt Sales Tax Department employees are out to scuttle the good intentions of the Government by bringing about a transparent GST regime.

It is learnt that the district administration here has taken a serious view of the alleged malpractices by the Assam Sales Tax Department personnel here, and that suitable investigation and prosecution will take place, as per law.

OBITUARY

Prativa Barman
GUWAHATI, July 4: Prativa Barman, wife of Late Chandan Charan Barman, retired IAS officer, passed away at her Rehabari residence here on July 2. She was 92.

A first batch graduate of Handique Girls' College, Guwahati, then under Gauhati University, she was also the first Headmistress of Kokrajhar Girls' High School during the early 1950s.

A socially active and widely-travelled person, she was loved and respected by all for her amiable disposition and helpful nature. She leaves behind three daughters and a son, besides a host of relatives. Her death was widely mourned. Her last rites were performed at the Bhoothnath crematorium.

Trailokya Nath Dev Sarma

GUWAHATI, July 4: Trailokya Nath Dev Sarma, a retired general manager of ASBEB and a social worker as well as a popular citizen of Santipur, Mangaldoi breathed his last at a Guwahati nursing home on Monday night. He was 61.

He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives.

Rahul Das

GUWAHATI, July 4: Rahul Das, former correspondent of *The Assam Tribune* from Karimganj for over 30 years passed away at the Silchar Medical College Hospital this morning. He was 65.

He was also working with *Dainik Prantyoti*, a leading daily newspaper of Silchar.

He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and a son.

He added, "Girder fabrication and assembly works are being executed with state-of-the-art welding technology as per European standards. The project is progressing as planned. The Railway authorities are planning to complete launching of all the girders by September."

Work on the viaduct in the north bank of the Brahmaputra and the approaches on the National Highway in that direction have already been completed.

"Deck slab concreting of 10 spans have been done and further work is in progress. Track linking from the north bank side has been taken up," said an official, adding that

on the south bank work is being carried out by the PWD (National Highways) on the approach road connecting the bridge.

The Bogibeel rail-cum-road project was a part of the Assam Accord. The bridge project was sanctioned in 1997 and was declared as a National Project in 2007.

The total project cost is estimated at around Rs 5,000 crore.

The bridge site is 17 kms downstream of Dibrugarh and connects Silapathar in Dhemaji district on the north bank of the Brahmaputra and Bogibeel in Dibrugarh district on the south bank.

At 4.94 kms, the Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge will be the longest bridge over the Brahmaputra and also the longest rail-cum-road bridge in India.

The bridge is planned for commissioning within the current fiscal.

Apart from the main bridge, the project also incorporates guide bunds (2,043 metres of guide bunds on the south bank and 2,792 metres on the north bank) and road viaducts on the north and south banks, 32 kms of dyke strengthening, National Highway road network of 30 kms, railway network of 74 kms and six new stations, including Dibrugarh station.



Jute fibre being transported in a buffalo-drawn cart in Bhatkhonoria village under Palasbari LAC in Kamrup district, on Monday. — Photo: ANN Service, Mirza.

Flood relief distributed in six revenue circles of Lakhimpur

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, July 4: The Lakhimpur district administration distributed flood relief among villagers in six revenue circles yesterday.

The relief included 499.03 quintals of rice, 83.24 quintals of pulses, 22.89 quintals of salt and 1198 litres of mustard oil. Apart from that, 759 tarpaulins and 83 quintals of cattle fodder were also distributed as part of the flood relief work.

It may be recalled that 155 villages in Lakhimpur district were completely underwater during the latest flood havoc.

In the meantime, the former MLA of Bihupura, Bhupen Bora accused the district administration and the present elected representatives of not facilitating proper relief work in the flood-hit area. He also condemned the present Bihupura MLA for distributing only a basket packet each to the flood-affected people in flood-affected Bihupura area. Bhupen Bora also lamented the lack of special food package for Lakhimpur district and non-completion of embankment works before April.

Referring to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who was the local MP here until recently, the ex-MLA said that he

had not paid a visit to the flood-hit district so far. The Congress leader also slammed the present State Government for its contradictory stand on corruption, in which big fishes like Tuliram Ronghang were welcomed and petty offenders punished.

He also claimed that the public had by now realised that the present State Government was only focusing on publicity stunts and repackaging the earlier welfare schemes of the Congress Government. Bhupen Bora also appealed to the State Government to reintroduce the Madhavdev Award, which had not been conferred since a long time.

He informed that the Congress party would soon organise a formal protest against the apathy of the district administration and the State Government towards the plight of the flood-hit Lakhimpur district.

College Road itself is a very important and busy road of the town connecting the Development area, Dhalakhat, Gilupukhuri, Chardham etc. areas.

Moreover, the Puja Mandir complex is offering facilities to the public for religious ceremonies like marriages, mass marriages, sacred thread ceremony etc. In addition to these, both women and male devotees gather at the Mandir for *mangal bora* every Saturday and Sunday respectively,

which would also be hampered by the new entrance gate of the cremation compound.

been constructed just in front of the gate of the Puja Mandir. The new gate, whether it was constructed with the permission of the concerned authorities like the Deputy Commissioner or the Tinsukia Municipal Board or not, the fact which has not been disclosed, will definitely create disturbance both for the people going for the cremation of a dead one as well as to the devotees at the temple. Especially the problem will be seen at the time of Dussehra Puja, Kali Puja etc., as there will be a chaos due to the rush of devotees for it will definitely create traffic jams as the

cremation compound.

In the meantime, the Mandir committee has submitted a protest letter to the Cremation Compound Committee expressing its grave concern alleging that the new entrance gate was carried out stealthily in the night hours behind the wall. It would also approach the authorities namely the Tinsukia Municipal Board and the Deputy Commissioner to stop the construction of the new entrance gate of the cremation ground.

component of Goalpariya folk culture and the only source of livelihood for most of the cultivators, besides the fishing community. Lack of awareness, coupled with massive cultivation of paddy along the rivulet subsequently obstructed its natural flow. In due course, some places along the rivulet started into a zig-zag drain.

Presently there exists no difference in the level of the rivulet and the cultivable land. As a result, the economy of the area has been severely affected.

Hindi teachers' meet today

GUWAHATI, July 4: A meeting of the All Assam Upper Primary Hindi Graduate Teachers' Association will be held at 11 am at the Rural Library located at Bahata Chariali in Kamrup (Rural) district on July 5, a press release received here stated.

The meeting will discuss ways to deal with the anomalies present in the 7th Pay Commission, besides future course of action by the Association, a press note issued by the organisation's president Bipin Mahanta and secretary Madan Dutta stated. HSLC/HS passed teachers working in primary schools, besides Prabin, Madhyama, Vishard, Sahitya Ratna, Sahitya Sudhakar and Hindi graduates have been urged to attend the meet without fail, the release added.

Free health camp for Haj pilgrims

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, July 4: The Joint Director of Health Services in Lakhimpur district is organising a free health check-up camp for the Haj pilgrims of 2017. The health camp would be held on July 8 and 9 at the Town High School in Ward No. 12 here.

Plantation drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 4: Personnel of the CISF unit stationed at the ONGC's Assam and Assam-Arakan Basin headquarters on the Cinnamara outskirts here undertook a tree plantation drive along the Jorhat-Mariami road on Monday.

Existence of Gadadhar rivulet threatened

CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, July 4: The Gadadhar rivulet flowing along Tamrhat, Kumarjani, Puglai, Alekshani, Harinchora, Sonikat, Pratappganji, Meterjhara, Sathibganji, Kharagbari, Rupsa, Dabongbari, Chhapgarh, Saraldanga, Gaupur, Asharkandi, Geramari, Begunitari and Falimari was once the principle

ed and there seems to be no solution in sight. Famous Sanskrit scholar Pitambar Sidhanta Bagish of the 16th century had mentioned about the importance of the Godadar rivulet in his book titled *Tirtha Kavimali*, and Beula was reportedly able to wrest back the life of her dead husband Lakshminath at the intersection of the Gadadhar and the Brahmaputra at Netai-

ga. Unfortunately at Gaupur, the bank of the Gadadhar has been turned into a dumping ground and garbage collected from the main market of the town is dumped there, thereby causing health problems, besides creating a nauseating stench and seriously polluting the water of the rivulet. Alongside the bank, there are a number of temples and a transit point for the passengers

Dhubunighat, which is considered a sacred place for bathing even today.

Presently there exists no difference in the level of the rivulet and the cultivable land. As a result, the economy of the area has been severely affected.

ers and a number of big markets grew up at Paglighat, Pratappganji, Rupsa, Sathibganji, Asharkandi and Gaupur. The traders used boats to carry goods like jute, terracotta, pineapples, ginger etc., though those days are long gone.

The enlightened people of the area along with local nature-lovers have requested the denizens of the river bank and the Government to look into the causes of the drying condition of the Gadadhar rivulet and ensure its free flow.

Row over construction of gate at crematorium

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA, July 4: The construction of a new entrance gate of the Tinsukia cremation compound has got mixed in a controversy. The Cremation Ground Committee (Tinsukia Smasheni Committee) has started the construction a new entrance gate towards the College Road in addition to the old one which is situated a few metres away from the Tinsukia Puja Mandir.

But the new gate, to the utter dismay of the Puja Committee and the concerned people, has

been constructed just in front of the gate of the Puja Mandir. The new gate, whether it was constructed with the permission of the concerned authorities like the Deputy Commissioner or the Tinsukia Municipal Board or not, the fact which has not been disclosed, will definitely create disturbance both for the people going for the cremation of a dead one as well as to the devotees at the temple. Especially the problem will be seen at the time of Dussehra Puja, Kali Puja etc., as there will be a chaos due to the rush of devotees for it will definitely create traffic jams as the

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Dayamay Singh, Principal Scientist of RARS at AAU, Shillonglan, Nagao spoke on 'Health Benefits of Medicinal Herbs in Diets of Manipuri Community', which attracted a volley of questions.

Apart from these, more than 10 papers were presented in the conference, which recommended to the Government to implement the following: Facilitate and support development of databases, networking amongst researchers, concerned Government departments and NGOs etc., as well as facilitate easy access to available information sources (websites and publications) on all aspects of herbal medicine development such as inventory and resource assessment, harvesting, processing, marketing, trade and policies of medicinal herbs.

Further, it was recommended to rethink

and radically alter the models and processes of development in order to ensure that local communities, forests, biodiversity and wildlife can flourish, with special reference to herbal medicine plants.

The certificate distribution session of the conference was held under the chairmanship of Dr SK Dutta. In his address, he presented an overview of 'Herbal Medicine - A Rational Approach in Healthcare System With Special Reference to North-East India'.

He was hopeful that the conference would help in creating a platform for developing awareness and sensitivity among the students, farmers, NGOs and the common masses to identify the importance of herbal medicine for overall health.

Dr Sanjeeb Kumar Nath subsequently offered the vote of thanks.

UGC-sponsored meet highlights efficacy of herbal medicines

GUWAHATI, July 4: A day-long State-level UGC-sponsored conference titled 'Herbal Medicine - A Rational Approach in Healthcare System with Special Reference to North East India' was organised by the Department of Botany at Dibrugarh College in Dibrugarh on June 19, a press release received here stated.

Around 80 delegates, including lecturers, teachers, NGOs, students, common people and local media personnel attended the conference, whose objective was to make the students' community, youth and general public aware about the efficacy of herbal medicine.

Even otherwise, herbal drugs imply knowledge and practice of herbal healing for the prevention, diagnosis and elimination of physical, mental or social imbalance. While the cost of healthcare has been rising at an alarming rate throughout the world, at the same time the world market for phytopharmaceuticals is growing progressively.

It is a common observation that people

diagnosed with incurable chronic diseases like diabetes, arthritis and AIDS invariably turn to herbs for remedies in their day-to-day lives. He underlined the need and importance of herbal medicine for healthcare system in the North East region of India. Dr PK Das in his keynote address discussed the various issues and challenges regarding herbal medicine with special reference to North East India.

In the second technical session, Dr Akhil Barua, Associate Professor in the Department of Botany, Darrang College, discussed elaborately on, 'Best Practices of Herbal Remedies of India for Stomach Disorders/Diseases'.

The third technical session was presided over by Dr PK Das. Informative lectures were presented by Dr Dinesh Hazarika, Principal Scientist of RARS at AAU, Shillonglan, Nagao on 'Know Brahmi (*Bacopa Monnierii*) – Its Importance and Health Benefits'. Dr K

The need to legally allow further large-scale diversion of herbal medicinal plants for the purpose of 'development' projects was highlighted. To infuse all Government functioning with mandatory socio-mono information disclosure and transparency mechanism on herbal medicinal plants, besides generating awareness for future prospect of herbal medicinal plants and its use.

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Dr Sanjeeb Kumar Nath subsequently offered the vote of thanks.

Case registered against OC, Goalpara (Sadar) PS

CORRESPONDENT

GOALPARA, July 4: The Goalpara police has registered a case no. 260/17 under Section 325/326/34 IPC, after Amin Hoque Choudhury, president AAMSU, Goalpara

district filed an FIR against the officer-in-charge Goalpara (Sadar) police station, Dimbawari Roy and police constable, Anup Roy for their alleged excessive use of physical force in tackling a protest demonstration. The protesters were

highlighting the problems of 'D' voters at Kharbuza under Goalpara (Sadar) police station Friday last, leading to the death of a protester in the ensuing police firing.

While advocate Jiten Das argued resentment of some conscious citizens against the police said that even though the police denied permission to hold the rally, but the police did not follow the standard procedure for crowd control like the method of persuasion, advice or warning, and instead used excessive force to disperse the group of protesters.

Since the entire situation was infused under the command of the officer-in-charge, Goalpara (Sadar), Dimbawari Roy and violated the Geneva Convention and additional protocol under humanitarian law, advocate Das demanded his immediate suspension and trans-

POLICE FIRING CASE

Our Staff Reporter in Guwahati adds: A 12-member delegation of the Assam Congress Legislative Party (ACLP) today visited the Khamti residence of Late Yaku Ali, who died in an incident of police firing at Goalpara on June 30 last. The delegation also handed over an amount of Rs 50,000 to the family of Late Ali as a token of solidarity.

The delegation led by ACLP leader Debabrata Saikia met the Goalpara Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police to hand over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding stern action against the guilty police official, who opened fire on the agitating public without following the set procedures for the purpose.

It also demanded adequate compensation to the family of Late Yaku Ali and to extend all sorts of support to his orphaned children in matters of education, sustenance etc.

LDMA: The Left and democratic March (LDMA), Assam has vehemently protested the brutalities perpetrated by the State police on the agitating public at Kharboja, Goal-

para on June 30 last.

The March, an umbrella organisation of eleven political parties of the State, was presided over by senior leader of the CPI-M Uddhav Barman, decided to hold a sit-in demonstration from 11 am of July 7 on the bank of the Dighalipukhuri in Guwahati in protest against the June 30 Goalpara incident of police action on the agitating people.

It demanded a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the family of

Yakub Ali, a judicial inquiry into the June 30 incident by a sitting judge of the Gauhati High Court and better medical treatment to those who sustained injuries in police actions that day, stern actions against those police officials who were involved in baton charge and opening fire on the agitating people that day, resolution of the issue of 'D' voter and completion of the NRC updating process by December 31 next, among others.

A joint meeting of the constituent parties of the March here last evening, which was presided over by senior leader of the CPI-M Uddhav Barman, decided to hold a sit-in demonstration from 11 am of July 7 on the bank of the Dighalipukhuri in Guwahati in protest against the June 30 Goalpara incident of police action on the agitating people.

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No. SC/OP/TECH/184/PLIX/61 Date: 29.06.2017
Assam Gas Company Limited, a Govt. of Assam undertaking, invites bids for General Maintenance of Suspension River Crossing of 400 NM B.S. Gas Pipeline. Tender Documents are available at E-procurement portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted ONLINE by NFT, the parties may visit our website www.assamgas.org

Sd/- Managing Director

**राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अखण्डपत्र प्रदेश
National Institute of Technology Arunachal Pradesh**
Yupia, District Papumape, Arunachal Pradesh - 791112
Fax: 0360 2264972, e-mail: nitarunachal@gmail.com

No. NITA/PPD/PT/2017/184-D Date: 03-07-2017

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Walk-in for written test followed by interview for the selection of Ph.D scholars (Part-time/Self financed) in the various disciplines and categories will be held on 27-07-2017 at NIT-Arunachal Pradesh, Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh - 791112. Interested candidates may visit our website www.nitap.in for eligibility criteria & pattern of written test, syllabus etc.

Sd/- Assistant Registrar (Acad.)

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FUN CINEPLEX
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TUBELIGHT (Hindi)

Star Salman Khan, Zhu Zhu etc.
At 9.45 am & 4.30 pm

TRANSFORMERS : THE LAST KNIGHT
(Hindi 2D)

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Josh Duhamel etc.

TUBELIGHT (Hindi)

Cast: Sammi Khan, Zhu Zhu etc.

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GALLERIA CINEMAS
Dibrugarh, Junction Mall

30th June to 6th July 2017

At 11 am, 2.00, 5.00 & 8.00 pm

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT
(3D Hindi)

Ticket Rates: Regular Show:

Rs. 280/-, Rs. 320/-, Rs. 360/-

Morning shows:

Rs. 80/-, Rs. 180/-, Rs. 300/-

Website: www.bookmyshow.com

MEGHDOOT PICTURE PALACE
Digital Projection and Doty Sound

Sound System Air Cool

At 11.00 am, 4.30 pm & 8.00 pm

TUBELIGHT (Hindi)

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TUBELIGHT (Hindi)

Star Salman Khan, Zhu Zhu


**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Moderate rainfall is likely very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Warning: Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on July 5 and 8. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places on July 5 and 8 after heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places on July 7 over Assam and Meghalaya. Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places on July 5 over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	30.8	25.8
Tezpur	32.0	26.0
Silchar	32.2	25.7
Dhubri	27.9	25.8
Jorhat	32.2	25.4
Gauhati	32.5	25.0
Shillong	23.9	17.2
Imphal	29.6	22.4
Itanagar	34.2	23.4
Aizawl	26.8	12.1
Agartala	26.8	23.2
Mizoram	25.6	18.4
Pasighat	29.8	24.0
Cherrapunjee	21.2	18.9

Meira Kumar to visit Meghalaya

SHILLONG, July 4: Opposition Presidential candidate Meira Kumar will be campaigning in Congress-ruled Meghalaya tomorrow to garner votes for the July-17 elections, officials said today.

The NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind will also arrive later this week to seek support from the Opposition parties and the National People's Party, they said.

"The Congress candidate has been scheduled to arrive here on July 5 and will address the MLAs at the annex hall of the Assembly at 11 AM," Speaker A T Monial told PTI.

In the 60-member Assembly, the Congress has 30 MLAs apart from the support of the two Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Legislators, 11 Independents and a member of the North East Socialist Democratic Party.

The United Democratic Party (UDP) with eight MLAs and the Hills State Peoples Democratic Party with four MLAs are yet to decide. -PTI



Minister of Social Welfare of Manipur Nemcha Kipgen calling on Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot in New Delhi on Tuesday. - PIB

Govt not taking Chinese incursion seriously: Cong

NEW DELHI, July 4: The Congress today accused the Centre of not taking Chinese incursions seriously in the Sikkim sector and asked it to take proper steps to counter a possible attack or speedily engage with Beijing through diplomatic channels.

Accusing Union Ministers of only delivering speeches,

AICC senior spokesperson Ajay Maken asked how the Government intended to combat repeated "incursions", when it was "downgrading" the threat as "transgressions".

"On the one hand, the Prime Minister is on foreign visits. On the other, we have seen that our Government

itself is not taking the incursions seriously," Maken added.

The former Minister said the BJP-led NDA Government needs to prepare itself on the ground, "be it on borders shared with China or Pakistan" for any possible attack.

"The Government only delivers speeches. Intruders are continuously entering India. It is a record high, it never happened so in the past," he claimed. - PTI

Flood situation remains grim in Manipur

IMPHAL, July 4: The flood situation across Imphal Valley in Manipur continued to remain grim with heavy showers leading to waterlogging in Imphal East and Thoubal districts.

Public Works Minister Th Bishwajit told reporters at Bashikhang that the State Government is working to repair the damaged banks of Imphal and Kongha rivers, which have left hundreds without shelter in the districts, particularly in Lilong area.

Overflowing waters of the Nambul river have inundated many roads in Tera, Urikop and Sogolband, throwing vehicular traffic out of gear.

Residents of the Yaralap, Lamai and Khundrakpan areas in Imphal East district have been evacuated and shifted to relief camps, officials said.

Urging everyone to lend their assistance in tackling the flood situation, the Minister said there have been some delays as due to inability to proceed towards the "severely affected areas" in Thoubal district.

Assam Rifles personnel

have been deployed for relief and rescue operations at Mayang Imphal in Thoubal district after the Government sought their assistance. - PTI

Chinese incursion.

The Government needs to speedily take aggressive steps or act through diplomatic means," he said.

"The Government only delivers speeches. Intruders are continuously entering India. It is a record high, it never happened so in the past," he claimed. - PTI

NPYC demands State Home Minister's removal

KOHIMA, July 4: The Nagaland Pradesh Youth Congress (NPYC) today demanded removal of State Home Minister Y Patton and immediate termination of the consultancy services of MKR Pillai from police modernisation project in the State.

NPYC President Vilbuoshi Kengurou told newsmen that the demand was placed before Governor P B Acharya in the form of a representation today.

In the representation, the NPYC criticised the Home Minister's statement made in the last Assembly session admitting that more than 2000 constables, sub-inspectors and assistant sub-

inspectors were appointed in the police department through "backdoor means".

"The action of the Home Minister is tantamount to betrayal of oath of office to do justice to all sections of people without favour or ill-will," the NPYC said.

The NPYC demanded that the State Government should stop all such "backdoor appointments" in the Government departments so as to give equal opportunity to the capable and educated unemployed youths in the State.

Expressing surprise over the seizure of huge amount of cash from the Kerala resi-

dence of MKR Pillai, consultant of police modernisation in Nagaland, the NPYC said, "The source of his income has become doubtful."

Kengurou said that though the State Government had notified that Pillai's consultancy service with the department would be terminated on June 14 last, but no official notification was passed till now and he continued to function as a consultant till date.

"Being the Minister-in-charge of the department involving both the cases, the Home Minister should immediately step down or be sacked by the Government," he said. - PTI

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inspectors were appointed in the police department through "backdoor means".

"The action of the Home Minister is tantamount to betrayal of oath of office to do justice to all sections of people without favour or ill-will," the NPYC said.

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Expressing surprise over the seizure of huge amount of cash from the Kerala resi-

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati - 781 039, Assam
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. ITT/ENG/G17/INIT/260td. 28.06.2017
Sealed tenders are invited from experienced and registered contractors/firms for "Development of Video recording studio at Centre for Educational Technology in ITI, Guwahati Campus".
Download of tender paper 05.07.2017 to 19.07.2017
For further details visit www.itts.e-a.in . Any further clarification including corrigendum, amendments, time extension etc. for the above tender will be posted in the website only. Bidders should therefore regularly visit the website.
Dean (IPM)

QUOTATION /EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat No. LAN.53/2012
Sealed quotation affixing non refundable Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paise twenty five) only are invited from the interested Individual/Firm/Parties etc. to ascertain rates for Annual Maintenance of Auditorium, Conference Hall, Auditorium, Seminar Hall, Seminar and GND Bhawan, Assam Legislative Assembly. The quotation/Expression of interest will be received up to 1.00 PM on 19.07.2017 in the Office of the Principal Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat. The Quotation will be opened on the same day. The rates quoted in the quotation figure and word expressed taxes as applicable inclusive tax will be deducted as per the rates.
Deepti Chakraborty
Signature
Deepti Chakraborty Assam Legislative Assembly

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES
1. MES GARRISON ENGINEER (A/F) BORJHAR, POST: GUWAHATI AIRPORT, BORJHAR, GUWAHATI-781015 on behalf of President of India invites application from eligible contractor of MES and enlisted/unenlisted contractors working with other Govt. Departments meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractors for issue of tender of:
(a) Special repair of replacement of BER summer appliances and Provn of Air conditioning for RADAR tech & E-MMS control room at 19 wing AF stn under GE (A/F) Borjhar, estimated to cost Rs. 44.50 Lakhs. Eligibility class 'D' & Category a (i), b(i) & (ii) for MES Contractors.
The DDUJS, as announced in this year's State budget, aims to encourage the unemployed youth for entrepreneurship through formal banking channels.
Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also made an auspicious start of 'Boost Your Business', an initiative by Facebook to offer a platform to support the youths to make best use of the today's session to learn more on how to effectively use social media in their business.
The Chief Minister said that

DDUSY launched in Arunachal Pradesh

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, July 4: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today launched the State's much-awaited flagship programme, Deep Dayal Upadhyaya Swavalamban Yojana (DDUSY) in the presence of his ministerial colleagues, Parliamentary Secretaries, MLAs, Deputy Commissioners, senior officials and entrepreneurs from across the State.

DDUSY, as announced in this year's State budget, aims to encourage the unemployed youth for entrepreneurship through formal banking channels.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also made an auspicious start of 'Boost Your Business', an initiative by Facebook to offer a platform to support the youths to make best use of the today's session to learn more on how to effectively use social media in their business.

the two programmes – DDUSY and 'Boost Your Business' are interlinked that aim to address young unemployment through entrepreneurship.

Informing about the scheme, he said the DDUSY will facilitate bank loans between Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore for setting up of Greenfield enterprises with 30 per cent subsidy, which is aimed at APST entrepreneurs. He said that the top priority would be accorded to the projects related to agriculture and allied sectors, including tourism, textile and handicrafts.

Khandu said that the IT platforms have opened new vistas of opportunities for entrepreneurs who want to sell their products across the globe. He appealed to the youths to make best use of the today's session to learn more on how to effectively use social media in their business.



অনুষ্ঠানটির পরিকল্পনা

বাগম ব্যবসা

অ্যালেক্সান্দ্রা মেলি, ডেভিড ম্যাকেল, বিল ম্যাকেল

ডেভিড ম্যাকেল, মার্টিন ম্যাকেল, অ্যানা ম্যাকেল, শার্লোট ম্যাকেল, কার্ল ম্যাকেল, মার্লি ম্যাকেল, অলী ম্যাকেল, চার্লস ম্যাকেল

কার্ল ম্যাকেল, কার্ল ম্যাকেল

কার্ল

CAPSULE**Syndicate Bank CEO**

MANGALURU, July 4: Melvyn Rego, former Chairman of the Bank of India, has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Manipal-based Syndicate Bank. In a press release here said, he had earlier served as Deputy Managing Director of IDBI Bank, CEO of IDBI Homefinance and as its Head - International Banking Division, spearheading the overseas initiatives of IDBI, it added. - PTI

Ultratech Cement

NEW DELHI, July 4: Aditya Birla group firm Ultratech Cement today said it has reduced prices of its products by 2-3 per cent across the country of tax reduction under the GST regime. The company has started supply of batches on new rates from July 1 from its ware-houses, when the new tax structure came into force. - PTI

Jio tops speed chart

NEW DELHI, July 4: Reliance Jio has again emerged as the fastest 4G mobile service provider with an average download speed of 18.8 megabit per second (Mbps) in June, according to regulator TRAI. However, the TRAI's broadband speed chart showed the average download speed of the network slightly dipped from 19.12 Mbps recorded in May, but it continued to maintain a lead as the fastest 4G mobile service provider for the last seven months... PTI

ASUS Zenfone AR

NEW DELHI, July 4: Taiwanese smartphone maker ASUS is set to launch their much-anticipated augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR)-enabled smartphone Zenfone AR on July 13. The smartphone, with its advanced technology and immersive experience, is poised to push the boundaries of reality. - IANS

Ashok Leyland

KOLKATA, July 4: The country's largest commercial vehicles (CV) manufacturer Ashok Leyland is aiming at a 30 per cent market share during the current fiscal, an official of the company said. "In the last fiscal, our market share was around 33 per cent. This we want to take it to 35 per cent this fiscal," Anuj Katharia, President, Global Trucks said. - PTI

National Insurance Co

NEW DELHI, July 4: State-owned National Insurance Company has recorded a gross premium collection at Rs 14,282 crore for the fiscal ended March 2017. The Kolkata-based insurer had mobilised gross premium of Rs 12,019 crore in the previous fiscal. At the same time, solvency margin, the key indicator of an insurer's financial health, of the company improved from 12.6 per cent to 1.90 per cent. - PTI

Karbonn smartphone

NEW DELHI, July 4: Karbonn Mobiles has partnered with Paytm Payments Co-operative of India (NPCI) to launch India's first smartphone that comes integrated with Biometric digital payment app. The handset K9 Kayach 4G is priced at Rs 5,290 and is available both online and offline sales channels. - PTI

Govt urges industry to pass on benefits to consumers

NEW DELHI, July 4: The government today appealed to industry to pass on the benefits of reduction in taxes under GST to consumers and announced the setting up of a Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) of 15 Secretaries to monitor the prices and supply situation following the rollout of the new indirect tax regime.

"Prices have not gone up," Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia told reporters following the first meeting of the CMC here headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

"Appeal to industry to help bring down prices, wherever there is a reduction in tax under GST," he said.

Adhia informed the media

that the CMC formed by the Cabinet Secretary includes the Secretaries of 15 departments of the government which have been instructed to attend to the issues faced by their individual client groups on account of the goods and services tax that came into effect pan-India from July 1.

The CMC will meet once a week on every Tuesday, he added.

In this connection, the Secretary said his department had received 22,000 applications for new registrations under GST, of which around half were fully completed.

"Of the completed applica-

tions, 39,000 have already been approved and the rest will be deemed approved in the next three working days, unless States raise objections on specific cases," Adhia said.

Reduction in taxes under GST

He also said that the government is launching a GST monitoring exercise from Wednesday, which would involve assigning all districts of the country to senior officials for supervision. Four to five districts would be grouped together for monitoring by a Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary from here who would be linked to the field through a link official of the

Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). There would be 175 top officials assigned to this job who would report on GST to the Cabinet Secretary, Adhia said.

Adhia said, Sivastava, Secre-

tary in the Department of Consumer Affairs, said Con-

sumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had allowed trad-

ers, manufacturers and pack-

ers three months, till Septem-

ber 30, to dispose of old stocks

by displaying the changed pric-

es according to a "methodolo-

gy". According to this method,

the particular business in ques-

tion has to issue advertise-

ments in two newspapers in

forming the new price for items. Besides, the item pack-

aging has to display the new price on a sticker in a way that the old price is also visible.

It remains to undergo a price

reduction due to GST do not

need to issue newspaper ad-

vertisements, but the sticker

display of the new price on

packing is the same for prod-

ucts whose prices have in-

creased, Sivastava said.

As different from the GST

implemented elsewhere, which generally have "stand-

ard", "merit" and "demerit"

rates, the new regime in India

has a four-slab rate structure

of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent,

respectively. - IANS

Takeover deal**Snapdeal board rejects****Flipkart's \$850-mn offer**

NEW DELHI, July 4: Snapdeal's board is believed to have rejected a takeover offer of \$800-850 million (around Rs 5,500 crore) from larger e-

commerce rival Flipkart.

According to sources privy

to the development, Flipkart

has completed the due dilig-

ence process and has made

an offer of \$800-850 million to

buy Snapdeal.

However, the offer was re-

jected but trials are still on.

It is an ongoing discussion,"

said one of the sources.

When contacted, Snapdeal,

SoftBank and Flipkart declined

to comment.

SoftBank, the Snapdeal's

largest investor, has been proactively mediating the sale for the past few months. The board also has representation from Snapdeal founders (Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal), NVP and Kalanji Capital.

It was reported that Ernst & Young, which was roped in by Flipkart to conduct a due diligence on Snapdeal, submitted its report a few days ago, following which the offer was made.

The deal between Snapdeal and Flipkart, if completed, would mark the biggest acquisition in the Indian e-commerce space. - PTI

Infrastructure projects

Future aid will depend on how India garners funds: ADB

NEW DELHI, July 4: ADB's support helped catalyse infrastructure investments and PPPs by providing loans to government and private sector through financial intermediaries for projects with development impacts.

"ADB is well placed to make a significant contribution to the Finance Plus policy, given the knowledge resources it has built up over its long engagement with India, particularly by capitalising on best practices and lessons learnt from implementing and evaluating projects," said Marvin Taylor-Dornord, Director General of Independent Evaluation Department.

During 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) ended March, India's infrastructure investment was projected at around \$836 billion, with 48 per cent targeted to be financed by private sector, mainly through PPPs.

The Indian government sees private sector as a key player to promote faster and more inclusive growth, it said.

Nearly 45% techies get job offers through code contests: Report

MUMBAI, July 4: With programming competitions or 'code contests' gaining popularity, a study has revealed that 45 per cent respondents received job offers by participating in such competitions.

"The first offer has been rejected but trials are still on. It is an ongoing discussion," said one of the sources.

When contacted, Snapdeal, SoftBank and Flipkart declined to comment.

According to sources privy to the development, Flipkart

has completed the due dilig-

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The deal between Snapdeal and Flipkart, if completed, would mark the biggest acquisition in the Indian e-commerce space. - PTI

Additional levies**GST will shave off Rs 400 cr from airlines annually: AirAsia**

MUMBAI, July 4: Low-cost airline AirAsia India today said the new tax regime will leave the aviation industry poorer by about Rs 400 crore annually as it does not roll back the levy.

"On an average, an operator will have to pay an additional Rs 10-12 crore per aircraft in additional levies, which include the 5 per cent duty on plane imports. This will add an additional Rs 400-crore tax burden on the airlines that lease out planes," AirAsia India Managing Director and Chief Executive Amar Abrol said here.

But Abrol said the airline has decided not to pass on this ad-

ditional burden to customers as it expects the government to rollback the duty.

"The problem is that credit set-off of 3 per cent is available only on services and not on purchase of machinery or aircraft imports. Overall, it seems to be a negative impact and the details are being worked out," he said.

However, the 1 per cent reduction in taxes on economic ticket to 5 per cent in GST is good for the industry, he said.

"As of now there is 5 per cent levy on aircraft imports. The industry is discussing with the aviation and finance minis-

tries for exempting this. We

will also have to pay 3 per cent GST on lease rentals but that is available for credit set-off," Abrol said.

The three-year-old airline closed last fiscal with a revenue of Rs 1,000 crore and Abrol said he hopes to cross that number by December this year as the company will be deploying four more planes by then.

"We are getting our 11th plane this week, which will be deployed from August 1. By Diwali, we will have three more. This should help us increase frequencies," he said, adding the airline hopes to have the magical 20 planes by 2018 Diwali. - PTI



Arvind Bali, CEO, Videocon Telecom launching CCTV brand WAllCam, in New Delhi on Tuesday. - UNI

Twitter records over 1 mn conversations on GST

NEW DELHI, July 4: Twitter recorded over one million conversations on GST between June 30 and July 2 - reflecting the sentiment of the nation on what is being billed as the largest tax reform since Independence.

From #GSTIndia to #GSTForCommonMan, people took to Twitter to express their opinions and conversations about Goods and Services Tax (GST).

India ushered in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1. A

four-tier tax slab – 5,

12, 18 and 28 per cent

- has been decided.

People have also been posting pictures on various social media platforms of receipts issued in grocery stores or eateries showing tax deductions as GST, instead of VAT/Service tax earlier.

"Conversations around the launch of the GST exemplify Twitter as the best place for people to connect with what's



happening in India and around the world and express their opinions," Twitter India Head of Public Policy and Government Mahima Kaul said in a statement.

She added that the platform witnessed a myriad of perspectives from Indian audience, in support as well as raising their concerns about GST.

"With more than a million tweets on GST, we hope the public feedback will help to facilitate greater citizen engagement on the topic," Kaul said.

Conversations on the platform peaked at 12:30 AM on July 1 with 1,100 tweets per minute.

The top hashtags around the conversation included GSTCouncil, GSTIndia, GSTtoGo, GSTRate, GST, GSTSimplified, IndiaforGST, askGST, GSTForCommonMan, HalfCookedGST and HalfBakedGST. - PTI

CEC bats for clean political system

Disqualify candidates charged with heinous crime and those who bribe voters, says Nasim Zaidi

NEW DELHI, July 4: The Election Commission wants disqualification of candidates facing charges of heinous crimes and bribing voters in a bid to cleanse the system and provide a level-playing field.

The Commission also disfours the provision of parties not requiring to disclose their funding through electoral bonds and wants a review of the provision.

"One of the important challenges to the electoral process being free and fair has been the role of criminals in the electoral arena. So, we have recommended that those against whom chargesheets have been filed for heinous crimes like murder, rape, kidnapping, etc., which can result in jail for 5 years should be prevented even from contesting elections," Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi told IANS in an interview.

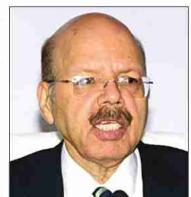
Is the Govt planning to abolish tribunals, asks apex court

NEW DELHI, July 4: The proposed bid to slash the number of tribunals today caught the attention of the Supreme Court which cited media reports and asked whether the Centre was planning to abolish quasi-judicial panels.

The NDA Government has recently proposed to bring a law to slash the number of tribunals from present 36 to 18.

"Is the Government going to abolish the tribunals? The media reports say so," a batch of Justices MB Lokur and Deepak Gupta asked Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was representing Maharashtra government in an appeal filed against an order of the National Green Tribunal.

The NGT had stopped the chairpersons of 10 state pollution control boards (SPCBs), including that of Maharashtra, from assuming office and start working with immediate effect on the ground that they have not been appointed in consonance with the judgement.



Nasim Zaidi

He said the EC had recommended this and the Law Commission had endorsed the view. "The Law Commission has also given a separate report on this subject. I think it is time this is taken up on priority basis," Zaidi said.

In a similar vein, Zaidi, who demits office on Wednesday after almost five years at the Commission, also talked tough about candidates facing charges of bribing voters, particularly in the context of the recent cancelled by-poll in RK Nagar Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu following the death of Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.

"We need representatives of integrity in our electoral system which means our election campaigns should not be funded or tainted by abuse of money. Now the candidates have statutory limit. They can spend legally on election expenditure and not on things like alcohol or paid news," he said.

He said certain gaps exist. "There are certain gaps," he said.

Zaidi said if information is received that a candidate or his agents are distributing money to voters, they cannot be arrested under the existing law as bribe giving and taking is a non-cognizable offence. So is the paid news menace.

"We are saying make these cognizable offences with two years punishment," he said, adding that would automatically provide for disqualification in case of conviction.

Zaidi also wanted counteringmanding of elections in these cases with specific provisions in the Representation of the People Act.

"For example, in the RK Nagar by-poll, we did not have legal powers to countermand election on bribery charges so we resorted to the omnibus provision of Article 324 of the Constitution. But we cannot invoke

Article 324 every time. So there should be a proper law. This has been examined and endorsed by the Law Commission," Zaidi said.

The outgoing CEC said the proposals in this regard had also been sent to the government.

Asked why these proposals are not being acted upon, he said: "We hear there is a need for political consensus. We only make recommendations and highlight them. The Supreme Court has also ruled that heinous criminal cases should be closed within a year," adding.

"There are concerns that this can lead to witch-hunting or the ruling party can expedite or slow the trial process. That is why we considered that only those cases filed one year before, or charged filed one year before the impending election (be taken up). All these discussions have taken place. I think it is time this is taken up." – IANS

Governor threatened, insulted me, alleges Mamata



up her on her phone, she said: "The post of Governor is a constitutional post, he has to follow the constitutional norms. Mine is also a constitutional post. I have not come to power due to the benevolence of BJP, CPI-M or Congress. I have come to the power because of the mandate of the people, where as the Governor has been nominated by the Centre."

Holding that there should be mutual respect between the Governor and the Chief Minister, she said she even thought of stepping down from the post after the barrage of "insults".

"We are not servants. He is a constitutional post holder, I respect him. He should reciprocate by showing respect to me also. I run a government. After today's insult, at one point I thought I would quit. I have not been insulted like this anytime in the past," said Banerjee, also the Trimool Congress supremo.

She said Tripathi spoke to her regarding some trouble between two communities since Monday.

"He is showing me law and order. Why will he take sides? Can't he speak for both sides? When any small incident happens, BJP workers hand him a piece of paper and he speaks what not," said a combative Banerjee. – IANS

KOLKATA, July 4: Leveling a series of sensational allegations against West Bengal Governor KN Tripathi, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday accused him of threatening and insulting her and said at one point, she was unable to stand the "humiliation" and felt like quitting.

Using unusually strong language, Banerjee said the Governor spoke a functionary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, and not like the State's constitutional head.

"The Governor told me many things today. I have been deeply insulted and humiliated by the comments of the Governor. He has threatened me and talked to me like a block president of the BJP. I

have told him 'you cannot talk to me like this'. I hold an elected constitutional post," an angry Banerjee told media persons here.

Iterating that Tripathi called

Lynching in the name of cow protection against Hindutva: Sena

MUMBAI, July 4: The Shiv Sena today said lynching people in the name of cow protection was against Hindutva and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come up with a national policy on beef.

A string of such incidents have been reported from several states, including BJP-ruled Jharkhand, Haryana and UP, prompting protests.

"The issue of beef is related to eating habits, business and employment. Hence, there should be a national policy over the issue," an editorial in Sena mouthpiece 'Samana' said.

"Those who were safeguarding cows were Hindus till yesterday. Today, they have become murderers," it said.

In a tough message against cow vigilantes and mob lynching, Modi last week said killing people on the pretext of protecting cows is not acceptable and warned that no one has the right to take law into his hands.

"We welcome the stand taken by the prime minister over the issue. Nobody has the right to take law in his hands in the name of cow protection. Lynching people is against the principles of Hindutva," the Sena said.

"They are trying to idealize this (presidential) election. Politics is in elections. (They say) this is an ideological election. (This is) not an ideological election. President does not have political decision-making powers," he said.

"(They say) fight of ideology, cow protection, etc. is coming to the Constitution of India. That is the only ideology that exists. Other ideologies have no place," he said.

The main issue in the election to the office of the president was the suitability of the candidate and his track record, Naidu said. – PTI

"We thank him (Modi) for clearly defining Hindutva. He should now come up with a



Members of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch during a demonstration near the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on Tuesday to protest against the stopping of Indian pilgrims from travelling to Kailash Mansarovar by the Chinese authority. – UNI

Celebrate I-day on Aug 15, not Aug 14: Govt

NEW DELHI, July 4: The Government is planning a public campaign to encourage people to celebrate Independence Day on August 15 and not the day before, as is the practice in many educational institutions and organisations.

Officials in the Ministry of Tourism, one of the nodal ministries for the Centre's mega plans for marking 70 years of India's independence, said the idea for such a move arose after it was seen that in many places celebrations took place on August 14 since Independence Day was a national holiday.

The campaign, to be promoted through advertisements in newspapers and posters in public places, will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

"Many schools and other institutions celebrate August 15 a day earlier and declare a holiday on Independence Day. We just want to request such organisations to refrain from doing so. It is the 70th year of our Independence Day and the entire country should celebrate together," a Tourism Ministry official said. – PTI

President's office should be above party politics: Kovind

HYDERABAD, July 4: NDA's presidential candidate Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said the office of the President should be kept above party politics and assured the parties supporting him that he will uphold the highest esteem of the prestigious office.

Stating that he is not associated with any political party, Kovind appealed to all members of the presidential election collegiums to support his candidature.

Kovind was addressing a meeting of the leaders of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the ruling party of Telangana which is extending support to him.

"Ever since I became Governor of Bihar, I have been working throughout in a non-partisan manner, keeping every citizen of Bihar with equal status without any discrimination. I can assure you that I will continue to keep the position of the President above party," he told the meet arranged by TRS President and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Union Minister M Venkaih Naidu and some other BJP leaders.

"As on today I am not associated with any political party. Of course my earlier background had been with the BJP. I had the privilege of working in the team of Venkaih Naidu. Even after resigning the governorship I did not join any party," Kovind said.

Stating that the President is also the supreme commander of the armed forces, he said security of our international borders should be our topmost priority.

"I can assure you that I will always strive for all round development of the nation irrespective of caste, creed, language, region and geographical situations," he added.

The NDA nominee said he would also do his best to fulfil the aspirations of youth and for development of modern education.

"We have to fulfil dream of new India which our honourable Prime Minister has been advocating till 2022 when we celebrate completion of 75 years of our independence," Kovind said. – IANS

Merit key issue in prez candidature: VNa

HYDERABAD, July 4: Alleging that Opposition parties were trying to "politicise" the presidential election by describing it as a "fight of ideologies", Union Minister M Venkaih Naidu today said there was no place for ideologies in functioning of the president.

"They are trying to politicise this (presidential) election. Politics is in elections. (They say) this is an ideological election. (This is) not an ideological election. President does not have political decision-making powers," he said.

"(They say) fight of ideology, cow protection, etc. is coming to the Constitution of India. That is the only ideology that exists. Other ideologies have no place," he said.

The main issue in the election to the office of the president was the suitability of the candidate and his track record, Naidu said. – PTI

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"end cyber labs that are capable of critically inspecting every IT component before these are deployed in critical infrastructure across industry sectors."

Rawat added: "There is an ever-growing threat to the economy, financial sector, key government departments and infrastructure set-up, which in turn leaves internal security at risk."

The study said that by identifying cyber security flaws and issues, the decision-makers will be better placed to implement appropriate security controls, design additional secure architectures, monitor targeted attacks and maintain effective cyber resilience for their IT, OT and CT networks. – IANS

"cashless economy. The types of cyber security incidents such as phishing, scanning, website intrusions and defacements, virus code and denial of service attacks will continue to grow," the study added.

"Globally, most countries are facing a shortage of professionals with the expertise, training and motivation needed to deal with cyber criminals, and India is no exception," said Assocham Secretary General DS Rawat.

"What we urgently need is serious effort in capacity building and setting up high-

'Cyber-threats increase as India goes cashless'

The study said the attacks on Indian websites have increased nearly five times in the past four years. However, the country's budgetary allocation towards cyber security was only about Rs 42.2 crore in 2012-13

budgetary allocation towards cyber security was only about Rs 42.2 crore in 2012-13, up 19 per cent from Rs 35.45 crore in 2010-11, whereas the US spends \$658 million through Department of Homeland Security and \$93 million through US-CERT in 2013," the study said.

The study said the attacks on Indian websites have increased nearly five times in the past four years. However, the country's

cybersecurity has been given an impetus to e-wallet services and mobile wallets have witnessed a massive rise in app downloads.

"The result has been that leading mobile wallets have witnessed growth upwards of 100 per cent in app download numbers and have



similarly seen an increase upwards of 400 per cent increase in wallet rechargees," it said.

"Moreover, cyber-threats will only rise as India is seeing a shift towards a

India's standoff with China No bulldozers used for destroying Army bunkers'

NEW DELHI, July 4: The Indian Army today maintained that no bulldozers were used when its bunkers were destroyed by Chinese soldiers amid the current stand-off with China in the Sikkim sector.

The Army also denied that the border stand-off with China is the longest since 1962.

"The incident is not the longest stand-off between the two nations," said a statement issued by the Army spokesman here while reacting to a PTI story which had given details of the stand-off.

The spokesman also said that no bulldozers were "ever employed" for destroying the Indian bunkers and that no

physical scuffle had occurred between the personnel of Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). A senior government functionary had earlier said that bulldozers were used to destroy the Indian bunkers.

The spokesman also claimed that no such incident ever happened on June 6 and referred to a statement made by the Ministry of External Affairs in which the date of incident was mentioned as June 16. The spokesman went on to clarify that India-China relations as also the relationship between both the Armies are extremely well managed by a host of mechanisms. – PTI



Antibiotic resistance

Exposure to common household disinfectant triclosan may increase the risk of antibiotic resistance, warns a researcher

Exposure to triclosan, an antibacterial and antifungal agent found in domestic products like toothpaste, soaps, detergents, toys, etc., may increase the risk of developing antibiotic resistance, a research has warned.

Antibiotic resistance is when bacteria evolve and develop ways to evade the antibiotic drugs, rendering them ineffective.

The findings showed that when some bacteria develop a resistance to quinolones – a group of drugs – they also become resistant to triclosan.

The researchers conducted tests on the E. coli bacteria, known as the stomach bug, and found it had mutated to become resistant to quinolones as well as triclosan.

As bacteria become resistant to the use of disinfectants, this in turn increases their ability to resist the drugs.

"We think that bacteria are tricked into thinking they are always under attack and are then primed to deal with other threats, including triclosan," said Mark Webber, senior lecturer at the University of Birmingham.

"This might happen in reverse and triclosan

exposure might encourage growth of antibiotic-resistant strains," Webber added in the paper published in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*.

Since quinolone antibiotics are an important and powerful group of human medicines, a discovery that the use of triclosan can give antimicrobial resistance raises concern, the researchers said.

Triclosan had faced a ban across the European Union and the US for its use in hygiene products (hand, skin and body washes). The US Food and Drug Administration warned that triclosan could contribute to antibiotic resistance.

The concerns raised were that the active antimicrobial ingredients for some of these products are accumulating in the environment where they are altering ecosystems and potentially promoting selection of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"As we run out of effective drugs, understanding how antibiotic resistance can happen and under what conditions is crucial to stopping selection of more resistant bacteria," Webber said. – IANS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, July 5, 2017:
This year you put a lot of effort into various facets of your daily life. You could decide to achieve a long-term goal. You'll infuse more excitement into your life simply by doing things around the house. If you're single, you might like to meet Mr. or Ms. Right as soon after mid-October, when you could meet someone who gives you a case of the butterflies. If you are attached, the two of you enter a period where you act like new lovers. Enjoy your time together. SAGITTARIUS has very dynamic ideas that could be applicable to your life.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-Sad; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're one who's been rather baffled or bored you yesterday could prove to be your muse today, which adds to your creativity. Brainstorm away. Encourage others to play devils advocate. Your imagination drives on your experience. Tonight: Let a loved-one express his or her caring.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

One who's been relating to you right; however, it also might now be you who's relating to him/her in a domineering manner. You'll want to get some feedback. Don't be afraid to have an odd way of showing his or her support. Tonight: Run some errands on the way home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Keep running out to meet someone else to whom you might add your opinion. You'll try to settle him or her down in order to complete certain tasks. An older relative or higher-up has an unusual approach to a difficult situation. Tonight: Get together with a pal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

There are a whirlwind of energy. A conversation about funds and what you're doing with them. You're thinking about planning a vacation. Imagine what you want, and live up to your expectations. A decision allows greater understanding. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're one who's hard to sit on. Your creativity adds a whole new twist to whatever you do, but it might make a project more time-consuming. Weigh the pros and cons of producing a higher-quality product and having less free time. Tonight: Don't just taking a break.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Note the presence of a discrepancy between what you say and what you do. If there is a way to merge the two, do that. Otherwise, others might get confused. Listen to news from an associate carefully. Avoid a knee-jerk reaction. Tonight: Read between the lines.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Manage your scheduling with an eye to effectiveness, and when you're feeling mighty low, you could be surprised by what you are hearing. Be nurturing and help others become more enthusiastic about an issue. Tonight: Head out the door and drop by your favorite spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You could be overwhelmed by everything you need to handle. Your gentle nature takes over at a certain point, and the task of hand becomes a lot easier. Make an important call, perhaps to an expert or confidant; you need solid facts. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might feel like you are playing the lead role in an action movie. You'll tackle nearly any project, conversation or interaction with ease and skill. You could have a desire to go off on an adventure, but you'll want to do as much as possible first. Tonight: Take a walk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Take a break from the hectic pace you have been keeping. If an associate, partner or loved one expresses a desire to pitch in or take the lead, let him or her. Allowing this experience will be good for both of you. Be more present in a discussion. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Take a risk and move forward. You need to handle a personal matter as directly as possible. A meeting or discussion with a friend is likely to point you in a new, more successful direction. Follow this person's lead, and you'll be a lot happier. Tonight: As you like it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Others look to you to take the lead. If you want to take the mire, do. Your initial reaction will provide a good barometer for assessing what you should do and why. Know that you are in the unique position of following through on an important wish. Tonight: Court on a late night.

Thought for the day:
What more felicity can fall to day.
Then to enjoy delight with liberty

– EDMUND SPENSER

Kids

CN

13:00 Roll No. 21
14:00 Roll No. 21
15:00 Roll No. 21
16:00 Roll No. 21
17:00 Best 10
17:30 Team Trans Go
18:00 Team Trans Go
18:30 Horni Henry
19:00 Horni Henry Pheri
20:30 Roll No. 21
21:30 Best 10
21:30 Team Ballz
23:30 Teleshopping

POPU
13:00 The Tom And Jerry Show
13:30 Chhota Bheem
14:00 Mighty Raju
14:30 Chhota Bheem
15:00 In The Wall
15:30 Chhota Bheem
21:00 The Tom And Jerry Show
21:30 Takeisha's Castle
22:00 Tom And Jerry
22:30 Tom And Jerry Tales
23:00 M.A.D.

Entertainment

STAR

13:00 Crime Patrol Dial 100
13:30 Come Patrol Dial 100
14:00 Crime Patrol Dial 100
15:30 Pehla Mohabbat Ki Dhage
20:00 Mahadev Hanuman
20:30 Jaldi Jaldi Jaldi
21:00 Beyhadh
21:30 Kuch Rang Ya Ke Aasthi
22:00 Crime Patrol Dial 100
23:30 Zekashopping

colors+
14:00 Colors+ Di Te
14:30 E Shringar
15:00 Kasam
15:30 Bhagy Baki Bhag

16:00 Colors+ Di Te
16:30 Top 20 Funniest
17:00 Colors+ Di Te
17:30 Colors+ Di Te
18:00 Colors+ Di Te
18:30 Colors+ Di Te
19:00 Colors+ Di Te
19:30 Colors+ Di Te
20:00 Colors+ Di Te
20:30 Colors+ Di Te
21:00 Colors+ Di Te

Zcafe
13:00 Criminal Minds
14:00 Criminal Minds
15:00 Criminal Minds
16:00 Criminal Minds
17:00 Criminal Minds
18:00 Criminal Minds
19:00 Criminal Minds
20:00 Criminal Minds
21:00 Criminal Minds
22:00 Criminal Minds
23:00 Criminal Minds

Infotainment

ANIMAL PLANET

13:00 Fast and Fierce
14:00 Animal Attack
15:00 Jungle Safari
17:00 Animal Planet Safari

BIG CAT WATCH
18:00 Big Cat Week
18:30 Big Cat Week
19:00 Big Cat Week
21:00 Lords of the Jungle
22:00 Jungle Safari
23:00 Animal Planet Safari

HISTORY TV 18
13:00 Pawn Stars
14:00 Pawn Stars
15:00 Pawn Stars India
16:00 Leepa & Pibull
17:00 Banana Brothers
18:00 American Pickers
19:00 Food Tech
20:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India

Discovery
13:00 The Human Body
14:00 The Human Body
15:00 The Human Body
16:00 Do Or Die – A Gory End
17:00 Do Or Die – A Gory End
18:00 Do Or Die – A Gory End
19:00 Do Or Die – A Gory End
20:00 Animal Planet
21:00 Animal Planet
22:00 Science of Stupid

OMG! YEH MERA INDIA
13:00 The Human Body
14:00 Discovery
15:00 Discovery
16:00 Discovery
17:00 Discovery
18:00 Discovery
19:00 Discovery
20:00 Discovery
21:00 Discovery
22:00 Discovery
23:00 Discovery

Regional

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

19:00 Shaka In The City
19:30 The Great Human Race
20:00 The Great Human Race
20:30 Shaka In The City
21:00 Shaka In The City
21:30 Shaka In The City
22:00 Shaka In The City
22:30 Shaka In The City
23:00 Shaka In The City
23:30 Shaka In The City

LIVE
07:00 Breakfast Live
08:00 Breakfast Live
09:00 Good morning Assam
10:00 Breakfast Live
11:30 Korda Barta (R)
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Breakfast Live
14:30 Breakfast Live
15:00 Breakfast Live
16:30 Breakfast Live
17:00 Breakfast Live
18:00 Breakfast Live
19:00 Breakfast Live
20:00 Breakfast Live
21:00 Breakfast Live
22:00 Breakfast Live
23:00 Breakfast Live

NEWS LIVE
07:00 Breakfast Live
08:00 Breakfast Live
09:00 Good morning Assam
10:00 Breakfast Live
11:30 Korda Barta (R)
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Breakfast Live
14:30 Breakfast Live
15:00 Breakfast Live
16:30 Breakfast Live
17:00 Breakfast Live
18:00 Breakfast Live
19:00 Breakfast Live
20:00 Breakfast Live
21:00 Breakfast Live
22:00 Breakfast Live
23:00 Breakfast Live

STAR MOVIES
23:12 Speed

STAR MOVIES
13:00 Kong Fu Panda 3
14:00 Tom Yum Goong
15:00 Escape Plan
16:00 Window
21:00 Predator
22:12 Speed

SONY PIX
14:18 Star Shallows
16:05 Rambo: First Blood Part II
21:00 1212

WB
21:00 The Descent: Part 2

Star Gold
19:25 Shivaay
19:55 Ghar Ho To Alsa
20:00 Golmaar

STAR GOLD
13:15 The Animal
14:30 Preed
16:30 Shrek the Third
18:00 Star Wars: Episode I
19:30 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island
21:00 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island Part 2

STAR GOLD
16:35 Ghar Ho To Alsa

ZEE ACTION
18:07 Khoon Ki Pyassi

Z
15:15 As Hurun Takzana
17:00 Khoon Ki Pyassi
20:00 Raja
22:00 Fighter No 1

ZEE CINEMA
17:39 Raja

Sports

STAR STAR 2

13:00 ICC Knockout Trophy H1
13:30 England Tour of India H1
14:00 India Tour of West Indies H1
14:30 KBD Heroes
15:00 South Africa Tour of India H1
16:00 India Tour of West Indies H1
17:00 India Tour of India H1
18:00 India Tour of India H1
19:30 NZ Tour of India 2016 H1
20:00 SA Tour of India 2016 H1
21:00 SA Tour of India 2016 H1
22:00 Badminton Unlimited

STAR STAR 2
13:00 ICC Knockout Trophy H1
13:30 England Tour of India H1
14:00 India Tour of West Indies H1
14:30 KBD Heroes
15:00 South Africa Tour of India H1
16:00 India Tour of India H1
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18:00 India Tour of India H1
19:30 NZ Tour of India 2016 H1
20:00 SA Tour of India 2016 H1
21:00 SA Tour of India 2016 H1
22:00 Badminton Unlimited

TEN 1
13:00 Edge Sports
14:00 FIFA Confederations Cup
15:00 World Cup 2018
17:00 WWE Smackdown
19:00 FIA Confederations Cup
22:00 WWE Smackdown

TEN 1
13:00 Edge Sports
14:00 FIFA Confederations Cup
15:00 World Cup 2018
17:00 WWE Smackdown
19:00 FIA Confederations Cup
22:00 WWE Smackdown

NEO SPORTS
21:00 ICC Champions Trophy H1
21:30 PGA Tour 2017 Hits

BLONDIE

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
ONLY THAT BOTH SPEAK IN TURN.
FALK 9/16

NAILED IT! ONE LINE TO GO!
... SHE MEETS THE HORIZON IN A SHINING SKIN.
FALK 9/17

EVERY PIECE IS PERFECTLY IT MAY BE HIM!
IT'S TOO BAD TO ARGUE WITH GIRLS.
THEY JUST NEED TO TELL SOMEBODY LATER, THEY'RE READY!
FALK 9/18

THIS IS A PRETTY FASCINATING ARTICLE...
FALK 9/19

APPARENTLY THERE'S A CORRECT WAY TO EAT FOOD IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN GOOD HEALTH.
FALK 9/20

I'LL BET YOU CAN'T IMAGINE AN INGENUOUS WAY TO EAT FOOD ON YOU, DEAR?
NOPE.
FALK 9/21

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

HOW DOES THIS DRESS MAKE ME LOOK? FAT?
NO, THINNER!
FALK 9/22

THINNER THAN WHAT?
FALK 9/23

IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK QUESTION?
NO, IT'S A TRICK QUESTION!
FALK 9/24

Movies

HBO

14:37 Transformers: The Last Knight: Rise of the Lycans
17:00 Justice League: Dawn of Justice
21:00 Star Trek Into Darkness

STAR MOVIES
23:12 Speed

STAR MOVIES
13:00 Kong Fu Panda 3
14:00 Tom Yum Goong
15:00 Escape Plan
16:00 Window
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SONY PIX
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20:00 Raja
22:00 Fighter No 1

ZEE CINEMA
17:39 Raja

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6023

1 Across
1 Against (6)
7 Disorder around the hip (8)
8 Deirdre (4)
10 Unborn baby (6)
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N Korea fires intercontinental ballistic missile

SEOUL, July 4: North Korea proclaimed today that it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile – a watershed moment in its push to develop a nuclear weapon capable of hitting the United States.

US experts said the device could reach Alaska and the launch, which came as the United States prepared to mark its Independence Day, triggered a Twitter outburst from US President Donald Trump who urged China to "end this nonsense once and for all."

The North has long sought to build a rocket capable of delivering an atomic warhead to the continental United States – something that Trump has vowed "won't happen."

It's possession of a working ICBM will force a recalibration of the strategic threat it poses. The "landmark" test of a Hwasong-14 missile was overseen by leader Kim Jong-Un, an emotional female announcer said on state Korean Central Television. It reached an altitude of 2,802 kilometres and flew 933 kilometres, she added.

The North was "a strong nuclear



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un reacts during the test-fire of ICBM 'Hwasong-14' in this undated photo released by Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang – UNI

power state" and had "a very powerful ICBM that can strike any place in the world," she said. There are still doubts whether the North can miniaturise a nuclear weapon sufficiently to fit it onto a missile nose cone, or whether it has mastered the technology needed for it to survive the difficult re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

But the isolated, impoverished coun-

try has made great progress in its missile capabilities since the ascension to power of Kim, who has overseen three nuclear tests and multiple rocket launches. In response to the launch but before the announcement, Trump asked on Twitter: "Does this guy have anything better to do with his life?"

The United Nations has imposed multiple sets of sanctions on Pyongyang

over its weapons programmes, which retorts that it needs nuclear arms to defend itself against the threat of invasion. The "unidentified ballistic missile" was fired from a site in North Phyongan province, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement, and came down in the East Sea, the Korean name for the Sea of Japan.

The US Pacific Command confirmed the test and said it was a land-based, intermediate range missile that flew for 37 minutes, adding the launch did not pose a threat to North America.

It was estimated to have reached an altitude "greatly exceeded" 2,500 kilometres, Japan said, prompting arms control specialist Jeffrey Lewis to respond on Twitter: "That's it. It's an ICBM. An ICBM that can hit Anchorage not San Francisco, but still."

David Wright of the Union of Concerned Scientists wrote on the organization's althongsuclear blog that the available figures implied the missile "could reach a maximum range of roughly 6,700 km on a standard trajectory." "That range would not be enough to

reach the lower 48 states or the large islands of Hawaii, but would allow it to reach all of Alaska."

The device came down in the Sea of Japan within the country's exclusive

territory, Putin to take more constructive measures."

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in strongly condemned what he called an "irresponsible provocation."

Washington, South Korea's security guardian, has more than 28,000 troops in the country to defend it from its communist neighbour, and fears of a conflict peaked earlier this year as the Trump administration suggested that military action was an option under consideration.

There has also been anger in the United States over the death of Otto Warmbier, an American student detained in North Korea for around 18 months before he was returned home in a coma in June.

Trump has been pinning his hopes on China – North Korea's main diplomatic ally – to bring pressure to bear on Pyongyang. Last week he declared that Beijing's efforts had failed, but returned to the idea on Twitter following the launch: "Perhaps China will put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all!" – AFP

Nehru wrote to Zhou Enlai on Bhutan territory issue in 1959

BEIJING, July 4: Contrary to the Chinese government's assertion that Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted the 1890 Sino-British treaty over Sikkim to buttress Beijing's claim over the Doklam area, the former Prime Minister had pointed out to China that it was claiming a sizeable part of Bhutan's territory.

"It is not clear to us what exactly is the implication of your statement that the boundaries of Sikkim and Bhutan do not fall within the scope of the present discussion," Nehru wrote in a letter to their Chinese counterpart, Zhou Enlai, on September 26, 1959.

In fact, Chinese maps show sizable areas of Bhutan as part of Tibet. "Nehru said in the letter accessed by PTI here, In the lengthy letter highlighting India's stand on the boundary dispute, Nehru wrote that under treaty relationships with Bhutan, the Government of India was the only competent authority to take up with other governments matters concerning Bhutan's external relations, and in fact it had taken up with China a number of matters on behalf of the Bhutan government.

"The rectification of errors in Chinese maps regarding the boundary of Bhutan



Jawaharlal Nehru

Zhou Enlai

showing sizable areas of Bhutan as part of China, Nehru referred to the 1890 Sino-British treaty granting India's sovereignty to Sikkim.

"As regards Sikkim, the Chinese Government recognised as far back as 1890 that the Government of India has direct and exclusive control over the internal administration and foreign relations of that State. This Convention of 1890 also defined the boundary between Sikkim and Tibet; and the boundary was, in 1895, demarcated. There is thus no dis-

pute regarding the boundary of Sikkim with the Tibet region," Nehru said.

At the same time, he pointed out that "it is wrong to say that the frontier east of Bhutan as shown on Chinese maps is the traditional frontier. On the contrary, it is the McMahon Line which correctly represents the customary boundary in this area. The water parting formed by the crest of the Himalayas is the natural frontier which was accepted for centuries as the boundary by the peoples on both sides."

China and India have been engaged in a stand-off in the Doka La area near the Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction for almost a month.

Sikkim, which became a part of India in May 1976, is the only State which has a demarcated border with China. The lines are based on a treaty signed with the Chinese in 1898. Doka La is the Indian name for the region which Bhutan recognises as Doklam, while China claims it as part of its Donglang region. Chinese are making attempts to build a road, which was objected to by Bhutan.

The Ambassador of Bhutan has lodged a protest with the Chinese government through their Embassy in New Delhi on June 20. Bhutan has no diplomatic relations with China. – PTI

Nine killed in Mexico shooting

MEXICO CITY, July 4: Shootings involving suspected fuel thieves have left nine people dead in central Mexico. Prosecutors said the violence began late on Monday when a gang of gunmen went looking for another thief to extort money from him in the state of Puebla, east of Mexico City.

They killed three people on the spot and kidnapped five others, whose burned bodies were found elsewhere. A local police official was also killed.

The gang had been involved in extortion, robbery and siphoning fuel out of state-run pipelines. – AP

Sharif's daughter to face Panama probe panel

ISLAMABAD, July 4: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz will appear tomorrow for the first time before the Supreme Court-appointed team probing the Panama graft case.

Maryam (43) will appear with a female police officer before the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigating the high-profile Panamanian graft case. A German newspaper had earlier said that Maryam is a beneficial owner of offshore companies named in the Panama Papers.

In 2013, Maryam was active in the general election campaign. She also made into the BBC's 100 Women list of political scions along with US President Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, in March. – PTI

Lankan Army gives up Jaffna fishing harbour

COLOMBO, July 4: Sri Lankan military said today it has released 54 acres of land to nearly 190 families from the minority Tamil community and ended its control over a major fishing harbour after almost 30 years in the former war zone of Jaffna.

The release came as a positive response from the military to the long-standing demands of the Tamil people, and supports the pledge of President Maithripala Sirisena who vowed during his election campaign to work towards achieving reconciliation with the minorities. The land and fishing harbour border Sri Lankan military's Palaly Army Cantonment, the ColomboPage reported.

The Sri Lankan Army said in a statement that 187 families, who have been residing as Internally Displaced Persons since 1990, will now be able to return to their lands and resume their fishing livelihood after an absence of nearly 30 years.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ran a nearly three-decade separatist campaign leading to a bloody war with the Sri Lankan security forces. According to UN figures, up to 40,000 civilians were killed by the security forces during former President Mahinda Rajapaksa's regime that brought an end to the brutal conflict with the defeat of the LTTE in 2009. – PTI

US marks Independence Day with pomp



NEW YORK, July 4: Americans are celebrating their country's birthday today with big-time fireworks, small-town parades and the quirky spectacle of competitive hot dog eating, marking a day of shared tradition in a nation that has grappled with divides this year.

In Washington, President Donald

expected at the city's fireworks show. For all the pomp and celebration, July 4 arrives with Americans deeply split over the nation's direction after last year's Presidential election and political clashes over immigration, health care and other issues in the early months of Trump's Republican administration.

And in an era of concerns about security, the Independence Day celebrations are mixed with precautions. The New York Police Department planned to station 100 vehicles to block intersections and 20 sand-filled sanitation trucks to fortify viewing areas for the Macy's fireworks show. Heavily armed counter-terrorism units will mingle among spectators, officers will have portable radiation detection devices and bomb-sniffing dogs, and officers will be stationed on rooftops to look out for any sign of trouble. – AP

In Boston, one of the 14 original copies of the Declaration of Independence will be displayed at a museum and hundreds of thousands of people are

Trump talks to Merkel ahead of G20 Summit

WASHINGTON, July 4: Ahead of the G20 Summit in Germany, US President Donald Trump has had "extensive discussions" with German Chancellor Angela Merkel over the key issues of climate change and trade.

"In an extensive discussion (over phone), the two leaders addressed climate issues, the Women's Entrepreneurship Financing Initiative and trade, including global steel overcapacity," the White House said in a statement yesterday.

"The President said that he looks forward to helping Chancellor Merkel make the summit a success," it said. The White House statement comes ahead of the two-day G20 Summit to be held on July 7-8.

Last week, Merkel had said discussions at the G20 Sum-

mit would be difficult given Trump's climate scepticism and "America First" stance, but that she was determined to seek a clear commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change against global warming and a pledge against protectionism.

When Trump had announced in early June that he would host the exceptional G7 Summit in May, President Trump also underscored his appreciation for the Paris Agreement, "we knew that we could not expect discussions to be easy" at the G20 Summit, Merkel had told the German parliament.

Trump also spoke with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni to discuss the agenda for the upcoming G20 Summit and renew his appreciation for the Prime Minister's efforts in hosting the exceptional G7 Summit in May. President Trump also underscored his appreciation for the UK and the US. – PTI

Italy's efforts to address the significant Libyan migration crisis, the statement said.

The 12th G20 Summit in a major port city in northern Germany will also discuss issues like free and open trade, climate change, migration, sustainable development and global stability. Counter-terrorism and economic reforms will dominate the discussions amongst the leaders of the world's 20 largest economies at the G20 Summit which will also be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union. The countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US. – PTI



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Wawrinka crashes out of Wimbledon; Murray, Nadal advance

LONDON, July 4: So much for the idea that Stan Wawrinka might be able to complete a career Grand Slam at Wimbledon this year. Didn't even make it out of the first round.

An owner of one championship from each of the other three major tournaments, and the French Open runner-up just three weeks ago, Wawrinka was bothered by his left knee and lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to Daniil Medvedev at Centre Court in the first round at the All England Club last night.

World number one Angelique Kerber kicked off her bid to return to the Wimbledon final with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Irina Falconi.

Wawrinka was seeded No. 5 and ranked No. 3. He iced his knee during changeovers and never was able to summon his best tennis.

Earlier, defending champion Andy Murray celebrated the news that he's about to become a father again by reaching the Wimbledon second round as fellow two-time winner Rafael Nadal aimed to clinch the 850th win of his career.

Top seed and world number one Murray downed Kazakh

lucky loser Alexander Bublik 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, shrugging off two brief rain delays and showing little sign of the hip problem which had plagued him in the build-up.

Murray, whose baby daughter Sophia was born last year, next faces Dustin Brown, the man who knocked out Nadal two years ago.

German world number 97 Brown came back from a set and a break down to beat Portugal's Joao Sousa 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-4.

Nick Kyrgios, who shocked

Nadal at Wimbledon in 2014, won't get another opportunity.

The combustible 20th-seeded Australian was 6-3, 6-4 down to France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert when he called it quits on Court Three after failing to shake off the hip injury which has plagued him in recent weeks.

Ki Nishikori, the Japanese ninth seed, beat Italy's Marco Cecchinato 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 in just 72 minutes.

French 12th seed Jo-Wilfried



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball during the men's singles first round match against John Millman of Australia at the Wimbledon in London, on Monday. Nadal won 3-0.

Beatriz Haddad Maria.

Venus Williams marked her 20th Wimbledon anniversary with a 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 win against Belgium's Elise Mertens.

The 37-year-old five-time champion arrived in London facing a wrongful death suit after she was involved in a fatal car crash in Florida.

An elderly man in the other vehicle suffered head injuries in the collision and died on June 22.

Williams will face China's Wang Qiang for a place in the last 32.

Later Monday, Nadal, the champion in 2008 and 2010 and a three-time runner-up, faces Australia's John Millman, the world number 137.

The Spaniard missed last year's championships because of

a wrist injury but is back at the All England Club buoyed by his 10th French Open title.

Nadal is bidding to record his 85th tour-level match-win and is just the seventh player in history to reach the landmark.

It's also his 50th match at Wimbledon.

Millman is playing just his second match of the year after missing five months with a hip injury.

Former world number one Victoria Azarenka plays her first Slam since becoming a mother, while two-time champion Petra Kvitova is sure to receive a warm Centre Court welcome as she steadily rebuilds her career after being attacked by a knifeman in her home last December. — Agencies

Minella plays Wimbledon while 4.5 months pregnant

LONDON, July 4: Luxembourg's Mandy Minella is playing at Wimbledon while four and a half months pregnant, it was reported today, as the 31-year-old prepares to join Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka as a tennis mum.

Minella lost 6-1, 6-1 to Italian veteran Francesca Schiavone but she caught the eye with her loose-fitting dress covering a small bump.

"Wimbledon is my last tournament this season," Minella, whose baby is due at the end of the year, told reporters. — AFP

Pacquiao to 'think hard' about retiring

MANILA, July 4: Eight-time world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao has said he will "think hard" about retiring after his stunning and controversial defeat to underhyped Australian challenger Jeff Horn.

Arriving home in the Philippines a day after losing his World Boxing Organization welter-weight title in a major upset in Brisbane on Sunday, the 38-year-old Pacquiao said he was thinking about hanging up his gloves for good.

"I am also considering the opinion of people, the opinion of my family and my body," Pacquiao told ABS-CBN television on Monday night when asked about his retirement.

"I plan to relax first and recover from the pains in my body and then after that, when I have all ready relaxed, that's when I will think hard about it."

Immediately after the fight, Pacquiao had said he wanted a rematch with Horn.

Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, and his trainer, Freddie Roach, had

said they would advise him to quit boxing after a phenomenal 22-year professional career in which he won world titles in an unprecedented eight weight divisions.

Pacquiao briefly retired from boxing last year to pursue his long-held political ambitions and was elected senator.

But he quickly returned to the ring to prove he still had what it takes.

The 29-year-old Horn's ultra-aggressive style proved too much for Pacquiao, with the three scuffles scoring the fight 117-111, 115-13 and 115-13 to the Australian after 12 rounds.

On Monday, Pacquiao made disparaging comments about his opponent. — AFP

successful comeback against Jessie Vargas in November, saying he still felt like a youngster.

The 29-year-old Horn's ultra-aggressive style proved too much for Pacquiao, with the three scuffles scoring the fight 117-111, 115-13 and 115-13 to the Australian after 12 rounds.

High hurdler Siddhanth Thimayya, who also underwent a trial at the Kalinga Sta-

Dutee's 'gender case' to be re-opened, IAAF to return to CAS

NEW DELHI, July 4: Just a day before she is to compete at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, Indian sprinter Dutee Chand's "gender case" has hit the headlines with the IAAF deciding to return to the CAS with more evidence in support of its Hyperandrogenism Policy.

On July 27, 2015, in a Court of Arbitration for Sport case between Chand and the Indian Federation of India (AFI) and the International Association (IAAF), the CAS made an interim decision to suspend the body's Hyperandrogenism Regulations for a period of two years.

It was done in order to provide the IAAF with an opportunity to submit further evidence as to the degree of performance advantage that hyperandrogenic female athletes have over athletes with normal testosterone levels.

After the CAS partially upheld her appeal in an interim order two years back, Chand was allowed to "continue

to compete" till a final decision was given by the CAS on her appeal against IAAF's hyperandrogenism policy.

Now that the IAAF has decided to pursue the case again, Dutee's appeal against the world body's hyperandrogenism policy will be in the limelight with many activists in India and abroad calling for its lifting, terming it as a "case of gender bias".

The IAAF, however, made it clear that the Hyperandrogenism Regulations remain suspended pending the resolution of the CAS proceedings and its decision to return to the top court of world sports will have no impact on the IAAF World Championships, to be held in London in August.

The IAAF, in a press release today, said that the findings of a study paper funded by it on the currently suspended Hyperandrogenism Regulations has been published and it is returning to the CAS before the two-year deadline which ends July 27.

"Funded by the IAAF and the World Anti-Doping Agency, the study describes and characterizes serum androstenedione levels and their possible influence on athletic performance in both male and female elite athletes. The study analysed 2127 mass spectrometry-measured serum androgen concentrations obtained from elite athletes participating in the 2011 and 2013 IAAF World Championships," the IAAF said in the release.

It said among other things, the study found that in certain events female athletes with high testoster-

one levels benefit from a 1.8% to 4.5% competitive advantage over female athletes with lower testosterone levels.

"The article 'Serum androgen levels and their relation to performance in track and field: mass spectrometry results from 2127 observations in male and female elite athletes' is part of the evidence that the IAAF is preparing for its hearing at CAS," the IAAF said in a statement. Dr. Stephane Bernon and Pierre-Yves Garnier submitted the study for scientific peer review, and the article and related research has now been published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine," the world body said.

The 21-year-old Dutee was disqualified in 2014 by the AFI as per IAAF's hyperandrogenism policy after tests revealed that her body produced natural levels of testosterone (read male hormones) above permissible range. — PTI

Shastri will probably get the coach job: Gavaskar



NEW DELHI, July 4: Former captain Sunil Gavaskar feels his ex-teammate Ravi Shastri is the favourite to become the head coach of the Indian cricket team.

Shastri has become the frontrunner for the high-profile job after he formally submitted his application to the BCCI.

"Ravi actually was the one (during his tenure as Team Director) the turnaround actually started for the Indian cricket team back in 2014," Gavaskar told NDTV.

"After India lost in England, the BCCI asked him to come in as a team director... Suddenly there was a change in the team's fortunes over a period of time. Now that he's applied, he's probably the man who is going to get the job," Gavaskar told NDTV.

Shastri, who served as Indian team director from August 2014 to June 2016, shares a healthy rapport with the players including captain Virat Kohli.

During his tenure, India won limited-overs away series against England in 2014, reached the semifinals of the World Cup and World T20 (2015 and 2016 respectively), won away Test series against Sri Lanka, home series against South Africa and T20 away series against Australia.

The others who have applied for the head coach role are Virender Sehwag, Tom Moody, Venkatesh Prasad, Richard Pybus, Doddha Ganesh, Lalchand Rajput and Phil Simmons. — PTI

Australia A train despite tour boycott threat

BRISBANE, July 4: Players turned up for training today ahead of the Australia A tour of South Africa, despite the threat to boycott the trip because of a bitter pay dispute.

After months of negotiations the players and Cricket Australia (CA) have failed to reach agreement on a new pay deal, leaving 230 players unemployed since the end of June when their con-

tracts expired.

The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) executive Alastair Nicholson said a "significant breakthrough" in the stand-off was needed by Friday for the South Africa tour to proceed.

Nevertheless, players were

sticking to their schedule and reported for training with coach Jason Gillespie in Brisban

the, the venue of the championships, on Sunday was also cleared to take part in the biennial continental flagship event which India is hosting for the third time.

Gowda, who turns 34 tomorrow could only throw the discus to a distance of 57.79m, which some national coaches thought would not be in the medal bracket.

The United States-based In-

dium would now be gunning for a hat-trick of gold medals in this edition. He had won a gold in the 2013 edition before grabbing the same yellow metal in the last edition in Wuhan, China with a throw of 62.03m.

Gowda had also won silver medals in Asian Championships in Incheon (Korea) in 2005 and Kobe (Japan) in 2011. — PTI

Woods released from program

LOS ANGELES, July 4:

Former world number one Tiger Woods says he has finished a program to help him manage his medications, following his arrest in May for impaired driving.

Woods said he would move forward with his next round of treatment to ease back pain and sleep issues with the help of his physician and relatives.

"I recently completed an out of state private intensive program," the golfing icon wrote Monday on his Twitter account.

"I will continue to tackle this going forward with my doctors, family and friends.

"I am very thankful for all of the support I've received."

Woods did not provide any details of the treatment or type of program and did not say when he expected to return to golf.

Woods was arrested May 29 near his Florida home for impaired driving.

A breathalyzer test showed no sign of alcohol but a police video showed Woods struggling to answer questions and he said later he did not realize how prescription drugs he was taking might interact.

Woods made a comeback from back surgery in December in the Bahamas but has played only twice this year, missing the cut at Torrey Pines and withdrawing from the European Tour's Dubai Desert Classic in February. — AFP

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6						4	5	

Solution of last problem

2	6	5	3	7	8	4	9	7
7	3	9	2	5	4	6	1	8
3	9	8	5	6	7	2	4	
4	7	1	6	9	2	5	3	
5	6	2	1	4	3	9	7	6
9	4	8	9	6	1	7	5	2
6	8	7	3	5	4	1	2	
2	7	4	3	5	8	6	9	

Confident India look to carry on momentum vs SL

DERBY: July 4: High on confidence after three wins on the trot, India would look to continue their unbeaten streak and take another step towards a semifinal berth when they face a lowly Sri Lanka in the ICC Women's World Cup, here tomorrow.

The Indians, enjoying good run, would certainly start as overwhelming favourites against Sri Lanka, who have looked below-par in the tournament so far with three defeats from as many matches.

If there's anything called momentum in cricket, it is with the Indian team at the moment.

"We definitely will look into the fact that we don't lose wickets back-to-back because that puts a lot of pressure on the incoming batters as well as the team. We need to work on our partnerships as batters," Indian skipper Mithali Raj said.

"In terms of bowling, the spinners have been doing well, (against Pakistan) the pacers looked better than the last two games so it depends which wicket we play on against Sri Lanka. If it's a fresh wicket, then we have different plans for it," she added.

Having comprehensively won last four ODI series – whitewashing Sri Lanka and the West Indies at home before beating

South Africa in the finals of the World Cup qualifier as well as the quadangular series – besides three wins in the round robin stage of the ongoing event, the Indian women would not want to lose the rhythm at any cost.

India made a dream start to the tourna-

(10-2-18-5) and company defending a meagre total of 169, skittling Pakistan out for 74 in 38.1 overs.

Another key bowler for India is Deepa Sharma, whose off-spin has been instrumental in controlling the middle overs.

She has been equally good with her field-

TEAMS (FROM)

India: Mithali Raj (capt), Ekta Bisht, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Jhulan Goswami, Mansi Joshi, Harmanpreet Kaur, Veda Krishnamurthy, Smriti Mandhana, Mona Meshram, Nuzhat Parween, Shikha Pandey, Poonam Raut, Deepa Sharma, Sushma Verma, Poonam Yadav.

Sri Lanka: Inoka Ranaweera (captain), Chethari Athapaththu, Chandima Gunaratne, Nipuni Hansika, Ama Kanchana, Eshan Lokusumon, Harshitha Madhavi, Dilani Manodara, Hasini Perera, Chamari Priyadarshani, Udesha Prabodan, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Shashikala Sinwredena, Prasadani Weerakody and Sripathi Weerakkody.

MATCH STARTS 3PM IST

ment by stunning hosts England by 35 runs before trouncing West Indies by seven wickets in their next encounter, while their 95-run win over arch-rivals Pakistan in the last match has only helped them grow in confidence.

Having six points from three games, India are at the top of the table.

After a couple of impressive outings by the batters in the first two ties, the previous match witnessed left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht

incing producing one crucial direct hit against England. Poonam Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur are the other bankable bowlers.

Jhulan Goswami, the highest wicket-taker in ODI history, may not have clicked so far but she still would be leading the bowling attack and would be keen to make a contribution.

On the batting front, opener Smriti Mandhana looks to be enjoying the form of her life, while captain Mithali Raj and Poonam Raut lend a lot of firepower.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, are yet to taste victory. They lost to New Zealand by nine wickets in the tournament opener before being handed a eight-wicket thrashing by Australia and another seven-wicket defeat by England.

The Lankans would rely heavily on Chamari Athapaththu to make a difference against the formidable Indians.

Athapaththu stole the limeight in the first two matches, scoring 53 against New Zealand and an unbeaten 178 against Australia, one of the best innings in the history of women's cricket.

The only batter with 200-plus runs in the competition, Athapaththu would be looking to make a contribution to the team's winning cause tomorrow.

"At the moment India is doing really well so we'll definitely have to play very good cricket against them to win. As a team though we're in good condition, we are batting really well compared to the last few years," Sri Lanka captain Inoka Ranaweera said.

"We managed to get over 200 against Australia and England, which is a big thing for us. We'll be trying to do our best as a team against India," she added. – PTI

India submit expression of interest to host Under-20 FIFA WC

NEW DELHI: July 4: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) today submitted an expression of interest to host the Under-20 FIFA World Cup in 2019.

The U-17 World Cup will be held in India from October 6-28 across six centers.

Patel had earlier indicated that India would bid for the U-20 World Cup in 2019, drawing from the experience of hosting the U-17 event.

"With India hosting the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 this year in October, we feel hosting the U-20 World Cup would be the best way to sustain the footballing momentum in India. Even though the event was held earlier this year in Asia in Korea Republic, we would be happy to discuss with FIFA about the possibility of hosting the event in India in 2019," he said.

Patel has played 36 test matches representing India by 180 runs in the semis.

Pakistan easily lost their opening group game against India but made a strong comeback with fast bowler Hasan Ali and opening batsman Fakhar Zaman playing pivotal roles.

Ali took 13 wickets in the tournament and Zaman scored two half centuries and a century in the final. Pakistan went on to beat South Africa and Sri Lanka in the remaining two group matches before humiliating.

"I watched the whole match

"Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told players and officials at the reception.

Khan said he would like to see India playing against Pakistan in a bilateral series.

"We challenge you to come and play (but) they don't play against us because they are afraid of us," Khan claimed. "I think bilateral cricket will be good for us and will benefit cricket." – AP

T20, ODI captain Sarfraz to lead Pakistan in Tests

ISLAMABAD, July 4: Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed Sarfraz Ahmed as Test captain after the wicketkeeper-batsman led the national team to a surprise triumph at the Champions Trophy tournament in England last month.

PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan announced the decision today during a ceremony to honour the winning team at the prime minister's residence in Islamabad.

Ahmed already leads Pakistan in Twenty20s and ODIs. He has played 36 test matches

since making his debut in 2010, scoring 2,089 runs at an average of 40.96 with three centuries and 15 half centuries.

Khan said he informed Ahmed about the PCB's decision just before today's ceremony.

"I talked to him when we were coming here and he said 'I am ready to serve Pakistan,'" Khan said.

Pakistan, ranked No. 8 in the eight-team Champions Trophy, routed arch rival and defending

hosting title favourite England in the semifinals.

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Sports Minister Naba Kumar Doley with ATTA secretary Tripathi Duvaral to his right pose for photograph along with medal winners in National Table Tennis Championships, in the inaugural function of the 4th Nagen Hazarika All Assam Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament, in Gwahatii, on Tuesday. – UB Photos

Nagen Hazarika memorial TT meet gets off

SPORTS REPORTER

a healthy nation through the sports.

4th Nagen Hazarika Memorial All Assam Major Ranking Table Tennis Championship got off to a glittering start at the Deshbhakto Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium in the RG Baruah Sports Complex here today.

Sports Minister Naba Kumar Doley formally inaugurated the championship amidst great enthusiasm. Expressing the hope that the golden days of Assam table tennis will return soon, he urged the youngsters to contribute in building

a healthy nation through the sports.

Explaining about the schemes on sports, Doley said that the government is committed to set up quality infrastructure throughout the State so that proper support could be provided to talented sportspersons.

Assam Table Tennis Association (ATTA) secretary Tripathi Duvaral welcoming the gathering explained the organisation's schemes and appealed to the players to take the advantage of the available sports facilities in order to im-

prove their game.

Around 300 players from Guwahati, Jorhat, Golaghat, Mangaldoi, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Nagaon, Naxiria, North Lakhimpur, Dulajhia, Silchar, NF Railway and Oil Sikkim Limited are participating in the meet where competitions will be held in five groups each in male and female categories. The groups are Cadet, Subjunior, Junior, Youth and Senior.

Former international players Nandini Baruah, Madalasa Baruah, Carfew Roy, Gautam Hazarika and Joint Director, Assam Table Tennis Association (ATTA) on the occasion. Nandini Baruah and Madalasa Baruah were also honoured by the Sports Minister in the function.

Former international players Nandini Baruah, Madalasa Baruah and Carfew Roy, Gautam Hazarika and Joint Director,

Sachin, 2 others in Asian Youth boxing semis

BANGKOK, July 4: World youth champion Sachin Singh (49kg), along with two others, advanced to the semifinals, rounding off a good day for India at the Asian Youth Boxing Championships here.

Sachin defeated Filipino James Ian Solis in an unanimous verdict. He will next be up against Thailand's Pannadit Thitisian, who got the better of Rustam Muratov of Kyrgyzstan.

Also advancing to the semifinals

was Sachin (75kg), Khan outpointed Filippo Larriente Patti to set up a clash with Thailand's Pluem Wangkhlaeng.

Wangkhlaeng defeated Iran's Ashkan Rezaei.

Sachin, on the other hand, had no trouble going past Japan's Riku Kondo. He will be up against Zhu Chao of China. Chao beat Mundather Al-Fartoosi.

However, it was curtains for Himant Singh (91kg). Singh lost to

Danial Semenov of Kazakhstan.

India thus have six boxers in the semifinal stage, assuring the country of at least six medals.

Naveen Boora (69kg) and Ankit (60kg) had made it to the last-four stage of the tournament yesterday.

Harsheepat Sahrawat (+91kg) has got a direct entry into the semifinals due to the small size of the draw.

He will face Uzbekistan's Mulla-jonov Lazizbek on July 6 with tomorrow being a rest day. – PTI

It's so institutionalised and it's 'country-first' and all about

sportsmen's success.

"Individualism, putting yourself above the country and the team is frowned upon, so when people become big stars and start getting individual endorsements for example – rather than team endorsements – that causes a lot of problems with the old

to a Chinese team-mate.

Swimmer Sun Yang fell out with authorities over his relationship with an air hostess, and he was also banned after his involvement in a car accident while driving without a licence.

Ning Zetao, another of China's top swimmers, was kicked off the national team in February for signing sponsorship deal without official consent.

Badminton great Lin Dan risked the wrath of his handlers by dating team-mate Xie Xingfang – now his wife – despite such relationships being forbidden.

The biggest name to break free of the national team in February for signing sponsorship deal without official consent.

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style of thinking."

While open rebellion by sports stars is seldom seen, one of the best known cases also came in table tennis – He Zhili, who later became the Japanese national champion Chire Koyama.

She was a star in China but did the unthinkable and defected to arch-rival Japan, claiming her own sponsorship.

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style of thinking."

China's athletes are often groomed from childhood in an intense training environment, bringing success particularly in metal-heavy Olympic sports like badminton, diving and gymnastics – and especially table tennis, where China has won all but four gold medals since it joined the Games programme in 1988.

After failing to appear at their second-round singles matches at the China Open, the "Chengdu Three" posted messages on social media saying they were too saddened by Liu's axing to play on.

The row has its roots in the suspension of women's head coach Kong Linghui, the former Olympic champion known as the "Ping Pong Prince" who is being sued over a gambling debt to a Singapore casino, according to reports.

After an internal investigation found "several deep-seated problems in the team's management", Liu was removed as overall head coach and named as a vice-president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, the body said.

The problems affecting Chinese table tennis came after a shake-up in management, when Li Yongbo quit after 24 years as

head coach in April, following a prolonged slump in form.

But public revolts are rare, mainly because of the strength of China's sports system and the trust people have in their coaches before the individual experts say.

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Printed and published by Ganesh Ch. Das on behalf of Assam Tribune Pvt. Ltd. Printed at Jansaharan Printing & Publishers Pvt. Ltd. Boringi, Dibrugarh - 786 003. Published from Convoy Road, Chirang Chirang, Dibrugarh - 786 001. Tel: 0373-2324328, FAX: 0373-2323308. Editor: Pratul Govinda Baruah

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CHENGDU, July 4: China's three top paddlers 'Chengdu Three' mounted rare revolt



(From left) Ma Long, Fan Zhendong, Xu Xin.

SHANGHAI, July 4: China's table tennis stars usually demonise their rivals but they may be fighting a losing battle after mounting a rare challenge against more formidable opposition – their own sports system.

In a rare show of dissent, Ma Long, Fan Zhendong and Xu Xin – the world's top three men's players – downed paddles at last month's China Open in Chengdu, saying they were too heartbroken to play after the removal of coach Liu Guoliang.

It is highly unusual for Chinese athletes to publicly break ranks with the state sports system, and follows apparent attempts to censor online comment, according to a website which monitors social media in China.

China's athletes are often

groomed from childhood in an intense training environment, bringing success particularly in metal-heavy Olympic sports like badminton, diving and gymnastics – and especially table tennis, where China has won all but four gold medals since it joined the Games programme in 1988.

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