

NEWS CAPSULE

Babri case adjourned

NEW DELHI, March 23: The Supreme Court today asked BJP leaders LK Advani, MM Joshi and other senior BJP leaders to desist from demolition site to give their written submissions and adjourned the matter for two weeks. – PTI

Army Chief

NEW DELHI, March 23: The armed forces should be prepared for conventional warfare along the borders and advanced technology for military must be made available on a fast-track mode, Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat said today. – PTI

Education policy

NEW DELHI, March 23: The Narendra Modi government's ambitious project – the New Education Policy – aimed at revamping the education system is likely to take more time, the HRD Ministry said today. – PTI

Cabinet nod

NEW DELHI, March 23: The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a National Curriculum for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes as a constitutional body. The Bill to provide constitutional status to the body will be introduced in Parliament. – PTI

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ISIS claims British Parliament attack

LONDON, March 23: The Islamic State today claimed responsibility for a brazen terror attack on the UK Parliament that killed four people, including the British-born attacker who was known to British secret services, even as eight others were arrested across London and Birmingham.

Three people were killed and 40 injured when the attacker yesterday mowed down pedestrians on a bridge and stabbed to death a police officer outside parliament complex in the heart of Westminster before being shot dead by Scotland Yard.

8 arrested in UK

"We are not afraid...An act of terrorism is tried to silence our democracy, but today we meet as normal," May told sombre-looking lawmakers in the packed House of Commons which reopened today with a minute's silence a day after the attack.

"The operation was carried out in response to calls to target countries," it said in a statement. – PTI

police have no reason to believe there are imminent further attacks on the public. His identity is known to the police and MI5, and when operational considerations allow, he will be publicly identified. Our working assumption is that the attacker was inspired by Islamist ideology," May said.

Soon after her speech, the ISIS on its propaganda news agency "Amaq" claimed responsibility, saying a "Soldier of the Caliphate" carried out the attack on the British Parliament.

"The operation was carried out in response to calls to target countries," it said in a statement. – PTI

Gadkari, Mahesh Sharma to attend Namami Brahmaputra

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Dr Mahesh Sharma will participate in the Namami Brahmaputra festival, said an official press release here today.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today called on both the Union Ministers in New Delhi and extended invitation to grace the festival, which will be held in 21 districts across the State from March 31 to April 4. In response to the Chief Minister's invitation, Gadkari con-

firmed his presence in the festival on April 4 while Dr Sharma will participate on April 2.

Sonowal, during the meeting, informed both them about the salient features of the festival and how the State Government is aiming at promoting the Brahmaputra valley civilisation, its contribution to the development of the region and how the same can act as a catalyst in transforming the economy of the State through this festival.

Apart from this, the festival will also showcase the rich art and culture, customs and traditions of different tribes and communities living on both banks of the Brahmaputra and other cultural and sports events.

World TB Day today

37,140 TB cases detected in State last year

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, March 23: Of the total 1,59,815 tuberculosis (TB) suspects screened for the disease in the year 2016 in Assam, 37,140 were detected with TB and put on treatment. Of these, 32,090 were successfully cured. The past few years have shown a similar

trend of large-scale TB detection, with 1,64,427 people screened, 37,975 detected and treated, and 32,122 successfully cured in 2015.

According to health experts, the large number of TB detection is a positive trend and holds the key to achieving the target of eliminating the disease by 2025. (See page 4)

Sena MP hits AI officer with slippers

NEW DELHI, March 23: Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad hit a 60-year-old Air India duty manager with his slippers at least 20 times and tore his shirt at IGI airport here today, prompting the airline to file a police complaint.

According to an Air India spokesperson, the duty manager at Delhi airport was hit with slippers several times by Gaikwad after he complained that he had to travel economy on an all-economy flight – even though he had a business class ticket. – PTI

The assault was acknowledged by the MP, who also remained defiant over the incident and instead sought an apology from the airline's chairman and managing director.

Air India lodged a complaint with the police against the Shiv Sena MP for "assaulting" its duty manager at Delhi airport, an airline spokesperson said.

Policemen sent the officer, Sukumar, to hospital for medical examination and based on its report a case will be registered. – PTI

CM calls for quality in Brahmaputra Board Majuli projects

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, March 23: Faced with complaints from Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal over the functioning of the Brahmaputra Board, its chairman Sanjay Kundu promptly assured that the Board will be implementing projects worth Rs 207 crore for protection of Majuli, Sonowal's home constituency.

Top officials of the Board led by Kundu met the Chief Minister for a meeting at Assam Bhawan here this afternoon.

Conveying the displeasure of his government over the failure of the Brahmaputra Board in undertaking anti-erosion and flood management works, (See page 4)

Sonowal directed the Board of officials to carry out an aerial survey for making a correct assessment of Majuli on April 9.

Referring to the bleak past record of the Board, the Chief Minister said the people of Assam and particularly those from Majuli are very dissatisfied with the functioning of the Brahmaputra Board. He further urged the Board to ensure quality in their works to dispel its negative image from the minds of people.

Official sources said that taking a strong view of the performance of the Board, the Chief Minister conveyed that due to absence of Board officials in the field, anti-erosion

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Police cordon off a street in London after the terror attack on Thursday. – UNI

Rs 269.40 cr Central aid for State

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, March 23: A high-level committee for Central assistance has sanctioned Rs 269.40 crore for Assam. Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday chaired a meeting of the committee which sanctioned Central assistance to 10 states, including Assam.

The committee examined the proposal based on the reports of the inter-ministerial team that visited these states hit by floods, landslides, cloudburst, drought, etc. Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi and representatives from NITI Aayog, MHA, Agriculture and Finance Ministries also attended the meeting.

Stilwell Road reopening

No parleys with China, Myanmar: VK Singh

STAFF REPORTER

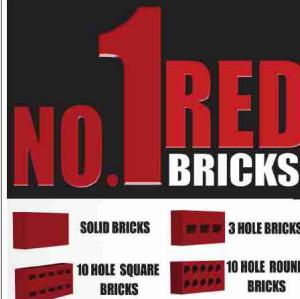
GUWAHATI, March 23: The Government of India is not engaged at present in negotiations with Myanmar and China on reopening of the Stilwell Road, said Union Minister of State for External Affairs General (Retired) VK Singh today. The Union Minister was replying to a question from Ranee Narah on the floor of the Rajya Sabha.

However, the Minister said the governments of India, Myanmar and Thailand have agreed to cooperate in the construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Triilateral Highway and under the project, the Government of India has undertaken construction of 69 bridges.

The Government of India has also taken up construction of the approach roads on the Tami-Kyigone-Kalewa section and construction/upgradation of the road on the Kalewa-Yangi section of the Triilateral Highway in Myanmar.

Gen Singh also informed the Rajya Sabha in reply to the same question that the governments of Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) have agreed to establish a joint study group (JSG) on strengthening connectivity in the BCIM region for closer economic trade and people-to-people linkages through development of a BCIM Economic Corridor. Two meetings of the JSG have taken place so far and the joint study is under way. (See page 4)

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Pak has to vacate Gilgit-Baltistan, PoK: India

NEW DELHI, March 23: The only issue of dispute between India and Pakistan is as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned is the illegal occupation of PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan by Pakistan, the government today said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh reiterated India's demand that Pakistan should vacate illegal occupation of these areas.

Singh's sharp remarks came in response to Pakistan High Commissioner Abdul Basit favouring resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the "aspirations of Kashmiris".

Basit was speaking at an event at the High Commission here today to mark Pakistan's national day.

Talking to reporters outside Parliament, Singh said "Today if there is any issue between India and Pakistan on J&K, it is

only the illegal occupation by Pakistan, whether it is Pakistan-occupied Kashmir or Gilgit-Baltistan".

He also added, "How it can be freed from Pakistan's occupation and made a part of the Indian republic... That is the only issue now".

Singh said India's position has been clear for many years now and in 1994, a resolution (on the issue) was also passed in Parliament which all political parties had supported.

Basit had said the aspirations of people "can be suppressed but not quelled and I hope the struggle of the Kashmiris will prove successful".

Kashmir has remained a longstanding unresolved issue between the two countries causing acrimony on both sides. - PTI

Farm loan waivers to states ruled out

NEW DELHI, March 23: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today ruled out farm loan waivers by the Centre but said states can utilise their own resources in this regard.

He clarified that the Centre will not adopt a selective approach by helping one state and not the others.

"This issue (loan waiver) has cropped up in several states. The Centre has its policies for agriculture sector under which we provide interest subvention and other support. We will continue to give all that."

"If a state has its own resources and want to go ahead in that direction, it will have to find its resources. The situa-

tion where the Centre will help one state and not the others will not arise," Jaitley said in the Rajya Sabha.

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh had said that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh will waive off loans of small and marginal farmers as has been promised in party's state election manifesto to the recent assembly polls.

The Congress had demanded that the government announce a loan waiver for farmers across the country as was done by the UPA in 2006 and not just for Uttar Pradesh where the BJP has returned to power with a major mandate.

"If a state has its own resources and want to go ahead in that direction, it will have to find its resources. The situ-

SC to go paperless in 6-7 months: CJJ

NEW DELHI, March 23: The Supreme Court will go "paperless" within six to seven months, Chief Justice JS Khehar today said.

The observation on the issue of digitisation of the top court was made when senior advocate Indira Jaising, who has filed a PIL seeking uniform guidelines on designating lawyers as senior by the apex court and the high courts across the country so that there is no need to file hard copies.

The court has set up a three-judge bench to hear petitions seeking framing of uniform guidelines for designating lawyers as senior by the apex court and the high courts across the country. - PTI

Nitish to popularise Mahatma's ideology

MOTIHARI, March 23: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today dwelt on relevance of Gandhian philosophy in the modern world and expressed resolve to take Bapu's views to every household.

Kumar inaugurated the three-day Champaran Satyagraha centenary function, ahead of the official function in April to observe 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's launch of non-violent agitation against the British rule.

The Father of the Nation had launched the movement from Champaran to protest forced indigo plantation in 1917.

Addressing the function, Kumar said Gandhian ideology was relevant even today and his government would "knock every household" to make people aware of Gandhian values.

"Not more than 10 per cent of the new generation are sensitive towards

Jaitley reiterates Parliament's authority

NEW DELHI, March 23: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said Parliament alone has the authority to decide on how much pension MP's can draw and that inter-institutional discipline has to be respected.

A day after the Supreme Court sought responses from the Central Election Commission of India (CECI) on a plea seeking scrapping of pension and other perks of members of Parliament, the opposition in Rajya Sabha expressed concern that the Rayga Sabha expressed concern that the Rayga Sabha was being trifled with.

"This is an authority of Parliament. No other institution can really exercise power; it is only the Parliament which can exercise that power. Therefore, who is entitled to pension, what the quantum of pension is and so on, is an area which exclusively falls within the domain of the Parliament. That is the position of this government," Jaitley said in response.

Opposition members had expressed concern over the apex court's

only be spent with the authority of Parliament and, therefore, Parliament is the one and only authority that determines how public funds are to be spent.

"This is an authority of Parliament. No other institution can really exercise power; it is only the Parliament which can exercise that power. Therefore, who is entitled to pension, what the quantum of pension is and so on, is an area which exclusively falls within the domain of the Parliament. That is the position of this government," Jaitley said in response.

Opposition members had expressed concern over the apex court's

reported comments that 80 per cent former law makers are 'crorepatis' (millionaires). "I understand the sentiments expressed by members and the Government would always stick to that position. I think, as part of inter-institutional discipline, this is a constitutional principle which all institutions will eventually have to respect," Jaitley added.

Earlier, Naresh Agarwal (SP), through a point-of-order, raised the issue saying the image of the MP's is being trifled with as if they are appropriating huge monies as salaries and pension without working, adding,

some former MPs were living 'a pauper's life' and the children of a former law maker in Uttar Pradesh were working as labourers and artisans.

Jairam Ramesh (Cong) said, "When a Supreme Court Judge says that 80 per cent of ex-MPs are crorepatis, I think this is a very serious issue and, with the greatest of respect, I have to say that this is an astonishing statement to come from the highest in the land, which is one of the pillars of democracy."

As Deputy Chairman PJ Kurien urged them to seek remedy in the courts and not criticise the judiciary, adding,

Ramesh said 80 per cent of the present MPs would not be millionaires when their term comes to an end.

The apex court on Tuesday had said the pension and perks to MP's seemed 'princely' and unreasonable and had sought responses from the Centre and the CECI on a plea seeking the scrapping of pension and other perks being given to Members of Parliament.

A bench headed by Justice J Chelameswar issued notices to the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha and the Rayga Sabha on the plea filed by NOK Lok Prahar on the issue. - PTI

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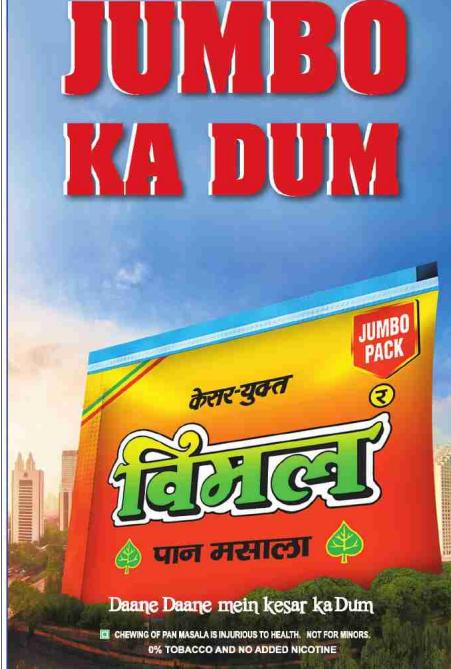
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Authorised Dealer: **GUWAHATI:** Jaybee Honda (Taru Nagar) - 0361-2463173, 9854045058; Vinayak Honda (Bora Service) - 0361-2527758, 9707012500;
Divine Honda (Beltola): 0361-2239999, 9207070007; **Bimal Honda (Adabari):** 03758014901;

Honda is

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT**ACHIEVEMENT**

Tulika Maitack, Assistant Professor, D.H.S.K. Commerce College, Dibrugarh, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh for her thesis entitled 'Effect of Lighting on Equity Optimal and Equity Fairness on Volatility of the Underlying Equity in Indian Stock Exchange: An Empirical Survey of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.' She carried out her research work under the supervision of Prof. Ashit Saha, Head, Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University. She is the wife of Partha Borgohain of Denow Charali, Sivasagar. She is the eldest daughter of Smt. Bina Maitack & Sjt. Danda Maitack, resident of Pabivanaguri, VIP Road, Guwahati. Achieve/4884/1

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted 3 bed room flat on 1st floor or individual house for Daycare (Creche) purpose in Beltoia, Hatigaon, Ganeshguri and nearby areas. Phone: 9706058996. Accont/4883/3

PAYING GUEST

Single/Double seat for boys, near Career Point, Lalljan Coaching, C.P.M.C. Potential, Concept Zoo Road, 9054019519. PG/P/0373/8

Furnished, deluxe, single/ double seats for Boys/Men attached L/B/W near Ganeshguri, 98540-86966. PG/P/0440/8

Girl/studying women paying guest opposite A.G. Bus Stop, Beltoia, Ph.No. 9678896427, PG/P/5955/7

PG for girls and working Women, Ganeshguri, Sunderpar, Guwahati, Ph: 9707506061, 9864160606, PG/P/6178/139. PG/P/5334/10

PG for girls and working women, Sixmille, Panjabari Road, Guwahati, Ph: 9864125639, 9707506061. PG/P/5333/10

Executive accommodation (Boys). Single room/attached Bath/Inverter/24 Hrs water, Ganeshguri, Hengshamindri, Ph: 9984025888. PG/P/0504/8

PG for Boys at Chandmari and Guwahati Club Road side area. Ph: 9678932009. PG/P/0051/10

Sonier Executive single furnished deluxe apartments with amenities near Down Town. 9864072403. PG/P/6149/1

PG for boys [student & working] Sixmille, Panjabari Road, Near Majuli, Opp. Khasi Hill, Guwahati-22, Ph: 8721839833. PG/P/6137/2

Lalit boys PG, Ganeshguri/ quality Food, Inverter, 24 hr. water, News paper, 88760-40394, 73999-21430. PG/P/6122/1

Semi-furnished, 1300 sqft., 2 BHK, Ground Floor, No water logging, Car Parking, Corporate Guest House/Company Executive/Small Office preferred, Rent Rs., 2500/- Nizarapar, Chandmari Colony, Call: 98640-60635 (9 am to 6pm). TLP/A/6134/3

Shop/Business purpose Commercial Room/Restaurant Fully furnished Office, Ph: 90857-79686, Guwahati, Roadsides.

TLP/F/6120/1

3 BHK flat at Sunrise Point Apartment Baghbori, Panjabari, Guwahati-37. Contact: 94353-42380. TLP/F/6126/1

3 BHK with parking, 1440 sqft., in Meghnaliar N.R.T-1, Kharughuri, Company Executive preferred, Call: 9508064243. TLP/A/0529/3

Ground floor 2 big rooms with big drawing dining at Kharughuri Main Road. Small Family preferred, 9435112272. TLP/F/6153/1

2 BHK for small family 24/7 running water, car parking, only 1 km from Chandram Flyover, Guwahati. Contact: 94355-54055/98642-02514. TLP/F/6156/1

Secured 1 BHK, 2nd floor with open terrace, Roknighat, Re 8000/- Phone: 9864026472. TLP/F/6159/3

Semi furnished 2BHK, 1st floor, 24 hrs water, parking, private building in Uzbaran, Rent 22,000/- M-9864984104. TLP/F/6057/3

Independent House/Flat/Office/ Hostel/Udowin/Shop. R.D.P Toilet Service, 8876874366. TLP/6062/3

Toilet Service-Independent, Single/Double House, Flat, Guesthouse, Office, Commercial Shop, 7399192818. TLP/F/6063/3

Single, double room & independent part House, Flat and Office space, Ph. No.: 9854203135, TLP/F/5995/3

Fully furnished 3 BHK Apartment 1st floor near Royal Regency Building, Bannumindiaid, Guwahati-21, Rent Rs. 14000/- PM. Family only. Mob: 9435152822, 9707076278. TLP/F/6006/5

2 bed room with attached Bath D+D, Kitchen and Balcony (1st floor) at South Sarania, Ulubari, Guwahati. @ Rs. 12000/- Ph: 9957077117. TLP/F/5994/4

CONSULTANCY

Contact for Income Tax, VAT, Bank Loan, PAN, Service Tax, Company Formation, Ph. 9435848033, 9707163092. Consultancy/P/0689/30

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM BANK PROBLEM? IS YOUR ACCOUNT N.P.A. ISSUED POSSESSION/SALE NOTICE BY THE BANK, WE ARE HERE TO SOLVE YOUR BANKING PROBLEMS. M: 829627444. Consultancy/4862/5

MUSIC

Exclusive Western music classes Guitar, Piano, Violin, Vocal, Drums: Ph: 8876228092. Music/P/6162/3

WORKSHOP

3 day workshop on "How to shoot video in DSLR" by expert from USA from 27-29 March at IUB Photos Institute of Photography, Bhangarhat, Registration, 9435117963/9085669933. Workshop/P/6103/6

AEROBIC

AEROBICS/ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS WITH MUSIC (MALE & FEMALE) FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT, ZOO ROAD, 9783823869. Aerobics/P/A0507/5

FASHION

Learn cutting, tailoring, designer blouse, kurti, lehenga, 9707115997, 8011428453 (Fashion cut) Chandmari. Fashion/P/6064/3

CATERING

J14 Home Delivery Lunch and Dinner and Catering between 11 AM-9.30 PM. Ph: 986454144, Catering/P/4509/16

DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS

E-Rickshaw dealer required for each District of Assam. Kindly contact +91 921701327. D&D/P/A049/1

INTERIOR DESIGNING

Modular kitchen, Aluminum door & Windows, Painting, Fall Ceiling, S.Steel railing, AC/ing, Fall Electric, Tiles Fitting, Call: 9707653048/86383-10875. Interior Design/H/6135/3

NURSING

Argya Home Care Nursing for Stroke, Bedridden, Oldage and baby care, Guwahati, Ph: 9706109894, 9476690577. Nursing/P/6154/1

NNMF-Available homecare trained nurses for patient, oldaged, baby, medical attendance. 9401325778, 970999540, Nursing/P/6061/5

ASTROLOGY

World famous Tantra Mantra Astrologer, Guru, Gold medala, solve all your problems, job, business, enemy, family dispute, love marriage, 100% guaranteed. L&P/P/6161/1

Land for sale. Plot of land measuring 15 lecha. Good residential place nearest Mirza Police Point, Cont. 9957857702. L&P/P/6151/2

Mylit land for sale at Bannumindiaid near Amtron. Cont: 907265699, L&P/P/6131/1

Myalti Land for selling at Bhagdutipur, Kabilipara, 14 lessa approx. Contact: 98540-0033, L&P/P/6130/1

COMMERCIAL SPACE

Buying, Selling, Renting, Office space, Showrooms, Godowns, Warehouses. Anywhere in Guwahati. Promaster: 7399040555, 9435106266, CSP/P/0448/1

Toilet Service-Independent, Single/Double House, Flat, Guesthouse, Office, Commercial Shop, 7399192818. TLP/F/6063/3

Single, double room & independent part House, Flat and Office space, Ph. No.: 9854203135, TLP/F/5995/3

Fully furnished 3 BHK Apartment 1st floor near Royal Regency Building, Bannumindiaid, Guwahati-21, Rent Rs. 14000/- PM. Family only. Mob: 9435152822, 9707076278. TLP/F/6006/5

2 bed room with attached Bath D+D, Kitchen and Balcony (1st floor) at South Sarania, Ulubari, Guwahati. @ Rs. 12000/- Ph: 9957077117. TLP/F/5994/4

Scorpio 2012 white colour M.Hawk VLX Model in show room condition. Ph: 9435148814. Packing Cargo Household goods. M&S/P/6116/1

Agarwal Packers & Movers Ltd. (APML) since 1987, always check Chairman, Ramesh Agarwal's Photo for authenticity call: 900090300/ 9860015001, P&M/P/6132/2

National Packers & Movers reallocation of local, domestic, household goods, car etc. Since 1984. Contact: 0361-2453362, 994200989, 9864069027. Visit: www.nmpacker.com. P&M/P/4792/13

1300 sqft. ground floor at Beltoia Bazar Main Road for office. Contact 9435738144, OS/P/6132/2

Rhino Packers, Sixmile, Ghy-22, Ph: 9864496464, Local shifting. M: 9401222253 (All India). Packing Cargo Household goods. M&S/P/6116/1

Agarwal Packers & Movers Ltd. (APML) since 1987, always check Chairman, Ramesh Agarwal's Photo for authenticity call: 900090300/ 9860015001, P&M/P/4861/10

Rhino Packers, Sixmile, Ghy-22, Ph: 9864496464, Local shifting. M: 9401222253 (All India). Packing Cargo Household goods. M&S/P/6116/1

MISSING

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES MES Garrison Engineer (Air Force) Bohar, PO-Guwahati Airport Bohar, Guwahati-781015 on behalf of President of India seeks information about the staff of this office from 26 Oct. 2011. Please inform immediately.



Details of missing Person are as under:
Name: SHREEMARTA CHAKRABORTY
Title: Elect (HS)
S/o/Late Kamala Prasanna Chakraborty
Permanent Address: Vt/Amit, Jarabat, P.S. Sutong, Guwahati, Dist. Kamrup (Assam), Pincode-781012
Date of Birth: 01/01/1984
Phone: 98644-69464
S/P: P/6162/3

CD/Missing/4890/1

SALES & PURCHASE

Urgently want to hand over running Uniform Show Room. 9870539405, 9864940403. S&P/P/6164/1

JM Enterprise All Electronic Goods AC Refrigerator, CCTV & Old furnisher, Santipath-47, Jayangar, Ph: 98644-69464. S&P/P/A0531/15

CD/IN/4882/1

GUAHATI COMMERCE COLLEGE**RUSA TENDER NOTICE**

The Principal, Gauhati Commerce College, Assam, Ph. 0361. 9. R. Barooah Room, Guwahati, Ph: 781021, invites sealed bids from Registered/Reputed firm for Supply of Dress & Non-Dress Materials (Vegetables, Fruits & Vegetables etc.) separately for the houses of Govt. B.D.S. (East) Doms, Sutong, Kamrup for the year 2016-2017. The bids should be submitted to their tenders separately in every group. Both the technical and financial bids should be submitted marking 'A' as technical and 'B' as financial bid distinctly. The tenders will be evaluated on the basis of the technical bid and the financial bid separately and the same will be opened on 23/03/2017 at 10.00 hrs. in presence of the tenders or their authorized representatives.

Detail terms and conditions of the item(s) may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of Rs. 10/- per copy.

CD/IN/4881/2

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Bidisha Bonia to Bidisha Kashyap by affidavit before the Notary Public Kalabor Dt. 30/6/15. Hence it shall be known as Bidisha Kashyap.

P/N/P/6123/1

GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Abbreviated Notice Inviting Bid

Bid No. 5/RFP/CE-HW-2016-17 Dated 20.3.2017

The Minister of Power, Transport & Highways through Chief Engineer, Highways: Public Works Department Aizawl-796001; Mizoram, has decided to undertake 2-lane bridge for completion of 1. Video Conferencing Solution e2 Smart Class Room and 3. Digital Library under 2nd Installment of RUSA Fund and fund to be received from other sources like UGC, Government of Assam etc. in future.

Quotations are to be dropped in the DROPO BOX kept at the ground floor of the Administrative Building of the college on or before 20th April, 2017 at 2.00 pm. For more details please visit website www.gauhaticommercecollege.in

CD/IN/4881/1

ARTS & CRAFTS

Learning has no age. Learn to draw from age 4+ (Wireless) Call: 943511526, Art & Craft/P/5967/8

CD/IN/4880/1

BUSINESS

India's largest selling cement/fly ash bricks machine, diesel/electric, 25 type's electric bricks in same machine. Minimum 4500 bricks per day, 40/cement savings. Starts from 2.0, 0.00 / G w a t t s b a t t u r i n g .com

Highway Public Works Department Aizawl, Mizoram-796001 IPR/6152/1

Unlimited income and no investment, free time, business & own boss. Ph: 8473882812. Busi/P/A0537/1

CD/IN/4840/1

ASSAM TEA CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Govt. of Assam undertaking)
HOUSEFED Complex, c-Block (7th Floor) Dr. B.N. Saikia Road, Dispur Guwahati-781006
CIN: U110132AS1974
TIN: 9854385974, 0371/521/0001
IPRC/001363

Short Tender Notice for Tea

Particulars

Sealed auctions are invited from registered transport companies interested in transporting tea for the season 2016-17 from our Amuklie T.E. Loongsong T.E., Nagaland District, Jorhat, Golaghat & Charaideo area as follows may be submitted to the Manager, Assam Tea Corporation Limited, Tinsukia - 781302, Assam on or before 2nd April/2017 up to 2.00 PM. Quotations will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM, in presence of transporter representative/s.

St. No.:

Name of Garden:

Rate per kg. in Rs.(all inclusive):

Conditions:

Delivery Period:

Time of Closing of tender:

Date & time of Opening of tender:

Note: 1. The complete information along with the tender document of above e-tender will be available on 10th March 2017 at 10.00 hrs. in website http://www.ireps-assam.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded from this website only. 2. Bids shall only be considered, Rates in any other financial entity on any other tender letter is treated by the assessor as not considered. 4) Documents being

digitally signed by tenderer. (5) The manual/physical documents shall not be accepted. Deposit: Draft/Drift, Banking Cash, Deposit receipt, Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on or before 10th March 2017. (6) Tender documents shall close at the specified date and time.

Note: 2. The complete information along with the tender document of above e-tender will be available on 10th March 2017 at 10.00 hrs. in website http://www.ireps-assam.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded from this website only. 2. Bids shall only be considered, Rates in any other financial entity on any other tender letter is treated by the assessor as not considered. 4) Documents being

digitally signed by tenderer. (5) The manual/

physical documents shall not be accepted.

Deposit: Draft/Drift, Banking Cash,

Deposit receipt, Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on or before 10th March 2017. (6) Tender documents shall close at the specified date and time.

Note: 3. The trees to be cut / removed can be seen from 27.03.2017 to 03.04.2017 in 1000 ha. area.

Delivery Period: 09.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. or from 09.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs. on working days.

Time of Closing of tender:

17.30 hrs of 18.04.2017.

Date & time of Opening of tender:

12.35 hrs of 19.04.2017.

Note: 4. The tender documents shall

be submitted in triplicate.

5. The tender documents shall

be submitted in triplicate.

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26. The tender documents shall

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IT Minister visits GU CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, March 23: State Information Technology Minister Keshab Mahanta today visited a special national facility of Stratospheric Tropospheric (ST) radar of the Gauhati University developed under the supervision of Prof Minakshi Devi of the Department of Physics, GU.

Mahanta went round the site built towards the southern hillside of GU, which is nearing completion with erection of 576 antenna arrays along with an equal number of trans-receiving modules and a laboratory.

The scientists, faculty and administrative members of GU, engineers from departments concerned of the Government of Assam hailed the Minister for his visit and constructive suggestions.

RP Choudhury lecture CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, March 23: The Department of Zoology, Gauhati University is holding the Professor Rajendra Prasad Choudhury 6th Endowment Lecture on March 30 in the auditorium of the department.

The endowment lecture will be delivered by Dr AS Salim Hameed, OIE expert and Tata Innovative Scholarship awardee of C Abdul Hakeem College, Tamil Nadu. The topic of the lecture is Application of Biotechnological Tools for Aquatic Animal Health and Management.

Prof RC Deka, Vice Chancellor of Assam Down Town University, Gauhati and former director of AIIMS, New Delhi will be the chief guest. Professor Aparajita Borkotoki, former head of the Department of Zoology and dean of science, GU will be the guest of honour.



Participants at a Bihu dance workshop organised by Borluit Kala Krishi Bikash Kendra at Noonmati, in Guwahati on Thursday. — UB Photos

Unpaid wages to staff HC directive to management of Assamese daily

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: The Gauhati High Court has directed the management of the Janasadharan Printing and Publication Ltd, the publisher of the Assamese daily *Janasadharan*, to clear all the unpaid wages of their 38 employees till January 2017 through the employees' respective bank accounts.

Besides, the Court has said the management of the *Janasadharan* shall make an endeavour to restart the newspaper (*Janasadharan*) publication" and the employees would

render full cooperation to the management in this regard.

Moreover, the management would also make an endeavour to pay the current wages of the employees regularly, the Court has said.

It needs mention here that the *Janasadharan* management stopped publication of the newspaper allegedly without declaring closure or lock-out of the establishment. Moreover, the management did not lay off the employees concerned and the employees were attending their duties as usual. However, the management stopped the employees' salaries without showing any reasons what-

soever. This was challenged by the employees of the newspaper and they moved the Assistant Labour Commissioner of the State under the provision of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, arguing that they were entitled to claim their wages under the Payment of Wages Act.

The management challenged the petition of the employees before the Assistant Labour Commissioner, who rejected the pleas of the management on February 7. The management then moved the Gauhati High Court, which is hearing the above directive recently.

This is the first initiative of IIE where beekeeping and honey processing training facility has been set up in its campus itself. The programme is meant especially for unemployed youths of ST communities.

After completion of training, beehives, beekeeping and honey processing tools as well as queen bee capture boxes were distributed to the trainees. The 8th batch training that had started on March 20, had 35 beneficiaries from Assam and Manipur.

Dr Angamuthu requested the DCP (Administration) to instruct all OCs of police sta-

tions to check the vehicles carrying forest products to ensure that they have valid documents and take necessary steps as per the law.

The DCP (Administration) will be the nodal officer in this regard and has been asked to strictly enforce laws relating to supply of construction materials.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that while giving permission for transportation of minor minerals like sand and stone the departments concerned must follow all formalities as per existing rules.

Dr Angamuthu requested the DCP (Administration) to instruct all OCs of police sta-

Botched-up surgeries at MMCH

HC orders formation of monitoring committee

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: The Gauhati High Court, while passing the order in connection with the botched-up surgeries at the Mahendra Mohan Chou-dhury Hospital in 2015, has ordered that the State government should set up a supervisory committee within three months to monitor such surgeries in future.

The court also directed that the eye and ENT block of the MMCH should be upgraded with all modern facilities with the sum of Rs 46.68 lakh which has already been sanctioned by the government.

The order copy also stated that as it is uncertain as to how the infection occurred, it is therefore difficult to fix responsibility of any medical negligence by the surgeon concerned. The surgery was done by Dr Bindu Singh, Medical and Health Officer of the MMCH, who was represented by advocate Amit Goyal.

Meanwhile, the court also directed the State to strictly follow the guidelines of the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

"Regarding the source of infection, it is evident from the stickers of the autoclave, report of the doctors and nurses within 45 days.

and statements of the patients that there could be three sources of infection, which include improper autoclave, infection of the operation theatre or infection beyond the operation theatre like ward and in-house," the court order said.

The High Court, it needs mention, had on Wednesday directed the State to pay a compensation of Rs 3.5 lakh to each of the five victims, who were represented by advocates BK Mahajan, Arshad Choudhury and Nayan Das.

The High Court directed disbursement of the compensation to all the five victims within 45 days.

Latasil Bihu programme has kept the essence of Bihu celebrations intact.

Remembering the contributions of Singhapurush Radha Govinda Baruah, Bhupaneswar Barua, Kshiradev Baruah and Dhiren Baruah among others, he said that amid the chaos prevailing in society, culture is the force which can unite people and foster brotherhood.

Dhiren Baruah, chief adviser to the Sammelan was also present on the occasion. Bihu dance and songs were presented by different groups on the occasion.

The four-day programme will begin on April 14 and culminate with the coveted event of the celebration, the Bihu Sambalpuri competition. The Bihu celebration will be inaugurated with flag hoisting by social and cultural activist Arunamoyee Bisaya, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will be present at the function of the chief guest.

After installing the *lai khata*, Dr Dev Goswami said that over the years,

the Bihu dance and songs were presented by different groups on the occasion.

The programme is being organised by the Dr Birinchi Kumar Baruah Library of the GGC in association with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the college.

Convocation

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: The second convocation of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati will be held on March 28 at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here. Dr Vishwa Mohan Katoch, former Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Home and Family Welfare, Government of India will deliver the convocation address on the occasion.

World Meteorological Day celebrated

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23:

World Meteorological Day was celebrated at the Biju Patnaik Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) here today, in collaboration with the Guwahati Chapter of the Indian Meteorological Society (IMS).

This year the theme of World Meteorological Day was "Understanding Clouds", chosen to highlight the enormous importance of clouds for weather, climate and water, said S'Neil Shaw, RMC Deputy Director General-Meteorology (DGM).

The function organised on the occasion was presided over by Dr Shaw, who is also the president of the Guwahati Chapter of IMS. It was addressed by Dr Prithivraj Chakravarty, Principal Scientist, National Research Centre on Pig, ICAR, Rani, Guwahati. In his speech Dr Chakravarty underlined the importance of meteorology for animal husbandry.

Scientists-B Atul Singh and Ashish Kumar explained to the visitors the importance of these instruments and the techniques used in weather observation and forecasting.

The function was also addressed by RMC Scientist-D Sunit Das. Prizes and certificates were distributed among the winners of various competitions held on the occasion, said the DGM.

Traditional healthcare remedy meet

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, March 23: The Institutional Biotech Hub, Department of Biotechnology, Gauhati University in collaboration with the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), Institutional Biotech Hub, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) and North East Biotechnological Association (NEBA), is organising a three-day north-eastern regional conference and exhibition on promotion and protection of traditional health care remedy from tomorrow.

The main objective of the conference and exhibition is to bring all scientists, researchers, conservationists and traditional medicinal practitioners of NE India on one platform. The platform will be an opportunity for the researchers to effectively interact with folk healers.

Meet on transportation, sale of minor minerals

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: A meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee dealing with transportation and sale of minor minerals was held here today under the chairmanship of Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that while giving permission for transportation of minor minerals like sand and stone the departments concerned must follow all formalities as per existing rules.

Dr Angamuthu requested the DCP (Administration) to instruct all OCs of police sta-

tions to check the vehicles carrying forest products to ensure that they have valid documents and take necessary steps as per the law.

The DCP (Administration) will be the nodal officer in this regard and has been asked to strictly enforce laws relating to supply of construction materials.

Dr Angamuthu said the general public should not be harassed while purchasing construction materials with valid documents. He also asked the PWD and NHAI to ensure that vehicles carrying construction materials display proper signage to avoid any kind of problems.

2nd pilgrimage tourist train from May 10

STAFF REPORTER

time are Amritsar, Rishikesh, Hardiwar, Mathura, Vrindavan, Agra and Varanasi.

The "Astha" special pilgrimage tourist train from the northeastern region, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) and the Indian Railways will now run the second such train from Guwahati on May 10.

"The inaugural trip had been flagged off from Kamakhya Railway Station on February 17 and the pilgrims were highly satisfied with the trip. The next pilgrimage Astha circuit special tourist train will run from Guwahati on May 10." NF Railway PRO Nitineni Bhattacharya said today.

He added, "This time the major pilgrimage places of north India will be covered in a duration of eight nights and nine days, booking for which has already been opened."

Among the major places which the train will cover this

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Manufacturing Directorate, Guwahati-Kalabaganj

NIT No./Name of the Work

RRC/EROT/2016-17/PT-127, Tender ID: 2017_EROT_51437_1 : Construction of a 1000 sq.m. office building cum workshop facility with land development, laying of product and hydrant piping and related works at Lekhota, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Assam under Indian AOD State Office.

NIT No./Name of the Work

RRC/EROT/2017-18/PT-128, Tender ID: 2017_EROT_51438_1 : Construction of electrical system including supply of VFC, Transformer, PMC Panel, APED Panel, MCC Box, Control Panel, Power distribution, other related materials like cables, cable tray, JB, lighting fitting, Instrumentation kit and allied works at Lekhota, Tezpur, Assam under Indian AOD State Office.

Download Period : 29/03/2017 to 24/04/2017

Contact Person : Ch. Mgr. (Contractor) FER, Tel. No. : 03241409896, E-mail : tapasbewari@iitg.ernet.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER IndianOil AOD

NIT No./Name of the Work

BP/EP/2016-17/PT-128 : Shift Contract for generating operation for a period of one year extending to two terms of one year each at LPG Bottling Plant, Gopalganj.

Download Period : 22/03/2017 to 10/04/2017

Contact Person : Ch. Plant Mgr. Tel. No. : 9435048177, E-mail : chsetap@indianoil.com

NIT No./Name of the Work

BP/EP/2016-17/PT-129 : Shift Contract for hiring one new brand Mahendra Bolero DI AC BSIII and provision of an additional car on need basis for the shift contract at LPG Bottling Plant, Bokhola, Cachar Assam.

Download Period (both days inclusive) : 23/03/2017 to 10/04/2017

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A toy balloon seller walks along a street in search of customers, in Guwahati on Thursday.
— UB Photos

Ex-minister's death condoled

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: Members of the Sahapati '78, JB College, organised a condolence meeting at the SK Hazarika College on RG Baruah Road here today to mourn the untimely death of their batchmate and the State's former Minister of State (Independent) for Health Abhijit Sarma.

The members of the group recalled Late Sarma, who was also a general secretary of the JB College Students' Union, very fondly and prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul, observing a minute's silence. They also conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to Sarma's bereaved family, said a press release issued by Anuj Goswami on behalf of the group.

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY
Begin each day as if it were on purpose.
- MARY ANNE RADMACHER

The Assam Tribune

Another heinous act

In yet another heinous act of terrorism, a man wielding two broad-bladed knives first rammed his car into pedestrians upon the Westminster Bridge in the heart of London, and then attacked and knifed to death a policeman before he was shot dead. So far the British authorities have declined to reveal the identity of the assailant as it might hinder investigations, but have specifically called it an act of terror. This assault echoes at least two of the numerous mindless terrorist strikes the world has seen in recent times. The slaying of minorities, secularists, gays etc. in Bangladesh last year, climaxed by the July 1st carnage in a restaurant in Dhaka had a similar modus operandi – in all of them knives or machetes rather than guns or bombs were used. Also in July last year at Nice in France an Islamic fanatic, like the latest killing in London, had run a vehicle over innocent people, including children, who were celebrating Bastille Day, and killed 84. Though in the Westminster attack just five individuals, including the assailant, have died, the act itself was no less horrendous than those witnessed in Bangladesh, France and elsewhere. There are thus two striking facets to the latest attack, one of these being the discarding by terrorists of more sophisticated techniques to carry out their devilish designs and instead use low-tech means.

This perhaps is an offshoot of the success of intelligence agencies all across the globe at adeptly detecting more sophisticated devices and foiling a large number of potentially deadly terrorist assaults. For instance, the US has currently banned passengers of certain specific airlines from carrying laptops and cameras on their persons because they had received intelligent inputs that Islamic jihadists had perfected a technique of building miniature bombs in non-metallic casings which cannot be detected by machines at airports. Such preventive actions based on intelligence assist in foiling at least some attacks of more lethal nature. However, while jihadis from abroad can be monitored and planned attacks neutralized, it is almost impossible to stop attacks by home grown terrorists who are not under the scanner, such as Tunisian born French citizen Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel involved in the assault at Nice, or the young, educated Bangladeshis from affluent families who split innocent blood at Dhaka. It is too early to tell, but the London attack on the face of it appears to be that of a home-grown radical as the use of non-sophisticated methods may perhaps indicate. But the terrible reality is that intelligence inputs gathered by British agencies had warned of such an attack and earlier security measures had been redoubled at the Parliament. Despite such advance warning a lethal attack did take place, which tellingly points at the difficulties those responsible for any nation's security are at the moment facing.

A welcome move

The conduct of a berthing operation of an Inland Water Authority of India (IWA) vessel, *MV Gopinath Bardoloi* at the newly-constructed Ro-Ro (roll-on/roll-off) terminal on the Brahmaputra in Assam is a step in the right direction. The new service which drastically reduces the distance and cost for cargo and passenger movement between Dhubri and Hatisingmaria also avoids the circuitous route of 220 km to reach Meghalaya on the opposite side. The Brahmaputra which traverses across the entire length of the Brahmaputra besides connecting it with West Bengal and Bangladesh, offers immense scope to be developed as an ideal waterway for shipping, navigation and transportation of cargo in the region. Ironically, despite having one of the world's largest rivers in the Brahmaputra, we are nowhere near tapping its potential as a major waterway. With our relations with Bangladesh improving, the river can be a major facilitator for enhanced bilateral trade and commerce. Unfortunately, investment in this crucial sector continues to be meagre whereas government investment apart, there is a lot of scope for public-private partnership as well, which can accelerate the pace of development in the region. Inland water transport can be cost-effective and environment-friendly, and is particularly effective for transportation of heavy machinery. The IWAJ which has taken the much-needed step in making operational the Ro-Ro terminal, needs to come up with sustained interventions to transform the Brahmaputra into an international shipping hub. The National Transport Development Policy Committee, too, should recommend measures for proper utilization of the Brahmaputra as an important waterway. We already have an IWT transit and trade protocol between India and Bangladesh due to the presence of the Brahmaputra, and efforts should be directed towards exploring the possibilities offered by the treaty.

While enhanced water connectivity can give a boost to trade and commerce, including trans-border transactions, the Government also needs pay attention to the impediments hindering industrialization on the ground. For expediting industrialization, attracting private investment is a must but that cannot happen unless the Government puts in place the required infrastructure such as all-weather roads, power, etc. Equally imperative is to clamp down hard on the pervasive culture of bandhs and blockades, and extortion, by both underground outfits and over-ground organizations. Alongside big industries, efforts also need to be directed towards bailing out the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector which does not call for big investment and can run on locally available raw materials. The disturbing trend of large-scale closure of MSMEs has been attributed to the absence of a cohesive land policy and poor credit support from banks. Small industries are labour-intensive and less polluting, and can do wonders to the rural economy. Such industries do not require large tracts of land either, and it is for the Government to evolve a holistic land policy that can address the needs of the industry without undermining the interests of agriculture.

Is music prohibited in Islam?

■ Mahmood Hassan

The appeal issued by a few Muslim clerics prohibiting a musical programme featuring Assam's teenage singer Nahid Afrin has opened a widespread protest across the country. The call was made on the ground that musical performance is 'un-Islamic' and goes against the Sharia laws. Such an appeal by a section of the society in the name of religion has come as a surprise to the liberal and tolerant Assamese society. This is not only perceived as a retrogressive step but also as an act of cultural terrorism. These diktats against creative freedom are made without placing a rational debate on the subject. This issue has once again opened up the age-old debate of whether music is permissible in Islam.

The right to pass judgments on what is 'Islamic' or 'un-Islamic' seems to have been abused again and again at the hands of fundamentalist groups like the Taliban, al-Qaeda and the ISIS. The misinterpretation of the Sharia has become common these days at the hands of pseudo-educated mullahs and maulanas. It is surprising to find that no counter-narrative is created by the liberal theologians who believe in peaceful coexistence. Yet, these orthodox people remain silent when it comes to the growing crime rate against women or child marriage. Hence, such 'fatwas' (it was only a mere appeal in this case) or illogical judgments should be countered by the scientific explanations available in the Hadiths and religious texts on application of music.

Nowhere in the holy Quran is it mentioned that music is prohibited

debauchery, indecency and sin. There is a fatwa that supported the use of music in the religion given by the Grand Mufti and Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Jadad-al Haq Ali that reports that the Prophet and many of his companions (Salaha), their successors (Tabiim), the great leaders of the schools of jurisprudence and law used to listen to music and attended musical events which were not accompanied by vices and prohibited acts. However, there are

and a whole range of intellectual pursuits. This formed the basis of the growth of the Arabic civilization. Islam grew on the very foundations laid down by these civilizations. The Arab rulers patronized all these forms of art, literature, language, science, chemistry, astrology, astronomy, agriculture, irrigation methods, mathematics, etc., from the very beginning unlike the European civilization. There was a Roman emperor like Nero in the Arab world to ban music. Yet the Islamic world is now witnessing rising of Nero-like figures all across the globe. So in a way we can say that perhaps there is no society in the world that does not follow music.

It has to be understood that when Islam spread rapidly across the Asian and African subcontinents, the local customs, traditions, art forms, music, language, literature were allowed to be continued without any restrictions. Classical Islamic music was patronized by the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties. The first musician of the Arab world was Ibn Misraj who is often called as the father of Islamic music. The Abbasid caliphate set up 750 AD centring Baghdad became the leading musical centre in the Arab world. Those periods were said to be the golden age for Islamic music. Prof. Anderson Sutton stated in the journal *Inside Islam* that Islamic music is not only allowed but is also a huge part of the popular culture in India that happens to be the largest Muslim country in

the world. One of the most popular versions of Sufi dance form is the whirling dervishes of Turkey. Islamic music influenced the Moorish culture of Spain that spread through the Berber Almoravids (rulers of North Africa and Spain in the 11th and 12th centuries).

The Sufi movement in the Indian subcontinent through Sufi dervishes became popular among all sections of the Indian population. Qawali that originated in the hospices of dargahs subsequently became very popular among the common masses irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Ghazals were one such genre of Sufi music. The *sama* sessions in evening at the *dargah* or shrine of Pirs like Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya in Delhi attracted a large Hindu and Sikh crowd and gradually they were attracted towards the religion and converted themselves. Omar Khayyam, an ardent follower of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, invented the classical musical instrument called *sitar*. There was gradual evolution of the Indo-Islamic culture with invention of sard, sarangi, tabla, etc., during the Mughal period.

The syncretism and secular culture popularized by all these Sufi traditions have come under attack time and again from such retrogressive minded individuals or Talibani-like organizations who want to show their false pride by declaring such illogical 'fatwas'. In Sufi traditions and order, music is an integral part of the process of *zikir* or *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah). Similarly, the *zikirs* and *azris* composed by Hazrat Ajaja Pir has enriched the Assamese language and literature. So we must stand together against such fundamentalist forces.

Let's unite to end tuberculosis

■ Prof A Gohain Barua

World Tuberculosis Day on March 24 commemorates the date when Dr Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB). Another causative agent for bovine TB is *M. bovis*. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognize bovine TB as an important infectious disease of zoootic nature.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, has sponsored a research project on zoonotic diseases like tuberculosis. The other project on 'Studies on antibiotics usages and bovine tuberculosis in small holder peri-urban areas' is funded by the Public Health Foundation of India. A successfully completed ICMR funded project on completion and isolation of *M. bovis* from cattle and buffaloes from different districts of Assam recorded 16-18% bovine TB in farm animals of Assam. Few *M. bovis* infection in human samples collected from patients directly engaged with animal farms is of much concern. Whereas the present scenario of bovine TB and its zoonotic importance in our State cannot be ignored. All these projects are going on in the Department of

Veterinary Public Health of Veterinary College, Khanapara. Recently, the Govt of India also sanctioned a project on canine TB in North-east India in this institution.

The risk for disease increases in areas where bovine TB is endemic and where people live in conditions that favour direct contact with infected animals (i.e., farmers, veterinarians and slaughterhouse workers) or animal products (unpasteurized milk and untreated animal products).

Additionally, areas where bovine tuberculosis is endemic sometimes overlap with areas where HIV prevalence is high. Consequently, it is not surprising that the reported proportions of human tuberculosis cases caused by *M. bovis* are very high.

Despite the limitations with data quality and representativeness regarding the current zoonotic tuberculosis situation, the proportion of cases reported in some studies is concerning. For example, in the USA, *M. bovis* accounts for 1.4% of human tuberculosis cases annually. Other studies have found variable proportions of *M. bovis* infection among assessed sub-groups of tuberculosis patients, such as in Mexico (28%), Nigeria (15%), Tanzania (16%), Ethiopia (17%), India (9%) and Turkey (5%). WHO estimated that in 2010, there were 121,268 new

cases of zoonotic tuberculosis due to *M. bovis* globally. However, to obtain an accurate picture of the zoonotic tuberculosis burden both nationally and globally, accurate surveillance approaches and laboratory methods should be implemented to report the estimated number of incident zoonotic tuberculosis cases per year.

Several clinical features of zoonotic tuberculosis present special challenges for patient treatment and recovery. *M. bovis* is naturally resistant to pyrazinamide, one of the four medications used in the standard first-line anti-tuberculosis treatment regimen. Because most patients worldwide begin tuberculosis treatment without identification of the causative mycobacterium species, the risk of inadequate treatment of patients with undiagnosed *M. bovis* who do not have drug susceptibility testing is increased. *M. bovis* infection in human beings is often associated with extra-pulmonary tuberculosis that might be misdiagnosed or undiagnosed and therefore initiation of treatment can be delayed because of the complexities of obtaining a sample for culture.

The prevention and control of zoonotic tuberculosis needs a cross-sectorial and multidisciplinary approach, linking animal, human and environmental health. The 'One Health' approach is increasingly be-

ing endorsed by many prominent organizations to comprehensively address the challenges at the animal-human interface. However, bovine tuberculosis continues to cause important economic losses due to the reduced production of affected animals and the elimination of affected (or all) parts of animal. This economic loss has an important effect on livelihoods, particularly in poor and marginalized communities because bovine tuberculosis negatively affects the economy of farmers (and countries) by losses due to livestock deaths, losses in productivity due to chronic disease, and restrictions for trading animals both at the local and international level. Furthermore, extra expenses arise linked to surveillance and regular testing of cattle, removal of infected animals and other in-contact animals in the herd, and movement control on infected herds. It is important to note that measures to control bovine tuberculosis at the source have proven to be efficient and successful in several countries. Implementation of various control measures are necessary to reduce risk and prevent *M. bovis* zoonotic transmission to human beings.

The most important and concrete actions to be implemented in the short term to overcome the major challenges caused by zoonotic tu-

berculosis include developing and implementing official policy and guidelines clearly outlining priority activities; implementing effective and comprehensive strategies to routinely survey for zoonotic tuberculosis cases; expanding the use of appropriate diagnostic tools to obtain accurate and representative data for the incidence of *M. bovis* infections in people and through the successful implementation of these three specific actions, using the resulting scientific evidence to further inform and advance future policy. A public health campaign needs to be implemented to educate the general public to better understand zoonotic tuberculosis. These specific actions should be complemented in the medium and long term by increasing the collaborations between clinicians, researchers and public health practitioners in the medical, veterinary, social science and other authorities under the umbrella of One Health.

Lastly, its control at the animal source and its prevention and transmission to people will be necessary to achieve the ambitious goal of zero tuberculosis deaths, disease and suffering. Finding and treating every case of tuberculosis, whether caused by *M. tuberculosis* or *M. bovis*, will count towards the achievement of this goal.

Let's unite to end TB.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – This refers to the news item 'Yogi Adityanath to be new UP CM' (AT, March 19). With the naming of Yogi Adityanath to govern India's largest State, the BJP seems to have been organized in a unitary structure with power being centralized in 'high command'. In this regard, the BJP that claims to be a party with a difference is actually no different from others in its functioning. It will not be an exaggeration to say that political parties in India are run like fiefdoms without even a pretension of being democratic. So, in the BJP, the feudal system of 'king's words are the law' seems to be in force. Just as kings used to have their coterie of 'yes men', their modern avatars called 'party high commands' have bodies like executive committee, working committee, etc. But the fact remains that none of these bodies has any significant power or role in decision making. It seems, the BJP has become the

A 'new' look BJP

'new Congress' because its ideology – centralized Hindutva hyper-nationalism – has largely replaced the Congress' mushy centralism as the dominant centralizing pole of Indian politics. Unfortunately, the BJP has allowed the reality of the last 60 years – where one party ruled at the Centre most of the time, and the same reality was replicated in States – to cloud its vision. The BJP must understand that disdain for centralization, the power of the PM's outside personality, and fear of homogeneity and high commands will eventually force regional political parties together just as opposition to the Gandhi Congress did in the past. And this will be worse for tomorrow's BJP. Yours etc., KAMALIT DEKA, Houston, Texas.

Namami Brahmaputra

Sir, – The ongoing campaign for the 'Namami Brahmaputra', India's biggest river festival from March 31 to be held across the Brahmaputra Valley signifies an excellent start to add momentum to promote the State around the

they reach this land. One should experience the rare beauty of its potential in trade, tourism and culture. The land of the red river and blue hills is always full of curiosity for many outsiders. The age-old Kamakhya is a pilgrimage destination for Hindus and tantric worshippers. The centre of the Vaishnavite culture Majuli is to be placed beyond our boundaries. Even neighbouring Nagaland has the Hornbill Festival for its global presence. Assam is not just a State of perennial problems; it has been the meeting point of many communities, faiths and cultures and has some real surprises for the travellers.

Together we can generate immense interest of cultural ethos of Assamese within and outside the nation. The Act East Policy will surely add a bright outlook for higher tourist footfalls from international travellers. This five-day event of fun and festivities shall also bring tourists from the South-east Asian markets. Despite geographically isolated from the rest of the India, the new roadmap of Assam make her visitors-friendly once

the industry experts, the brunt of the negative impact of the move would be faced by self-employed people and the small businesses, while the salaried class might not face much inconvenience.

Frequent visits to bank mean a lot of wastage of time while standing in queue. Banks and financial institutions are bound to recover charges incurred during their service to customers. For some it appears as if earning has become a crime, saving a crime and spending is also a crime in India but it is not so. This is a positive step towards the Government's recent thrust on expanding digital payments, as there is a clear mandate from the Government to move towards digital transactions. Time has now come when customers will have to develop the habit of making digital transactions even for small amounts, and move away from dependence on cash. Yours etc., VINOD C DIXIT, Ahmedabad.

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

Public lecture held at IIT-G

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: The Outreach Education Program and the Department of Physics, IIT-Guwahati, in association with the British Council, India, organised a public lecture by Dr Victoria Martin, professor at the University of Edinburgh and an associate of CERN, titled 'The Higgs Boson: Past, Present & Future'. The conference centre of the institute on Wednesday.

Dr Martin is a member of the team that won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of Higgs boson in 2012.

A number of students from different institutes, universities and colleges in Guwahati attended the lecture and interacted with Dr Martin.

Prior to the lecture, Dr. Moni Suri Mondal, head of Internationalising Higher Education (East India) from the British Council Division, gave an introduction to academic and research opportunities in UK.

Felicitations

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 23: The Journalists' Association of Assam (JAA) and the Guwahati Senior Citizens' Association (GSCA) felicitated senior journalist DN Chakravorty on his assumption of office as the chief editor of *Ami Asomor Jangam* at the Guwahati Press Club at 11 am on March 29.

NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that our client is in negotiation with RELIABLE PLASTICS PVT. LTD., having its registered office at BBBI Building, 3rd Floor, RRC, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati, Kamrup(M), Assam for purchase of the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereto and the same is intended to be sold as is, where is and we are investigating and verifying the title of Seller in respect of the property and we are

it is therefore notified that any person or persons having claim against or in respect of the said property or part thereof by way of sale, mortgage, exchange, lease, sub lease, tenancy, let, inheritance, gift, family arrangement, business, partnership, assignment, assignment of part thereof, hypothecation, pledge, loans, advance, guarantee, attachment or any rights under an order or decree passed by any Court of law or revenue or statutory authority or any other right or interest whatsoever and however and/or are in possession of the said property or part thereof shall be liable to pay to us the amount of same known in writing to us at our head office within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice along with the copy of all the documents on which such claims are made, or else said sale will be completed, withut any reference to such claim and the claim, if any, shall be considered as waived and abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding.

SCHEDULE A

All that piece and parcel of land situated in Bigha 01 Kucha 00 Lekha covered by Dag No. 261(01)/1153(New) of K.P. Patta No. 18/201/961 (New) situated at revenue village Golaghar, Mouza Jakuban in the revenue District Kamrup(Metro). Assam and bounded or toward East by Reliable Plastics Pvt. Ltd., or on Towards West by Road, or on Towards North by property of K.H. Das and on on Towards South by properties of Tarun Kalita and Awas Saha.

SCHEDULE B

All that piece and parcel of land situated in Bigha 04 Kutha 00 Lekha covered by Dag No. 24/01(01)/1153(New) of K.P. Patta No. 14/201/981 (New) situated at revenue village Golaghar, Mouza Jakuban in the revenue District Kamrup(Metro). Assam and bounded or toward East by Reliable Plastics Pvt. Ltd., or on Towards West by Road, or on Towards North by Road and on Towards South by property of Relia Plastic Pvt. Ltd.

Sgt.
Purnyata Samanta - Advocate,
Golaghar - Opposite Golaghar Post Office,
P.O. Malagon, Golaghar
Assam - 781 053.

Dated: 24/03/2017

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

SHUT DOWN NOTICE

This is for general information to our valued consumers that the AEGCL authority will take shut down of 132 KV Gamaru-Marijan double circuit line for some renovation work, for which 33 KV Gamaru-Jorhat feeder I & II will remain under shut down on date and time as mentioned below:

Date	Time	Affected Area
25-03-17	8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Cinnamara, Rajabari, Karanga, DIC, Sadar, Tokiai, Lichibari, Assam Agricultural University, Rowriah, a part of Na-Alli Club Road, a part of Dhekaijuli
26-03-17	8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	- Do -

Every effort would be made to minimise power interruption to the affected areas. Power supply shall be made available at any moment.

Inconvenience caused to our valued consumer is highly regretted.

Sd/- Assistant General Manager
Jorhat Electrical Division-I
APDCL, Jorhat

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

SHUT-DOWN NOTICE

It is for general information to all consumers of Jakukbari Electrical Sub-division that due to preventive maintenance of lines, the 33 KV Jakukbari feeder, 11 KV Boragaon 2, 11KV Maligaon Feeder and some part of 11KV Garbhanga feeders will be under shutdown as per scheduled below. During shutdown power supply will be stopped to all area related to these feeders. The inconvenience so caused is highly regretted.

Details of Shut Down:

Date of Shutdown	Time of Shutdown	Feeder under Shutdown	Area to be effected
25/03/2017	5.30 am to 7.30 am	33KV Jakukbari Fdr.	Jakukbari, Sadilapur, Garigaon, Sunderbari, AEC Campus, Gosala, Satiyomotinagar, Anandapara, BG Colony, Pragjyotishnagar, Kaliashpur, Pandu, Panduhat Basti, GU Campus, ATPC, Adabari, Bidya Nagar and other areas related with 33/11KV Adabari and 33/11KV Jakukbari Sub-station
		11KV Boragaon 2, 11KV Maligaon Feeder and some part of 11KV Garbhanga feeder	Niran Boro Path, Boragaon Industrial estate, Kalapani, Mithamtol, Devkotanagar, Adimgiri, Pachim Boragan, Gahok Chok and other areas related to these feeders

Sd/- Assistant General Manager,
Guwahati Electrical Division (W)
APDCL, Amlingaon, Kamrup (R)

CAS/2017/24

Traffic mishaps biggest cause of accidental deaths in State

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, March 23: Traffic accidents are the biggest reason for fatalities among accidental deaths in the State.

As per the latest data in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there were 7,633 traffic accident cases, including road accidents, railway crossing accidents and railway accidents in Assam in 2015, the latest year for which data have been released.

A total of 3,058 persons died and another 7,068 persons were injured in these traffic accidents.

The NCRB data show that during 2015, there were altogether 4,331 accidental deaths in Assam, including 236 accidental deaths due to natural causes, 3,910 due to unnatural causes (including traffic accidents) and 185 due to other causes.

Assam's share in the total accidental deaths nationwide in 2015 was one per cent. Across India, there were over 14 lakh accidental deaths that year.

However, the number of accidental deaths in the State due to natural causes went down by almost 19 per cent year-on-year in 2015 to 236 as against 291 in 2014.

Similarly, the total number of accidental deaths due to unnatural causes-combined

binned also fell by 26.4 per cent in 2015 to 4,095 compared to 5,562 in 2014.

Of the total victims of accidents in Assam in 2015, 183 were in the age group of below 14 years, 673 were be-

known (30).

With regard to persons who died in the State by other causes of accidents in 2015, the NCRB data state that 46 deaths happened on account of sudden deaths

in known (30).

in Assam in 2015, while 21 due to lightning, two were due to exposure to cold, and one each was due to cyclone and forest fire.

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binned also fell by 26.4 per cent in 2015 to 4,095 compared to 5,562 in 2014.

Of the total victims of accidents in Assam in 2015, 183 were in the age group of below 14 years, 673 were be-

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With regard to persons who died in the State by other causes of accidents in 2015, the NCRB data state that 46 deaths happened on account of sudden deaths

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In the 'unnatural causes'

Body of missing girl recovered

CORRESPONDENT

RAHA, March 23: The body of a five-year-old girl Rupamoni Das was recovered on Wednesday from Kolong River. The girl, who went missing on Sunday night from her house, was allegedly poisoned by her mother Sadhani Das along with her brother Ratan and later thrown into the river. The police have sent the body for post mortem to the Nagaland Civil Hospital.

OBITUARY

Rosheswar Saikia

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, March 23: Rosheswar Saikia, a noted businessman of Dergaon and the owner of Saikia Furniture, passed away on Tuesday due to old-age ailments at the age of 77 years. He was a resident of Dergaon ward number-7.

With an industrious mind, he started his business at Dergaon. He hails from Garmaraha, a remote flood-affected village, 10 km off Dergaon town. After completing his primary education at Garmaraha, he came to Dergaon and with his dedication and efforts he could establish his business at Dergaon town.

His death was widely mourned by several organisations like Greater Dergaon Consumer Awareness and Protection Forum, Dergaon Chambers of Commerce, Nature Organisation AASHRAY etc.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, two daughters along with a host of relatives.

Biroda Phukan

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, March 23: Biroda Phukan, a distinguished woman of Kaphadera village in Morigao district, breathed her last on Wednesday at her residence due to old-age ailments. She was 85.

A pious lady, Biroda Phukan's demise cast a pall of gloom in entire Kaphadera area of the district. She was associated with several socio-cultural organisations of the area. Several organisations have mourned the death Biroda Phukan and conveyed the heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family.

She leaves behind her husband, three sons, one daughter, several grandchildren, besides a host of relatives.

Prafulla Kumar Mahanta: a tribute

Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, known as "Putul" among his childhood friends and relatives, passed away on March 14 last following a brief ailment. Born at Namti in Silsagar in 1941 in a family of Satadhakis, Mahanta had his school education at Namti High School and got his degree from the Jayasagar College, Silsagar. A naughty boy in his primary and high school days, Mahanta became a district-level football player during his college days. A socially conscious youth and a good organiser, Mahanta was a leader among the youths of Silsagar Subdivision and was a blue-eyed boy of Principals Padmadrav Chalhia and Paragbar Chalhia. Mahanta learnt the art and skill of man management from Paragbar Chalhia, one of the most skilled organisers of Assam and a great teacher and an illustrious writer. Mahanta was profitably influenced by two highly respectable and distinguished persons of Namti - Late Khagen Baruah and Late Jagannath Bhattacharyya, who was a revolutionary communist, defeated Binabala Prasad Chalhia in 1957



Tea workers taking out a protest rally against alleged encroachment of Chah Mazdoor Sangha office by Bharatiya Tea Board, in Golaghat on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Concern over purity quotient of river Barak

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, March 23: The need to examine the purity quotient of the water of river Barak was once again raised on the World Water Day. According to environmental experts here, the Environment and Forest Department have expressed concern over the dumping of over 10 lakh litres of waste products into the river water only at Silchar.

Noted researcher Dr NI Laskar has been busy in researching the quality of water of river Barak for more than a decade now. In his words,

"Around 10 tons of faecal substances, innumerable number of animal corpus are thrown into the river almost every day." Dr Laskar suspects that because of the unpracticed practices, many water-borne diseases might affect the lives of the people who consume the river water. Dr Laskar was quick to raise questions on the pollution of over 10 lakh litres of waste products into the river water only at Silchar.

On the other hand, Assistant Executive Engineer of PHE at Silchar, Amitabha Choudhury claimed that bar-

ring the Panchgram Paper Mill

area, water of river Barak is much cleaner and safer in Cachar district. "Since there are no industries in close vicinity, no chemical substances are getting mixed in the river water. The faecal substances which are falling in the water do not cause much contamination. We are able to supply pure and clean drinking water to the people in the district," Choudhury said. However, he was quick to say that despite steps taken to construct toilets at Kalibari Char area of the city, people are misusing the facilities for which the local civic board must take steps.

ADB-funded power facility likely to be scrapped

BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, March 23: A proposed project of the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) to augment power supply in the city, funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), may ultimately have to be scrapped, unless the Dibrugarh district administration and the State government do not immediately interfere.

APDCL cannot go ahead with the power station at Jibon Phukan Nagar here, as land for the same is yet to be acquired.

APDCL requires about two

billion of fund for the new power substation. This facility has been planned to meet increasing electricity needs in the Chawdibingee, Chirang, Chapori and Adampur areas of the city.

These localities are witness-

ing large-scale construction activity, and as a result, there is a 10-fold greater demand for electricity than of 2015-level power requirements. APDCL scouted around for a suitable plot of land and after seeing several places, zeroed in on the Jibon Phukan Nagar plot.

However, this land is a part of

the student leaders.

ABVP felicitates leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, March 23: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Wednesday felicitated its candidates who had recently won the students' union elections in colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University. The felicitation function, titled "Chakra Netra Samapta", was organised at the District Library auditorium here. The event was attended by several ABVP leaders, including its national secretary Simanta Das, State president Sasilen Gogoi, State secretary Nayanjyoti Sharma and a few others. Dr Rupam Saikia, Director of College Development Council, Dibrugarh University, attended the function as a distinguished guest. Altogether 197 candidates, who won the students' body elections in their respective college were felicitated.

The ABVP State president, in his speech, called upon the student leaders to protect the nation's rich culture, ethos and resources and promote it globally. "We have to serve the nation with utmost integrity, sincerity and honesty to convert it into a developed nation," he said. Dr Rupam Saikia and Simanta Das also addressed the student leaders.

One killed in road mishap

CORRESPONDENT

BAIHATA CHARIALI, March 23: One person was killed on the spot in a road accident at Changsari Bazaar of Bahimati on Wednesday. According to reports, the accident took place at around 10 am when a couple travelling from Borka road to Baitaha Chariali road on a bike (AS 01 AY 2474) was hit by a bus (AS 01 FC 5298) coming from the same direction on the National Highway-31.

Though the biker fell on the road during the accident, but the billion rider was dragged about 50 meters away from the spot by the bus killing her on the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Hasina Begum (50) and her husband, identified as Hasmat Ali, sustained serious injuries. They are originally from Bommaga of Kanta district and residents of Noornamti, Guwahati.

A dependable neighbour, Mahanta was always available to render monetary and physical assistance to all the inhabitants of Mathura Nagar area.

Loving husband of Niru Mathura, he led a very happy family life with his ever courteous son Mayur and nice daughter-in-law Urmimala and two brilliant grandchildren.

Assam in general and Guwahati in particular have become poorer with the passing away of Prafulla Kumar Mahanta.

His soul rest in eternal peace.

— DN Chakravarthy

Pratibha Barua

Pratibha Barua, who inspired me to venture into the field of poetry and whom I lovingly addressed as Pratibha mama, passed away on March 10. She was the wife of Guwahati's Jorapukuri-based late Arun Barua.

Arun Barua, whom I used to address as Barua mama, was the second son of eminent ed-

ucer brother was the best co-actor of Cotton College while my elder sister was the best music artiste of Nowgong College. Participating in the celebrations, Pratibha mama looked at me and said, "Bhumi, your dada is a good actor and your elder sister is a good singer. Even you must do something. You seem to ponder a lot."

— Dr Prayag Saikia

State BJP chief visits Tinsukia with mass awareness on mind

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA, March 23: For augmenting the rank and file in the district, Ranji Das, president of the State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) paid a visit to Tinsukia district on Wednesday with two days programme.

During his visit he met the district-level, mandal-level and booth-level office-bearers for creating awareness about the welfare schemes of both the Central as well as that of the State governments among the common people.

Citing the increase in the numbers of the beneficiaries of Atal Amrit Abhiyan scheme after his initiative for wide awareness as well as assisting the needy persons in taking advantages of the scheme, he said that activation of the party workers has outdone the achievement received through television or print media spending crores of rupees.

He added that he had in-

structed all the party MLAs to submit their yearly achievements of development in their respective constituencies to the people of the constituencies as well as to him. He also informed that besides organising the party's strength in the district, he has also taken the stock of the developmental works that were going on in the district and discussed with the district administration about the problems of development in various sectors like administration, health, education, agriculture, power etc.

In the press meet, the BJP State president assured that Tinsukia district would be developed in all aspects during the reign of his party.

Drinking water facility at Dolaigaon LP School

STAFF REPORTER

officials of GSPL in a ceremony on March 21, stated a part of its ongoing CSR initiative, the Guwahati-Silguri Pipeline Unit under Eastern Region Pipeline of Indian Oil has provided a drinking water facility to the Dolaigaon LP School, near the Bongaigaon Pump Station.

Mr Mishra, in his address, urged the gathering to remain vigilant and report to IOCL about any piffage attempts made by unscrupulous elements in GSPL.

The inhabitants of Dolaigaon village were for long facing an acute shortage of potable water. The facility

consists of a submersible pump which draws ground water and stores it in a 5,000-litre overhead water tank. The water will be distributed to the school children and nearby populace through pipes.

The new facility is expected to mitigate their hardship to some extent.

To ensure sustainability, a water management committee has been constituted to manage and oversee the operation and maintenance of the facility on a long-term basis.

BTC Budget Session ends

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, March 23: The two-day BTC Legislative Assembly Budget Session, which started on Tuesday, ended on Wednesday with two Rules passed back-to-back before the Speaker adjourned the House sine die.

Both the Rules were moved

by Ansunwei Khungru Boro, Executive Member, who is the in-charge of Legal Metrology Department, BTC.

The General Discussion on the Council Budget for the year 2017-18, which was tabled by the BTC chief Hagraj Moholy yesterday, was also held today after Queen's Speech in which Opposition leader Rungwya Narzary and other

leaders actively took part.

Later talking to media-persons, BTC chief Hagraj Moholy expressed his happiness over the healthy role played by the Opposition leaders during the General Discussion on the Budget.

He also thanked Assam Police for arresting Subodh Biswas, who said that the law will take its own course.

Outgoing Circle Officer felicitated

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, March 23: The Dergaon Circle Officer Lakhini Dutta was accorded warm felicitation at a meeting held at Dergaon Sports Club.

She has been transferred from Dergaon to Golaghat as a Circle Officer. The

felicitation meeting chaired by social worker Atul Goswami was moderated by Bichitra Bhushan Kalita and Raju Upadhyay. In the meeting, the circle officer was accorded warm felicitation by several organisations and individuals of Dergaon.

The president of Dergaon Sabha, Nurul Sultan;

the Chairman of Dergaon Municipal Board, Arunava Kalita along with several other dignitaries highlighted the efficiency and cordiality of the officer in administration etc.

In the felicitation programme, she urged the young generation to focus on career as well as for betterment of the society.



Children taking part in a Bihu dance workshop, in Goreswar on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Illegal constructions evicted at Khoirabari town

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIAGAON, March 23: The civic administration of Bhergaon subdivision carried out a massive eviction drive in and around Khoirabari town area on Monday last. The police and paramilitary personnel were also deployed to avert any resistance.

The illegal structures like shops and residences on government roadside lands were evicted. The eviction drive was led and supervised by LJ Das, Circle Officer of Khoirabari Revenue Circle. A total of 10 houses were demolished completely, while more than 50 houses were demolished partially.

Talking to this correspondent, Circle Officer Das said that

more such eviction drive would be launched shortly if people don't dismantle their illegal constructions themselves.

It needs to be mentioned that illegal constructions and encroachment on government lands and pavements in Khoirabari town had been causing nuisance to common people for a long time. People of Khoirabari welcomed the eviction drive and urged government immediately to take up beautification programme of this historic town.

Akhonda Pal Naam: The two-day 'Akhonda Pal Naam', organised by Bhakat Sirromoni Harekrishna Mahanta Debi Atta, founder of Borongjhar satsra and winner of Pitambar Debi Goswami National Award 2016, concluded re-

cently at Dimakuchi near India-Bhutan border.

The religious programme was commenced at around 4.30 am on March 19. This has been considered to be very significant from the point of view of its celebration at Dimakuchi near India-Bhutan international border, known for all types of extremist activities for a decade.

Participation of nearly 3,000 people from around the districts of Assam, including local Bodo, Adivasi and Nepali communities added flavor to the event. It's worth mentioning that Bap Harekrishna Debi Mahanta had already established 27 sattras in Udalguri district bordering Bhutan.

Mahanta Ata, at the age of 89 years, is still busy in his never-ending mission of charity. He has been practically implementing ideologies of Srimanta Sankaradeva by uniting people of all backward communities, including Bodo, Rabha, Adivasi and Nepali communities.

He established the Borongjhar juli satra in 1953 which has now been run by a committee headed by Suk Ram Boro, a former BLT cadre. The programme was attended by several distinguished personalities of Assam, including Kamali Basumatari, MLA of Paneri; Thaneswar Malakar, DC of Barpeta district; Sadhana Hoisi, DC of Udalguri; DN Hazarika, ADC of Udalguri; Dalim Chandra Pathak of Srimanta Sankaradeva Soseetan Manch, Assam, beside other political leaders.


**WEATHER
NORTH EAST**

Forecast for North Eastern States: Light rain/rainfall expected over isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and weather is very likely to remain dry over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Warning: Thunderstorms with speeds reaching 80 kmph accompanied by hail is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on March 24 and 25.

Temperatures :	
Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	31.4
Tezpur	32.3
Silchar	32.1
Dhubri	29.5
Jorhat	30.0
N Lakhimpur	32.1
Shillong	20.6
Itanagar	27.9
Aizawl	28.9
Agartala	32.0
Kohima	18.7
Pasighat	18.4
N.A	17.5
Cherrapunji	20.8
	10.8

Mizoram forms review panel on liquor prohibition

AIZWAL, March 23: Mizoram Excise and Narcotics Minister R Lalzirhien today informed the State Assembly that the State Government has constituted Review and Evaluation Committee on Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Act, 2014.

The MLPAC Act replaced the stringent Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act, 1995 which was enforced in the State for 18 years. He said that licences for 39 wine shops and two bars were given. There were 71,230 permit holders in the State under the MLPAC Act, 2014, he said. — PTI

2447 policemen appointed in Nagaland in 4 yrs

KOHIKA, March 23: A total of 2,447 police personnel were appointed in various posts in the past four years in Nagaland, the State Assembly was informed today.

Besides, 313 people were recruited against posts created for Eastern districts of Nagaland in 2015 through open advertisement for the people of the area, State Home Minister Y Paton said. He was replying to a query by Mmholu Kikon on the appointments made in Home Department since 2013. Paton said that 2177 posts were filled up directly without advertisement from 2013 to 2017. — PTI

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
(FINANCE) DEPARTMENT
WAYS & MEANS BRANCH
PRESS COMMUNIQUE**

BW 03/2017/31 Date: Dated on 23rd March, 2017
**Auction of 10 year Assam
Government Stock (Securities)**

1. Government of Assam has offered to sale the dated securities for an amount of Rs.1000.00 Crore with ten year tenure by auction. The auction will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, at Mumbai Office, Fort, Mumbai-400001 on March 27, 2017.
2. The procedure of auction of the State Development Loan as under:-

(a) Competitive Bids

All competitive bids shall be submitted electronically on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) System. Perhaps, other than CBS members, shall route their competitive bids through a CBS member. Competitive bids may be submitted between 10:30 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. on the day of the auction, as hitherto.

(b) Non-Competitive Bids

Under the scheme, an investor can submit a single bid only

in the auction of a State Development Loan, subject to a maximum of 1% of the notified amount, through a bank or a Primary Dealer. Non-Competitive Bids may be submitted only till 10:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. on the day of auction. No bids under the Non-Competitive Bidding Scheme shall be accepted after 11:30 A.M.

(c) Bids in Physical Format

No bids, henceforth, be accepted in physical format in the auctions of State Development Loans, except in extraordinary situations as may be specified by the Reserve Bank of India.

(d) The Bids may be submitted electronically on the Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai Office, Fort, Mumbai-400001

4. The result of auction shall be displayed by the Reserve Bank of India on its website on the same day of auction. The payment by successful bidders will be on March 29, 2017.

5. The rate of interest i.e., the cut-off yield determined at the auction will be the coupon rate per annum on the stock sold at the auction. The interest will be paid on March 29 and September 29.

6. The investment in Government Stock will be reckoned as an eligible investment in Government Securities by banks under the State Liquidity Ratio (SLR) under Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The Stocks will qualify for the ready-to-lend facility.

7. For other details, please see the Notification of the Government of Assam No. BW 03/2017 dated 23rd March, 2017.

**Sd/- (Dr. Ravi Kora, IAS)
Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam
Finance Department, Dispur,**

Janasanyog/104891/16

NORTH EAST

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

BJP-led Manipur Ministry expanded

SOBHAPATI SAMOM

IMPHAL, March 23: Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh's eight-day-old BJP-led coalition government was expanded by introducing three more Ministers to its strength on Thursday.

Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, former Manipur Chief Ministers O Ibobi Singh and RB Kojan, BJP State president Kh Bhabananda, MLAs and others attended the ceremony.

Later this evening, Chief Minister Biren administered the oath of office and secrecy to 12 Parliamentary Secretaries.

Earlier, Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2017 and Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2017 were passed by the House earlier.

Newman News adds: The first-ever BJP government headed by Biren Singh in Ma-

ries at the Cabinet Hall of CM's Secretariat here.

The Parliamentary Secretaries are L Sushindro, S Subhaschandra, L Rameshwar, N Indrajit, K Robindro, Th Seitabratra, H Dingo, Dr Sanjan, K Leishioy and Awangbam Newma, all NPPF and Independent MLA Md Ashab Uddin.

Portfolios of Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries will be announced without delay, the Chief Minister informed, adding, the posts of

chairmen of government agencies will also be announced soon.

The first session of the Manipur Assembly was adjourned sine die by Speaker Yumnam Khemchand on Thursday. The four day Assembly session began on March 20.

Earlier, Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2017 and Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2017 were passed by the House earlier.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav inaugurated

ITANAGAR, March 23: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today inaugurated the first Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, organised by Union Ministry of Culture, at Parade Ground in Tawang.

The nine-day cultural extravaganza will witness the participation of about 100 artists representing different tribes of Arunachal and more than 500 artists from across the country showcasing their traditional folk dances and music.

The National Cultural Festival will extend to other North-eastern States including Dimapur (Nagaland) from March 26 to 28, Majuli (Assam) from March 27 to 29, Imphal (Manipur) from March 27 to 29, Aizawl (Mizoram) from March 28 to 30, Gangtok (Sikkim) from March 28 to 30, Shillong (Meghalaya) from March 29 to 31 and Kohiawai (Tripura) from March 29 to 31.

The Chief Minister, in his address, appealed to the youth to preserve their cultural identity and to be the carrier to forward the ancient culture to the next generation. He informed that the State will soon see establishment of a regional cultural centre of North East Zonal Cultural Centre at Itanagar.

The festival is being implemented through the seven Zonal Cultural Centres and in collaboration with other cultural organisations of different states of North East. The NEZCC, Dimapur has been entrusted with the responsibility as the nodal agency to carry forward the execution of the National Cultural Festival of India. — Correspondent

Then, the NPP legislative walked out of the House saying, he didn't want to be part of such proceedings. Later, speaking to the media, James said that it is time that such "archaic" procedures are put to an end.

"Such public apology and humiliation is a thing of the past and we should not carry these into the present era. We need to be broad-minded," he said.

The South Tura legislator approached the Privilege Committee after claiming in his complaint that during the meeting in which the official is being summoned and sought to be reprimanded, he was falsely attributed for instigating the traders. The Tura CEO has been entrusted with the responsibility as the nodal agency to carry forward the execution of the National Cultural Festival of India. — Correspondent

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Sangma, which led to breach of privilege and dignity of this House," the Speaker said.

Under Rule 172 of the House, the Speaker then reprimanded the official "for gross breach of privilege" and then asked him if he would apologise before the House for his action. Sangma tendered his apology to the House.

After the apology by the official, the Speaker asked the House to express its mind, to which Chief Minister Mukul Sangma said this is the first such incident he was coming across in his political career although such summoning was done once before in 1973.

"Now, let this incident be a reminder for all concerned to understand the power this House has charged you for committing breach of privilege against one of the members, John Leslee to the House," he said.

After the CM's statement the Speaker disallowed other members, particularly, John Leslee to speak and dropped all charges against the official, but not before asking him to bow again to the chair, Treasury and Opposition benches. The official obliged and was allowed to go.

Earlier, before he was summoned into the House, Opposition National People's Party member, James Sangma, rose and objected to the summoning. "I don't want to go into the merits and demerits of the case, but I don't agree with the method in which the official is being summoned and sought to be reprimanded," James said.

However, the Speaker ruled that since the member didn't raise the matter when the Privilege Motion was being moved, his stand cannot be accepted now since the House has adopted the Motion.

Then, the NPP legislator walked out of the House saying, he didn't want to be part of such proceedings. Later, speaking to the media, James said that it is time that such "archaic" procedures are put to an end.

"Such public apology and humiliation is a thing of the past and we should not carry these into the present era. We need to be broad-minded," he said.

The South Tura legislator approached the Privilege Committee after claiming in his complaint that during the meeting in which the official is being summoned and sought to be reprimanded, he was falsely attributed for instigating the traders. The Tura CEO has been entrusted with the responsibility as the nodal agency to carry forward the execution of the National Cultural Festival of India. — Correspondent

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Artists performing a folk dance at the inauguration of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2017 organised by North East Zone Cultural Centre in Tawang on Thursday - UB Photos

Meghalaya House reprimands official for breach of privilege

RAJU DAS

SHILLONG, March 23: Meghalaya Assembly today dropped all cases against a State Government official after he apologised and was reprimanded for breach of privilege, but not before an opposition member walking out saying he disapproved of such public apology.

The official, Tura Municipal Chief Executive Officer Zenithsy J Sangma, was brought to the bar of the House in the afternoon escorted by Marshalls.

He was first asked to bow down before the House and take an oath by Speaker Abul Taher Mondal. The charges against him was then read out. "The House has charged you for committing breach of privilege against one of the members, John Leslee to the House," he said.

Now, let this incident be a reminder for all concerned to understand the power this House has charged you for committing breach of privilege against one of the members, John Leslee to the House," he said.

However, the Speaker disallowed other members, particularly, John Leslee to speak and dropped all charges against the official, but not before asking him to bow again to the chair, Treasury and Opposition benches. The official obliged and was allowed to go.

Earlier, before he was summoned into the House, Opposition National People's Party member, James Sangma, rose and objected to the summoning. "I don't want to go into the merits and demerits of the case, but I don't agree with the method in which the official is being summoned and sought to be reprimanded," James said.

However, the Speaker ruled that since the member didn't raise the matter when the Privilege Motion was being moved, his stand cannot be accepted now since the House has adopted the Motion.

Then, the NPP legislator walked out of the House saying, he didn't want to be part of such proceedings. Later, speaking to the media, James said that it is time that such "archaic" procedures are put to an end.

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Ladies, take note! Your social life may be linked to how well your sense of smell functions, say scientists who found that older women who perform poorly in odour identification test tend to have fewer friends.

Olfactory function

Women's sense of smell may influence their social life, finds a study

Researchers from Monell Chemical Senses Centre, a non-profit research institute in the US, analysed data collected from about 3,005 adults between the ages of 57 and 85, the data included odour identification test scores as well as information about participants' social lives.

They then compared each participant's odour identification score, an established measure of olfactory function, with an aggregated "overall social life" score, which included measures such as participants' number of friends and close relatives, and how often they socialised.

The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The data was adjusted to control for possible confounding variables, including education level, tobacco use, as well as physical and mental health status.

The findings showed a clear link between an older woman's olfactory ability and her overall social life score.

Women with good olfactory ability tended to have more active social lives while those with diminished olfactory function were associated with a poorer social life score, researchers said.

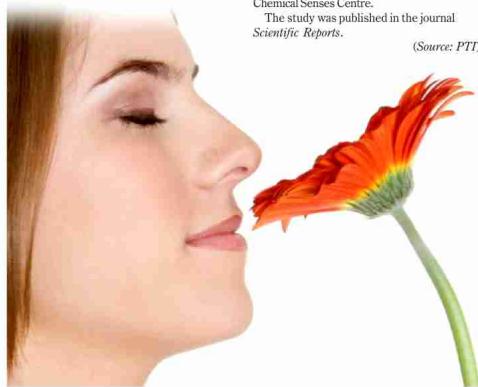
"We know that social interactions are closely linked to health status, so older women who have a poor sense of smell may want to focus on maintaining a vital social life to help improve their overall mental and physical health," said Samne Boesveldt, from Monell Chemical Senses Centre.

The researchers did not find the same association between olfactory function and social life in older men.

"This intriguing sex difference could suggest that smell training, which has been shown to improve a reduced sense of smell in both men and women, may have an additional beneficial function in older women by helping to restore both the sense of smell and by extension, social well-being," said Jahan Lundstrom of Monell Chemical Senses Centre.

The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

(Source: PTI)



Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY For Friday, March 24, 2017:

This year you have no shortage of great ideas. As a result, many opportunities open up to you. You likely will be very busy if you are single, you have almost too many choices of potential suitors. Look for someone who honors your boundaries, and make sure that you are willing to do the same. If you are attached, you add a certain zip to the relationship, which your significant other appreciates. Make a point of going out as a couple more often. AQUARIUS comes through for you.

The Star Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Dramatic; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

**** Zero in on your objectives. Feedback might be intense and, at times, overwhelming. When pursuing an important desire, the unexpected is likely to occur. You will want to try to be clear and open; however, on some level, you could be very confused. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** You might be too much in the limeight for your taste. Honor a fast change of pace. You'll have a lot thrown at you all at once. Catch the ball and run with it. Your competency remains high. You could be shocked to hear some important news. Tonight: A most appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Reach out to someone you care a lot about. This person tends to be a great resource for you. Tonight: You will be no different. You might wonder why you are doing what you are. Touch base with a friend or loved one before solidifying plans. Tonight: Try a new place.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** You could be in a unique situation. How you relate on an individual level might become very different once conversations start up. Be open to new ideas and feedback. An unexpected element seems to run through your day; just go with it. Tonight: Opt to be one with people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Others seem intent on creating more of what they want. Learn to say "no" gracefully, if you haven't already. You might be surprised, and perhaps even touched, by some of what you hear from several people. Tonight: A great night for fun and enjoyment. Tonight: Happiest at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Clear out as much work as you can. As a result, your weekend is likely to be more relaxed. A one-on-one chat could force your hand. You could be surprised by a financial matter and/or an associate. Tonight: Out with the kids, in with the new.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Lock beyond the obvious, with a child or loved one. As carefree as this person might be, or he/she also wants and needs you to be, there are times when, perhaps not immediately but at least very soon, Try to be more caring in general. Tonight: Friends, fun and GIG.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** You'll want to look at a matter differently. A discussion with your mentor or manager might be the right choice. You might hear some information that you or someone else, it also might be partially wrong. Tonight: Maintain the pace you want, but make it an early night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Fortunately, you know you can energize people. As a result, you generally are confident about your social interactions. How you say things is important, as is the impression you receive. Communication flows and a fistful could develop into more. Tonight: Hang out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You exude humor and confidence, especially in groups or presentations. However, with individuals, especially if you are emotionally involved, you exude possessiveness. You might not be as sure of yourself as you would like to be. Tonight: Be with a special person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You might be all smiles, but your associates could be uplifted and easily upset. Stay centered, despite what you hear, and keep your own confidence. Create more of what you desire; you will be able to recharge over the long weekend. Use special care if investing or doing anything financially risky. Tonight: Not to be found.

Thought for the day

He should, as he lists, be able to prove the moon is green cheese.
— SIR THOMAS MORE

The data was adjusted to control for possible confounding variables, including education level, tobacco use, as well as physical and mental health status.

The findings showed a clear link between an older woman's olfactory ability and her overall social life score.

Women with good olfactory ability tended to have more active social lives while those with diminished olfactory function were associated with a poorer social life score, researchers said.

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The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

(Source: PTI)



10 soldiers killed in blast in Egypt

CAIRO, March 23: Ten Egyptian soldiers and 15 militants were killed when two bombs exploded during raids on Islamic State terrorists in the country's restive Sinai Peninsula, the military said today.

The 10 army personnel, including three officers, were killed in two roadside bomb blasts that targeted two army vehicles during raids on terrorists in central Sinai, military spokesperson Colonel Tamer el-Refaie said.

He said that 15 militants were also killed and seven militants arrested during the raids in central Sinai.

North and Central Sinai have witnessed many terror attacks since the January 2011 revolution that toppled ex-president Hosni Mubarak.

The attacks, targeting police and military, increased after the ouster of Islamist ex-president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 by military following massive protests against his rule.

The military has launched security campaigns in the North Sinai area where some terrorists are based.

The security forces have arrested suspects and demolished houses that belong to terrorists, including those facilitating tunnels leading to the Gaza Strip. - PTI

Tawang is part of China: Tibetan scholar

BEIJING, March 23: Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh is "a part" of China and India's "unfriendly" move to allow the Dalai Lama to visit the town will negatively impact bilateral relations as it involves "sensitive issues" related to the border dispute, a prominent Tibetan scholar said today.

"Tawang is a part of Tibet and Tibet is a part of China. So Tawang is a part of China. There is not much problem here," Lian Xiangmin, Director of contemporary research

of the Beijing-based China Tibetology Research Centre, told the media here reiterating China's claim over Tawang.

In a rare interaction with the foreign media, he said the Dalai Lama's planned visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of south Tibet, is an "unfriendly" move on the part of India.

Elaborating China's claim over

Tawang, Lian said the Tawang Buddhist Monastery is part of the three

main Buddhist temples of Tibet where monks of Tawang studied Buddhist "sutras".

Referring to the Dalai Lama's planned visit to Arunachal Pradesh, he said in recent years the Indian government supported or made arrangements for the Dalai Lama to visit Tawang region.

"It seems to us that it is not so friendly," he said.

During his previous visit to Tawang, "the Dalai Lama said

Tawang part of India. This is against the facts. It is not true. It undermines the friendly relations between China and India," he said.

"I hope to see friendly relations between India and China. We don't want to see such a thing happening time and again. This time around the Indian government once again allowed the Dalai Lama to go to Tawang. This will only hurt the friendly relations between the two countries," he said. - PTI

Pak hosts Afghan-Taliban leaders for peace talks

ISLAMABAD, March 23: The Taliban said Pakistani officials have hosted a meeting with their leadership to try and press the insurgents into peace talks ahead of a multination meeting in April in Moscow.

Islamabad has been under international pressure to try and bring Taliban leaders, who have been based in Pakistan since their rule in Afghanistan was overthrown in the 2001 US invasion, into some form of negotiations with Kabul.

Two Taliban officials familiar with the Islamabad meeting say the Taliban used it to issue their own demands. The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity today, fearing reprisals by Pakistani authorities who have not confirmed the meeting. - AP

16 Indian fishermen arrested by Lankan navy

COLONBO, March 23: Sixteen Indian fishermen have been arrested separately by Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters.

Eight Indian fishermen were arrested along with a steel hull fishing trawler for poaching in the northeast of Analathivu Island, Sri Lankan Navy said.

Having brought the fishermen and items to the naval base SLNS Elara, they will be handed over to the Jaffna Fisheries Director for further investigations.

Eight more Indian fishermen were arrested while engaging in "illegal" fishing activities in the sea area north of Mannar district, the Navy said.

The fishermen are due to be produced before the Mannar Fisheries Director, the Navy said. - PTI

World leaders 'stand' with Britain

PARIS, March 23: World leaders on Wednesday unanimously condemned the suspected terrorist attack in the heart of London by an attacker who was shot dead by armed police, with many saying they "stand" with Britain.

At least three people were killed and 20 injured in the attack outside Parliament when a man mowed down pedestrians with a car then stabbed a police officer outside parliament before being shot dead.

British Prime Minister Theresa May responded to the "appalling incident" by saying her thoughts "are with those killed and injured" and "with their families," her Downing Street office said in a statement.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany stood by Britain "firmly and resolutely".

"Although the background to these acts are not yet clear, I reaffirm that Germany and its citizens stand firmly and resolutely alongside Britons in the struggle against all forms of

terrorism," Merkel said in a statement.

"In these grave moments, we Germans feel very close to the British people," President Frank-Walter Steinmeier added.

London attack

French President Francois Hollande sent a message of "solidarity" and "support" for Britons and May.

"France, which has been hit so hard in recent times, knows

what the British people are suffering today," Hollande said in a statement.

French Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve tweeted: "Solidarity with our British friends, horribly attacked, full support for the injured French students, their families and their friends."

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson expressed his "condolences to the victims and their families" in a statement, adding: "The American people send their thoughts and prayers to the people of the United Kingdom."

"We condemn these horrific acts of violence, and whether they were carried out by troubled individuals or by terrorists, the victims know no difference," he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted: "Our thoughts are with the victims of today's attack in London and their families. Canadians remain united with the people of the UK." - AFP

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'Dalai's successor should be from his native town'

BEIJING, March 23: The Dalai Lama's successor should be from his native town in Tibet, a senior official from a Chinese State-run think tank said today.

In a rare interaction with the foreign media here, Lian Xiangmin, Director of contemporary research of the Beijing-based China Tibetology Research Centre, said the next successor of the 81-year-old Dalai Lama should come from his native town in China's Qinghai province, which is previously part of integrated Tibetan region.

The Dalai Lama was born in Taktser village, Qinghai province, and picked up for the spiritual post when he was eight-year-old as part of reincarnation principle followed under Tibetan religious customs.

Replying to a question about the Dalai Lama's successor over which both the Tibetan leader and the Chinese government have different views, Lian said the next Dalai Lama should be picked as per existing customs and traditions.

The Chinese government is apprehensive that the Dalai Lama may name his successor or he will be picked up from outside Tibet, perhaps may be from Taiwan, to continue the struggle for Tibetan autonomy and independence.

"On the one hand the Dalai Lama says he will live up to 113 years on the other hand he talks about succession issue

Lian said.

He said there were 13 Dalai Lamas before him.

"So we also need to respect them instead of listening to only what he keeps saying," he said.

"While the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama needs to be decided or implemented according to historical conventions and religious rituals, it is my hope as an academician that his successor should be found in his home town in China," he said.

"These followers hope to see the successor to the 14th Dalai Lama produced in their neighbourhood in China. So we need to respect the wish of the these religious

followers," he said. - PTI



World Tuberculosis Day

24th March, 2017

Unite to end TB

If you or any of your family members suffer from persistent coughing for more than two weeks, suddenly lose weight, have fever, don't feel hunger, have pain in the chest, sweat at night and notice abnormal lump in any part of the body, please visit the nearest Government Health Centre.

Treatment of TB is completely free of cost.

Treatment of TB along with good quality medicines are available free of cost at all the government hospitals.

DOTS sure cure for TB

National Health Mission, Assam

Bouchard suffers early exit at Miami

MIAMI, March 23: Eugenie Bouchard's poor run of form continued as the Canadian suffered a first-round exit at the hands of Australia's Ashleigh Barty at the Miami Open.

Wildcard Barty's 6-4, 6-3 win sets up an all-Australian clash in the second round of the WTA hardcourt event against 14th seed Samantha Stosur.

But for the 23-year-old Bouchard, a former world number five who has slumped to 56th in the rankings, it was another

blow after her first-round exit in Indian Wells.

"It has been a bit of a struggle, I'm a strong player. Bouchard will always be able to account for her loss of form,"

said the Australian.

Bouchard was a beaten finalist at Wimbledon in 2014 but, apart from a run to the semifinal at Sydney where she was beaten by Britain's Johanna Konta, she has been unable to make an impact this year.

Barty reproduced the gutsy tennis that helped her secure her maiden WTA title at the

Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur last month.

"We've had a good season so far, we've got a good momentum and I think we're in a bit of a run this year so far. We have worked hard and it is just that hard work starting to pay off," said the Australian.

The 20-year-old, who took time out from tennis in 2014 to play cricket, has never come up against her compatriot Stosur before while she will start as clear underdog, she is relishing the challenge.

"It will be good. Obviously we have trained together and hit a few balls so it will be interesting. I am really excited. For me it is just a matter of confidence to go out and play," she said.

Serbia's Jelena Jankovic was another high-profile early exit, the 2008 Miami finalist falling 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) to Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova.

Local favorite and Rio Olympic gold medalist Monica Puig was comfortably dealt with 6-2, 6-4 by Romanian Sorana Cirstea. - AFP

My preparations for India Open has been good

I am looking forward to getting back to play in India again. I can close my eyes and visualize the culture, the art, the smiling and the ever helping people.

For me the Yonex Sunrise Indian Open stays a bit special, simply because it's played in this lovely country - "Incredible India" as they say. I just can't wait to get back and do

my best in the Tournament.

History of sports will teach you about the bonding between a certain player and her/his fan-

bonding?

Well, it's the love of the people - the spectators that makes a player feel special and that ap-

I really appreciate their support while I'm on court. To me, it speaks about the globalisation of badminton. It gives me the passion for the sports in India. A big Thank You to all my fans, and I reiterate, that I am waiting to land again in the beautiful country.

My preparations for India Open has been good. I am fit, especially after the injury which I sustained in the All England Championship. But I have recovered and ready to give my best, and most importantly enjoy myself on the court. - TCM



Carolina Marin



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plies across all sports. Doesn't it?

I like play in India a lot and it has

got to do a lot about my fans.



Sabbir Husain, IAS

He had a nature you could not help loving and a heart that was purer than gold and to those who knew him and loved him. His memory will never grow cold.

Affectionately remembered by all family members.

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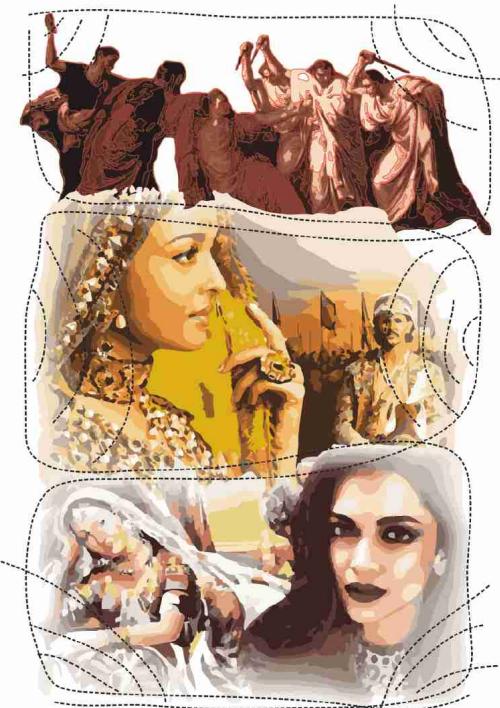
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Et tu, art?

History has often been misconstrued and contorted in the realms of art, writes **Dikshit Sarma Bhagabati.**



A'Et tu, Brute?'
Almost four hundred years: that, roughly, is what has elapsed since Shakespeare decided to conclude the part of one of his most remarkable characters – one that has thenceforth found favour in a diverse array of platforms, from textbooks to naively executed school plays. The phrase itself, I daresay, has been immortalised through ages of adaptations, employed as impulsively in the general expression, as thoughtfully it has been retained by those wishing to emulate Shakespeare's literary distinctions.

What, however, remains to be answered is whether Julius Caesar, in his deathbed, stricken with the grief of his beloved friend's infidelity, did utter those words, if not verbatim, at least something to the similar effect. History, as someone aware of it would reckon, isn't propitiously disposed towards Shakespeare. Suetonius, a Roman historian who lived about 125 years after Caesar ceased to, rather believed, as it is by a majority of academics even today, that Caesar's last words were 'Kaisu, teknon.'

The discrepancy between Shakespeare's version and that of Suetonius' is quite visible, especially if one would bear in mind the fact that 'kai su, teknon' literally translates to 'screw you, kid'!

Shakespeare's license, perhaps, can well be used as a reference point for the contentious issue that I am about to allude to. You see, very few have managed to coningle history and fiction as impeccably as Shakespeare did, and even fewer not to obliterate history altogether for the sake of fiction and end up floundering terribly at both. Superficially, historical fiction might be the easiest genre to attempt: to surf the internet and unearth a story and then rewrite it with distortions as it may be the author's wont isn't particularly painstaking. But to write fiction imbued with history is as intricate as trying to reproduce the *Mona Lisa*; a person, if not to reproduce, not to forge, as well as to reinvoke, not to contort. There must intrinsically be something that Alexandre Dumas succeeded in doing, whereby his accretion of having showcased through *The Three Musketeers* exemplary prowess to

excel in the genre goes largely unabated, notwithstanding the fact that the book itself, let's say, was inspired by another book – *Memoires de d'Artagnan*, that is.

The art of rejuvenation of history by no means spreads as far as the pen can accomplish, for its potential stretches as far as human expressions can portray it. Cinema is invariably an effective medium to get one's message through to the masses, and, if practised nefariously, to propagate incoherence and inaccuracy. What deserves adulation is Bollywood's new-found propensity to make movies based on historical incidents, however, what doesn't is its tendency to distort history in the process.

That history should seldom be a bulwark to art is understood; so much that assaulting Sanjay Leela Bhansali because he may have floated a few facts whilst making *Padmavati* is probably more despicable than disclaiming the relevance of those facts itself. But on the other hand, there essentially must be a limit to it. Rani Padmavati was a woman who had unflinchingly embraced the flames of *jauhar* than Alauddin Khilji's assault at her chastity; to portray such a woman in compromising situations, if it has been reported, with the latter, for the sake of expediting the sale of tickets is an indiscriminate blow to all that defines her today – her virtues. It's a different debate altogether if art should be absolute, but what most certainly must not be heedless.

Having said that, Bollywood cannot be indicted of perpetually having a delusional sense of history; a couple of films befitting of critical acclaim and popular consent have indeed been made in this genre, say, for instance, *Jodha Akbar*. Although the very existence of Jodha Bai and relevance of Hrithik Roshan's physique to that of the real Akbar's are very much assailable, the film at large isn't on the grounds of playing around with history, though it discernibly did that throughout the movie. As long as Akbar's image as one of the greatest Mughal emperors isn't shattered, art can very well take precedence over history. Now whether Rani Padmavati has indeed been portrayed as catering to Alauddin Khilji's carnal desires can be ascertained once we see for ourselves, but vandalising sets, and pulling directors by their hair can surely not be the way to proceed.

I surmise that the common ground between fiction and history is the edifice of history that we have built. A historical character, years down the line when people disremember him, is restored piece by piece, by collating documents, excavating archives, breeding followers and anything else pertaining to him – the way an edifice, a house is built, brick by brick. If one uncovers newer evidence or records, he is at liberty to destroy the existing edifice and build a new one judiciously on the basis of the new bricks. However, it is deplorable to demolish the existing edifice so as to trade the bricks at the box office. The gist is to be consistent with the character of the person, if not its minute dispositions and actions all the same.

A book that has manifested the aforesaid spirit rightfully is Ashwin Sanghi's *Chanchal kya's Chant*. An event here that never occurred or a trifle there dramatised to bring out the potential in the fiction is just about fine as long as one reads about Chanakya as the shrewd and profusely practical genius that he was. Now if Chanakya would have usurped his own disciple's throne, we can alone imagine how popular a bestseller the tale would have produced. Alas, wasn't malicious enough to harbour such treacherous desires, so the most we can do is to forget about the prospective bestseller or forsake any ulterior plans to frolic with history a bit and write one ourselves.

– dikshit_sarma@live.com

around us. But do you know that it has the largest brain-to-body ratio, with a developed forebrain? They are very intelligent and can often outsmart humans. Among the other bird species, crows are the most loyal to their partners and they remain with one partner for life.

Sparrows are the most sociable birds for they nest in colonies. They can even swim to escape from predators, although they are not considered to be water birds. The World Sparrow Day, celebrated on March 20, is a day designated to raise awareness about the house sparrow and also about other common birds in the urban environments, and of threats to their populations. One of our very common pets is the parrot. These mimetic artists are the only birds that can eat with their feet. Some parrots can live for more than 80 years. Parrots are among the very few animals who can feel music, understand the beats and move with it.

Pigeons, the yesteryear postman, is one of our most common neighbours. It is such an important bird that its droppings were previously used as fertiliser and was considered more potent than farmyard manure. The word



News on the net!

Jitendra Deka

Amidst life's complex competitions, challenges, crossword-like situations, the hunger for trending stories or so called hot topics of the day or the month is seen inevitably important to keep oneself up to date with the world. Thus, the concept of digital journalism has become high priority, while most online distribution of editorial content, news, trending stories, etc., through the internet. Breaking the barrier of traditional journalism, this nascent form of journalism is quite gracious in the following ways.

Flexibility in almost all aspects is the issue that dominates common life. Be it in terms of the price of a product or the mode of delivery to the customers, the most flexible one is always paid higher attention. Thus, due to its high order of flexibility in obtaining the news faster, with no time barrier, elaborate updates, along with hyperlinks of the concerned sources, digital journalism has emerged as a major tool to influence people. URLs, links are the ones which have acted like a medium to share, store and save the chronicles published in digital formats. Thus, offering a higher order of flexibility, digital journalism has shown its power to influence people.

Effective feedback in time is always needed for the success of any initiative. In this regard, having a platform to get the fastest feedback, digital journalism has established itself as a remarkable and influential tool of journalism with utmost potential. Discussion forums and comment boxes follow every article in the digital media. This gives everyone a scope to discuss any current issue, much like the conventional feedbacks that newspaper editors receive from loyal readers. However, now both the print and electronic media is seen implementing the concept of discussion forums in their online editions to motivate the readers to take part in any trending story.

Sometimes, the lucrative style of digital journalism in the form of digital advertisements comes under debate. The advertisements are meant for digital marketing, so that the readers can easily get in touch with the related topic. When an article is published in a newspaper or magazine, readers are compelled to go back into the pages of the paper's preceding issues so as to gain in-depth knowledge regarding the matter, whereas, in digital journalism, the preceding issue is just a click away. Having the freedom to unfold stories instantaneously, digital journalism has emerged as a new marketing tool for news agencies across the globe.

In this vast country, due to the burgeoning spread of internet, most of the internet-based start-ups are based on digital journalism. In this respect, the blogging industry has to be paid much credit. Thousands of bloggers have come up with the idea of news lists, news feeds, and app-based news forums so as to give single link based 'news' in the form of notifications to mobile users. However, in this revolution, traditional media based news giants like *The Indian Express*, *Times of India*, *The Hindu* are seen extending their empires with the help of digital journalism. In the international purview, *BuzzFeed*, *Quartz*, *Huffington Post*, etc., are the ones leading the way. Although late, in Assam, major newspapers have also shown a positive nod in this technological revolution in journalism. But, in India, to make digital journalism flawless and efficient, a basic factor seems to be missing. That is adequate internet penetration.

With only 28.77 per cent internet users among the total population of the country, after China, India comes second in the list of country-wise internet users. A news report by *India Today* (December 25 2016) carried a study report by ASSOCHAM-Deloitte that revealed that internet penetration in the country will double by 2020, with 600 million users. The reasons being – 3G and 4G penetration, public hotspot penetration, etc. A study report by the Boston Consulting group says that by 2020, about 315 millions Indian living in rural areas will be connected to the internet, compared to 120 million at present.

But, somewhere there arises a few questions about this new trend. How long will this survive? Do Indian readers take digital journalism as seriously as foreign readers do? Online surveys report that average internet users in India have a tendency to read the news free of cost. Unless sound revenue is obtained from this practice, the growth of digital journalism in India will soon meet distress and more challenges.

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Winged wonders!



Ria Chakraborty

Every organism is important for our ecosystem. Be it a small ant or a giant rhino, without the presence of any one species, the balance of the bio-network will be disrupted. Our ecosystem is designed in such an interlinked manner that if any one organism ceases to exist, life becomes challenging for the others. One such important creature is the bird. We see them every day, on our window panes, trees, electric wires or flying in the sky. Our mornings start with the cooing of the birds and it winds up when the birds fly back to their homes. Birds play a vital role in the ecosystem. Many plants depend on birds to spread their seeds, especially on hummingbirds for pollination. Birds are also essential for insect control, as they consume large quantities of mosquitoes, caterpillars, beetles and moths.

There is a lot that we do not know about these creatures and knowing all that might make us see them in a new light. Crows are, perhaps, the most annoying birds that we see

around us. But do you know that it has the largest brain-to-body ratio, with a developed forebrain? They are very intelligent and can often outsmart humans. Among the other bird species, crows are the most loyal to their partners and they remain with one partner for life.

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Of the Write Ways

IN THE RING OF PURE LIGHT
Lectures on Language and Literature

Zulfikar Ghose, one of Pakistan's major diasporic literary voices, has often argued for the writer's right to articulate, with the questions of reason and understanding occupying a space of importance. Wide-ranging in reading, and layered in thought, Ghose's essays have consistently borne aloft the preserve of the writer as one whose responsibility goes much beyond the mere act of expression. In an address meant primarily for the university students of Pakistan, Ghose is clear in his conviction that it is only the assertive voice of liberty which has the power to create and question, thereby facilitating the appropriate environment for critical argument. In this context, he draws attention to the significance of the right to differ, and challenge settled opinion: "Political freedom, freedom from any form of repression or censorship, is a precondition for the flourishing of any art or discourse. No one has anything to lose from another human being's perception of reality even when its expression seems a shocking heresy. Indeed, the expression of doubt and heresy is a pre-requisite of intellectual advance whereas religious dogmatism and a rigidly unfaltering adherence to some ancient belief that no one may question stifle intellectual growth." For Ghose, writing is not an act that exists in a vacuum. It involves deep cogitation and an elaborate thought process—an engagement with both form and subject, but even more than that, what he lays importance upon is the need to be attentive to the craft of storytelling. It is storytelling that holds a narrative in place, and even a known, familiar subject arrests the reader, and becomes riveting in the way it is presented. Ghose makes the point by citing the example of Alfred Hitchcock's films, where, by the sheer power of representation, the story holds the audience in thrall: "You know the story, you even remember several scenes; there's nothing there to surprise you anymore; and yet you are mesmerised. It's not just that you want to know what happens next, because you already know it from having seen the films before; what holds your fascinated attention is the presentation, the way in which the director shapes his narrative." Sometimes, says Ghose, authorial intervention can mar a narrative, and it is imperative that the reader's interest be kept at the centre at all times. This, according to him, is one of the prerequisites of writing. He illustrates his position by drawing references from different writers, thinkers and artists, with Longinus, François Rabelais, Anton Chékhov, Jorge Luis Borges, Federico García Lorca and Ludwig Wittgenstein figuring, among others. *In the Ring of Pure Light* is a book that brings together Ghose's essays and lectures on literary craftsmanship, is a remarkable repository that captures the intellectual and the creative dimensions of writing. Attentive to the fact that writing can be diverse and culturally nuanced, Ghose traverses the world literary filament to focus on aspects of craft that aren't always referred to in such a manner. What is interesting is the way he connects ideas with practice, thereby highlighting processes of discovery for the writer. The representation of act or idea demands that the reader remain absorbed, for which the onus is on the writer, not quite the individual, but the way in which the writing is done. Ghose's writing bears the stamp of deep scholarship and study, yet the prose is fluid and easy to access. *In the Ring of Pure Light* is a writer's unfolding of his reading world, enabling us to tread the reads that serve as the fulcrum of great literature.

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The official mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup Football, 2017 — a clouded Leopard called 'Khaleo', was unveiled at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, recently. The clouded leopard is an endangered wild cat whose habitat extends from the Himalayan foothills to mainland Southeast Asia. The Mascot Khaleo will participate in numerous activities in the run-up to the first ever FIFA tournament to be hosted by India, which will be played from October 6 to 28 this year.

Quiz session: The Assam Institute of Management organised an inter-institutional business quiz competition during their annual meet 'AIM Quest-2017' on March 9 at the Silapjam auditorium, Panjapam, Guwahati. After the grand finale, the first position went to Kumar Shivam and Jayothi Kalita of Gauhati University's BTech Department. The second and third positions went to Don Bosco Institute and KC Das Commerce College, respectively. The show was conducted by yours truly on behalf of Trivia Bytes, Guwahati.

In today's Master's Choice section, do try out a set of questions asked at the 'AIM QUEST-2017'. Meanwhile, keep writing to us with quiz responses, questions (with answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizzone, Horizon, C/o The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati. SMS at: 98640-26322 and e-mail at: tosallen@gmail.com or quizonesalen@gmail.com. To read Quizzone online, you can log on to epaper.assamttribune.com.

MASTER'S CHOICE

- Which National Institution was set up on January 1, 2015 to transform India?
- Which Swedish multinational corporation has planned self-driven cars "set to roll" within 2017?
- Name the famous company which has launched 'Digital Unlocked', the training programme for small business persons on demonetisation.
- It was originally established on April 1, 1935, with its initial headquarters at Kolkata, which was later shifted to Mumbai in 1937. Its logo has got a tiger and a palm tree. Which institution am I talking about?
- The *Fortune* magazine began its 'list of 500 top companies' from 1954. Which company has taken the spot more than 36 times till now?
- Which product gets its name from Harry Pickup?

The soldier

He was there,
Amidst the mountains;
Armed with a gun,
And a heart of steel.

Bullets were exchanged,
From both sides;
But he didn't step back,
And nor did his comrades.

The battle was fierce,
Both friends and foes,
Falling down every passing moment;
But he didn't lose hope.

His arms became heavy,
And knees weak;
But he kept fighting,
He was less ordinary.

He was trained to kill,
Born to fight;
He kept his spirit high,
Alas! He was shot.

His gun became silent,
And so did he;
He fought for glory,
And died for the nation.

He came back to his family,
Because he had promised;
Indeed, he came,
But wrapped in the tricolour.

He was shot down, but not his pride.
His gun fell down, but not the flag.
He was not just a man,
He was a soldier.

Shahil Ahmed,
Via e-mail

[FEELINGS]

Spring fountain

Spring is when the heart leaps in joy,
Fondly playing with the hidden
Colours of your soul,
As if a child has found a long lost toy!

Spring is when
The ever-changing colours in the sky,
The sun, the unforeseen showers,
The lashing winds and the dust
All combined,
Becomes the vibrant stimuli in your lungs,
Dancing fanatically to the beats of the *dhol*,
Heard once again from a distance
In the evenings!

Spring is when you still feel,
A bit chilly in the morning
Or as you return home
Tired in the evening,
Yet in a moment, fresh all over again...
Thanks to the intoxicating aroma
From an anonymous flower
That kisses your soul
And tickles your senses alike,
As you slow down a bit to
Take a deep breath
Before moving on!

Ah! Spring is when
Love is so heavily drunk,
Nothing else matters!

Swapanjyoti Bordoloi,
Dibrugarh

Solitude

The blowing wind,
The whispering leaves...
The creasing doors...
and the chaos,
All I need now is some peace,
A place of solitude!

Anamika Das,
Patna

Soliloquy

Standing above the canyons,
I behold the valley underneath,
The vagabond waters cascade,
Making through the mighty cliffs,
Overlooking the lush green meadow,
Entwining the azure moss,
I sit in felicity!

Behold serendipity!

The rainbow pastiched the brook; ethereal!

The flamingos take their usual flight,

Down to the hawthorn top,

Faint scent of lavenders,

Hung in the air;

Petrarch confuted.

I gambolled yet again...

The mystic clouds engulfed the blinding sun,

The silence was deafening,

And there I lay,

Brooding my sojourn in solitude,

Grew oblivious;

Woebegone...

Upamanyu Chetia,
Guwahati

Spirit of hope

The days are sick and cold,
The sky is grey and old;
Only bunches of marigold,
To cheer up the long evenings.

There is no one to knock on the door,
Time halts for a moment,
to gaze at the evening star;
That shines like a ray of hope,
On the canvas of the western sky.

Tapati Chakrabarti,
Guwahati

SCIENCE ZONE

Violina Kalita

An artificial pancreas is a closed-loop system containing only synthetic materials, which substitute for an endocrine pancreas.

Diabetes is a long-term condition that causes blood sugar level in a body to increase. After we eat or drink, our body breaks down the sugars in our blood and turns it into glucose. The glucose travels through our blood streams and provide our body with energy. To accomplish this, our pancreas needs to produce a hormone called insulin. In a person with diabetes, also termed as Diabetes Mellitus, the pancreas either produces too little insulin or none at all (Type 1), or the insulin can't be used effectively. As such, people with diabetes cannot live a normal life, surviving through a lot of restrictions and complications, including injecting insulin at proper intervals of time, following a proper diet, etc.

However, the Artificial Pancreas Project (APP) puts an end to it, enabling a person to lead a healthy, normal life. The APP uses equipment with an insulin pump and a close loop control using real-time data from a continuous blood glucose sensor.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) has spearheaded great progress in forming the APP in 2005, which brings together the world's leading experts to speed the development of automated closed-loop system. JDRF launched the APP to accelerate the development of a commercially viable artificial pancreas as a system to ultimately mimic the biological function of the pancreas for patients with Type 1 diabetes. More recently, studies outside of the hospital are beginning to show that people with Type 1 diabetes can successfully use these systems.

Basal Control: It is the first step in controlling an insulin pump based on a continuous blood glucose data to automatically control the basal

rate of the insulin pump. When a bolus (chewed food) has not been recently performed, the pump can manage the blood glucose level by adjusting the basal rate (point at which the glucose or insulin is released) as needed. For example, when the blood sugar increases, a small correction bolus can be automatically delivered and a higher basal rate can be set, and if it decreases, then the basal rate can be halted to deny the quantity of insulin needed to bring the blood glucose level back up until the basal rate can be continued at a new lower rate. The pump can also 'learn' the unique basal rates for the person.

Smartphone: It contains the artificial pancreas application. The app uses glucose measurements from the CGM to calculate how much insulin or glucose to give the user. The smartphone wirelessly sends this information to the two pumps.

Two pumps: The pumps deliver the medications following commands from the smartphone's artificial pancreas app.

(To be concluded)

Artificial Pancreas Project-I

An artificial pancreas is a closed-loop system containing only synthetic materials, which substitute for an endocrine pancreas. An artificial pancreas will consist of functionally integrated components that will continuously sense glucose levels, determine appropriate insulin dosages, and deliver the insulin. Components of an artificial pancreas are now being developed, including continuous glucose sensors; insulin pumps for parental delivery; and control software, all linked through wireless communication systems. It is expected that many types of artificial pancreas systems will eventually be available which will greatly benefit patients with diabetes.

The APP medical equipment consists of the following:

Continuous Blood Glucose Monitor (CGM): It is a technology for blood glucose monitoring that supports the mission of the Artificial Pancreas by:

- Automatically providing a blood glucose reading every few minutes without finger sticks from the user;
- Monitoring trends pertaining to rising and falling blood sugars, which is helpful in the prediction of blood glucose levels in the immediate future;
- Comparing blood sugar levels and predictions, beginning at high blood sugar and at low blood sugar threshold, and then prompting the user that a correction bolus from an insulin pump is needed immediately.

Basal Control: It is the first step in controlling an insulin pump based on a continuous blood glucose data to automatically control the basal

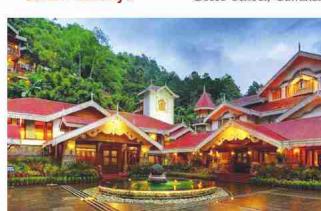
- Which former Finance Minister of India founded a political party Rashtriya Samajvadi Congress in 1986?
- Which very popular computer game character was originally called Jumpman, who is a carpenter by profession?
- This group supplied 1.7 million ballot boxes for independent India's first general elections in a few days in 1951, and produced the first animal fat-free soap in India in 1918. Name the group.
- Which entertainment, news, and social networking website has the slogan 'The front page of the internet'?

READERS' CHOICE

- Name the committee that has submitted its report on promoting digital payments to the Union Government recently. (Amriti Nath, Guwahati)
- Under what brand name does Salman Khan propose to launch a range of smartphones in India? (Shajid Khan, Tengla College, Tengla)
- Which history of Asterix comic has only four towns, but is nevertheless surrounded by 46 Roman camps? (Natalia Deka, Nabiari College, Nalbari)
- In the 1970s, which Indian leader produced the first ever statistical estimate of average per capita income of British India? (Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat)
- Who was made the Home Minister when Jawaharlal Nehru formed the interim Government in 1946? (Mary Singha, NEHU, Shillong)
- Name the company which discovered coal in Assam for the first time. (Biplab Kaita, Palashbari)
- In which famous play can you find these famous lines "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players"? (Anamika Mahanta, Tezpur)
- Where is India's geophysical observation for studying earthquake precursor located? (Chumki Chandra, AEC, Guwahati)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

- She refused to give up her seat to a white man in a bus to let him sit, as was the norm to be followed by the Blacks during that time. This sparked a year-long bus boycott, which became a part of the American Civil Rights' Movement of the 1950s. Who was she? (Jayanta Topadar, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Dhemaji)
- Where is India's geophysical observation for studying earthquake precursor located? (Chumki Chandra, AEC, Guwahati)



ANSWERS

- NITI Aayog, 2. Volvo, 3. Google, 4. Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 5. General Electric, 6. Harpic, 7. Pranab Mukherjee, 8. Mario, 9. Godrej, 10. Reddit, 11. Ratan Tata, 12. BeingSmart, 13. Corsica, 14. Dadabhai Naoroji, 15. Sardar Patel, 16. Assam Railways and Trading Company, 17. As You Like It (William Shakespeare), 18. Atop an isolated hill in Ghuttu, Uttarakhand, 19. MAYFAIR, 20. Rosa Parks.

Since the day man discovered science, it has helped him immensely in improving his life and will continue to do so in the future as well. However, despite all the scientific developments over the years, it has so far not been able to achieve anything in the dimension of what health is. It may sound strange, but that is the fact. Because the whole work of science has been in the dimension of what disease is, so when you question a physician about diseases, he would give you various definitions, but the moment you ask him what health is, he tries to deceive you and says that when there is no disease, then whatever remains is health. This is where science lags behind, making way for spirituality that gives complete clarity to mankind on various issues pertaining to mental and physical health.

When an individual falls sick, the vibrations of the disease enter the soul, and that is why often the disease persists even after the body has been given the medical treatment and is cured. This persistence of the disease is there because of the vibrations which have echoed all the way into the innermost being of the person and for which medical science has no solution so far. It must, thus, be accepted that medical science will always remain incomplete without meditation and hence it will be able to cure the disease but will not be able to cure the patient. Meditation is found in all cultures, religions and regions, both west and east. The standard dictionary definition is "thinking deeply or spiritually about a subject." Yet it is different from ordinary cognitive processes – being more than relaxation, concentration, contemplation or posturing. It is a technique or method of freeing one's mind from emotions and other distractions to allow deeper insights into ourselves and the world around us. The ultimate goal is illumination, and while this

may not be fully achieved, along the way, peace and relaxation, quieting of emotions, insights and perspectives may be accomplished.

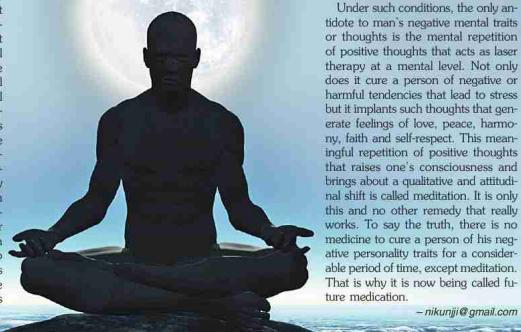
It is now being widely accepted all over the world that stress or mental tension is the killer number one because it causes high blood pressure, heart diseases, asthma and many other psychosomatic diseases and even cancer, if its duration or frequency is more than an individual can withstand. But it is not adequately realised even now that the modern system of medicine has

lasting remedy or real cure for it, for mental tension is generally caused not by physical fatigue but by mental factors. If a person becomes increasingly suspicious of the motives of others, exaggerates his own importance and the things he has to do, frequently feels sad thinking that certain persons have slighted or neglected him, has too many expectations from others, has the habit of being over-critical of others, feels even small disappointments as too big, is too serious about keeping the deadlines of all his assignments and is always rushing and running to do things, or if anxiety dominates his thoughts, or he has the ambition to do more or have more than he has the ability to do or have, then no medicine can save him from stress. Such a person will have his anger, frustration, hatred or anxiety bottled up and would, ultimately, burst out or be weighed down. Medicines can keep these tendencies in check only for some time by affecting his consciousness or by producing in him a state akin to sleep, but medicines cannot free him from these tendencies or personality traits which are the real cause of stress.

Under such conditions, the only antidote to man's negative mental traits or thoughts is the mental repetition of positive thoughts that acts as laser therapy at a mental level. Not only does it cure a person of negative or harmful tendencies that lead to stress but it implants such thoughts that generate feelings of love, peace, harmony, faith and self-respect. This meaningful repetition of positive thoughts that raises one's consciousness and brings about a qualitative and attitudinal shift is called meditation. It is only this and no other remedy that really works. To say the truth, there is no medicine to cure a person of his negative personality traits for a considerable period of time, except medication. That is why it is now being called future medication.

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Meditation: the best medicine



The neolithic labyrinths

One should not confuse labyrinths with mazes. Mazes are complex, multi-branched puzzles. Labyrinths are single, non-branching paths that lead to a centre. Millennia ago, labyrinth designs mysteriously appeared throughout the world. They have long been sites of religious devotion and healing. Many believe that they represented the border between the worlds of the living and the dead. They are meditation tools and instruments for wish fulfillment. Even today, they remain one of the most widespread yet enigmatic symbols.

The Russian White Sea is home to the highest concentration of Neolithic labyrinths in the world. The Solovetsky Islands alone contain 35. Dating to 3,000 years ago, they are known as avlions ('babylons') by the locals. The Bolshoi Zayatsky Island holds the archipelago's most famous labyrinths. Fourteen structures cluster in an area under 0.5 sq km. Rows of rocks form spirals resembling serpents with their heads in the centre. The largest structure is over 25 metres in diameter, while the smallest is around six metres in diameter. All of the Bolshoi Zayatsky labyrinths are located on the west side of the island. The eastern side has many rock formations, but none can be called labyrinths.

In the 1970s, Russian researchers proposed that the labyrinths had served as fish traps when the sea levels were significantly higher 5,000 years ago. Others disagree, suggesting that the labyrinths tracked the orbits of the Sun and Moon and acted as calendars.



(This column will carry everything odd around the world. Readers' contributions will be appreciated at partha.hazarika@assamtribune.com.)

MIND'S EYE

Rajyogi BK Nikunj

Nothing is permanent – especially software. If you thought your Nougat OS for your Android would reign supreme for at least three years, you are wrong.

The American search giant has announced the next generation of its Android mobile software, which presently powers almost 90 percent of smartphones globally. The OS is not yet a finished product and so it is yet to get a suitable name.

You must have noticed that Google names its upgraded Android version in alphabetical order and more importantly, after a candy or a sweet. Just like the previous version which was called Nougat. Before that it was Marshmallow, then Lollipop and KitKat. Speculation over the name has already begun, with some assuming it to be Android Oreo, Android Oatmeal cookie, etc. But what is sure is that the name will start with 'O'.

The 'O' is rumoured to improve battery life, give better control over notifications and a picture-in-picture mode for phones and tablets. The update has been tweaked to conserve the phone's juice, which is being achieved by limiting what apps can do while they are launched on your phone but not actively being used. For example, most apps would not be

able to do much with location updates when they are running in the background.

A blog by Google's vice president of engineering for Android, David Burke, indicates that 'O' will bring order to the deluge of notifications we get on our phones as users will be able to have more control over notifications within an app. They will also be able to group together different notifications.

The 'O' is also likely to secure phones with an update to Android's WebView. The update makes it harder for a maliciously coded app to steal your personal information. Other features include a picture-in-picture view on phones and tablets so you can keep watching a video while using other apps like halting a car or answering a message.

TECH TRENDS
Devol Kumar Nath

Google faces challenges every time a new Android version is released. The problem is in getting all to update to the current version. As of March, only 2.8 percent Android users are on the current version of the software. Nougat. Almost 85 percent are on three previous versions: Marshmallow, Lollipop and KitKat.

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"Hop on, hop off" is a common phrase used in bus tours of London... Isn't it getting on and getting down from a bus?"

"Yes, it is. One generally gets on a bus or boards a bus, and although he gets down from a bus, the English phrase is to 'get off a bus'!"

"So they have this 'hop off'..."

"Yes, 'hop on, hop off' is used to mean 'get on, get off' only."

"I see."

"But mind you, one gets down from a carriage, and not 'get off'!"

"Oh, these prepositions are pretty confusing."

"Yes, they are. For example, if you are travelling by bus you are 'on' the bus, not 'in' the bus. And when you meet somebody while travelling by bus, train, etc., you meet them 'on' the bus or train."

"You know, I met our friend Amit in the... I mean on the train yesterday. He recently got promoted to become the general manager of his company and I congratulated him for this."

"Wait. Here too the preposition is not right."

"Oh, how? Which preposition?"

"It is not 'congratulate for' but 'on'. You congratulate someone on something, not for something."

"Oh! Didn't realise that."

"It is a common mistake. You see, the choice of preposition in English poses a problem for many."

"Like? Some more examples, please."

"Well, take these sentences: our school reopens on 1st of August, not 'from' 1st of August; the rule is applicable to all, not 'for' all; this is inferior to that one, not 'than' that one etc.

Then in sentences such as 'Mr Dutta contested for the Mayor's post' and 'we have requested for a new post' the preposition 'for' is not required."

"I see... What about 'discuss' then? Is it 'discuss about' or 'discuss on'?"

"Good question. In fact, 'discuss' as a verb takes no preposition. 'We discussed the Assam situation' is just fine, no need to add 'about' or 'on' after 'discuss'. But 'discuss about' is commonly used by us, may be because we have the preposition 'about' in 'to talk about', 'to speak about' etc. But the noun form 'discussion' takes a preposition: 'discussion on the Kashmir problem'..."

"Okay... Now let's discuss about, oh, I mean discuss some other prepositions..."

MIND YOUR ENGLISH
Protim Sharma

Readers can contribute anecdotes, funny quotations, puns or word play, and interesting bits of information about the English language to MYE. Send contributions to: 'Mind Your English', Horizon, The Assam Tribune, Chandman, Guwahati-781003 or to: protimsharma@rediffmail.com. Contribute via SMS to: 9435055497.

'O' so good!



TECH TRENDS

Devol Kumar Nath

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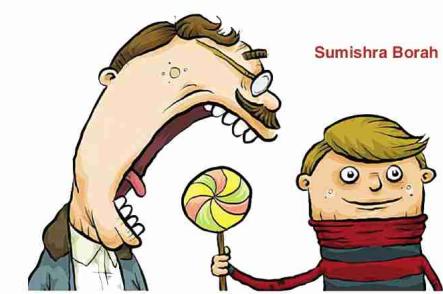
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MIND YOUR ENGLISH

Protim Sharma



I mean discuss some other prepositions..."



Sumishra Borah

Need for self-control

Will power is all about self-control. If one cannot control oneself then there is little hope to influence others. Self-control is the management of one's own behaviour, driven by subconscious urges that conflict with conscious goals. Nowadays, our lives are hectic. As we continue a hectic schedule, it is obvious that we lose self-control at times. These provoke us to make a situation worse. Self-control is earned by keeping calm, but then again, keeping calm also requires self-control. Isn't it funny and complicated at the same time?

There are some people who have no relation with the word self-control, because for them it seems to be useless. They are so frustrated with their life and workload that keeping calm and gaining self-control is next to impossible. Most of us might have experienced that we lose self-control when we lose confidence in ourselves. It is indeed true. Confidence is the key to all and without it; it seems that you are trying to fill a glass at a hole at its bottom.

Nowadays, it is quite common to see people who are so self-sufficient and self-dependent that they consider an advice to be the attitude of the opposite person. People are so egoistic at some point that they cannot see someone giving them an advice; even if it is useful for them. They, instead, lose their self-control and get provoked, which ultimately results in a fight.

It is better to avoid situations that make one lose his or her temper. Various hobbies lead you to a proper way of living where you will be less affected by negative vibes. People lose self-control for various reasons. It can be a job, a relationship, salary issues, and so on. Fuming and fretting won't help, rather study the situation and act accordingly. To help us manage urges, we also have inner systems of determination. We also have a deep need for a sense of self-control, which drives us towards achieving control in the outer world. When we realise that we have no self-control, it becomes very troublesome and we come to see that gaining control of our lives can best start with ourselves. A critical decision that the ego has to make is the balance between short-term gratification and long-term satisfaction. The manner in which we discount the future when making today's decisions has a significant impact on this.

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GRAPHIC PICK

Deborshee Gogoi



Remember! From today till we get citizenship, you are 'Mithun Chakravorty' and not 'Md. Jamshed Ali'

Happiness diet revealed!

No one looks forward to the scrapping and agitation that comes with a diet. For many of us, cutting down on snacks and portion sizes simply crushes our mood. But according to UK-based doctor and author, Sarah Brewer, there is a right way to do it that trims your waistline and triggers the release of happy hormones.

The key, according to her, is knowing the chemical properties of everything in your fridge, and understanding how they play with your emotions.

"Diet undoubtedly has a major effect on mood," Dr Brewer says. "Scientists know, for example, that omega-3 fish oils can reduce the risk of depression, and that switching from a high-fat to a low-fat diet can increase feelings of tension, anger and hostility."

The foods you eat can influence your mood by increasing your production of brain 'happy' chemicals such as serotonin. Researchers have found that people with low levels of the B vitamin thiamin (B1) feel less composed, less confident and more depressed than those with higher levels, and that increasing intakes can lead to a marked improvement in mood and self-confidence. Similarly, correcting low levels of riboflavin (B2), pyridoxine (B6) and selenium can have a beneficial effect on self-confidence, mood and well-being.

Some of the foods suggested by Dr Brewer to stay happy and healthy are bananas, crab meat, dark chocolate, fish, garlic, hummus, fresh juice, iodine, milk, nuts, whole grains, oats and soy. Apart from these foods, she also suggests ample exercise and sufficient sleep to keep you fit and happy. – Agencies



Men's grooming

This week, let us shift our focus to men's grooming. In this article, I shall talk about different types of hairstyles and hair and face care regimen for men:

Wear a style that suits your industry

Short hair comes across well in the business world. Don't go to the extremes; keep your hair natural. Unnatural colours and styles can be a hindrance to your corporate look. Often the simplest solution to thinning hair is to cut it very short. It is a very fashionable look and it hides both excessive grey and very thin hair. Very short hair gives an appearance of confidence. Go short and look sharp. Have your hair trimmed every three weeks to maintain a professional look; your hair needs to be well groomed and styled at times.

Creams and lotions

Excessive use of creams and lotions will give you slimy hair. Wash your hair regularly. The sight and smell of a greasy head is distasteful. Trim any excess hair in your nose and ears. Nasal hair will simply become the focus for people you talk to. Although hair in your ears is not as obvious, this is something that people still notice.

Find the right shampoo

Approximately 40 per cent of all men suffer from dandruff. Many shampoos for men treat the scalp as well as the follicles, while stimulating the scalp at the same time.

FASHIONABLY YOURS

Prasanti Ghosh

Toupee or not to toupee

If you want the look of luxurious hair, a toupee is better than the comb over, or worse still, the comb forward. However, wind will always be your enemy and those few strands hanging down your neck will be a dead giveaway.

Face care

If you have a single eyebrow, pluck out the hair in the middle, making it two of them. Improve close set eyes by plucking your eyebrows more widely over the brow of your nose. Make your lips pucker perfect; outdoor sports and indoor air conditioning can dry out your lips. Carry and use a lip balm to protect them. Start with the basics twice a day: you need to cleanse, tone and moisturise. Drink plenty of lukewarm water throughout the day.

Cleansing is a great start, soap and water will simply dry out your skin. Use a proper cleanser to remove the grime after a day at work and to revitalise your skin after a good night's sleep.

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(The writer is a fashion designer and choreographer and can be contacted at dcreativepeople@gmail.com.)



WEST SIDE STORY

Mel B's toxic marriage

MEL B has decided to file for divorce from husband Stephen Belafonte in the wake of her father's death from cancer earlier this month. The 41-year-old former Spice Girl had long known her marriage was "toxic" and the loss of her dad was the push she needed to formally end it. Friends have claimed:

Sources claimed to Britain's *Daily Mirror* that a series of "blazing rows" over her \$40 million fortune were behind her decision to call time on the 10-year marriage.

The marriage had been dogged by allegations of infidelity and domestic violence, and according to the *Mirror's* report, the two had spent "half their marriage in therapy."

Shannen's animal activism

SHANNEN Doherty, who had previously credited her dog for discovering her cancer, returned the favour by speaking at a congressional briefing in Washington DC for protecting dogs and cats from human consumption.

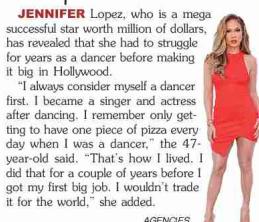
"We as Americans have trained dogs to do amazing things – they take bullets for our officers and sniff bombs. They are part of us... We have to protect our own," the 45-year-old said. She sat on a panel with government heavyweights dedicated to banning the transport of cats and dogs meant for the pet-flesh market.

JLo's pizza tale

JENNIFER Lopez, who is a mega successful star worth million of dollars, has revealed that she had to struggle for years as a dancer before making it big in Hollywood.

"I always consider myself a dancer first. I became a singer and actress after dancing. I remember only getting to have one piece of pizza every day when I was a dancer," the 47-year-old said. "That's how I lived. I did that for a couple of years before I got my first big job. I wouldn't trade it for the world," she added.

AGENCIES



Enchanting Singapore!

After a month of pondering, my friend and I came to a mutual agreement of taking a trip to Singapore, and before we realised, soon we found ourselves relaxing in a flight from Delhi to Singapore.

We reached Singapore at the scheduled time and we were transferred to our hotel. Next morning, we headed towards the much talked about Universal Studios, a theme park on Sentosa Island. As we made our entry into the amusement park, many Hollywood characters came alive in front of us. From going on a *Transformers* mission to meeting the *Madagascar* characters, to getting lost in the *Jurassic Park*, the trip to Universal Studios was quite entertaining.

Heading back to the hotel, we still had the night left to ourselves, so we decided to explore the city and boarded a double-decker bus to an area called Chinatown. We explored the streets of Chinatown, bought souvenirs and filled our palette with some authentic Chinese cuisine.

We soon realised that moving around the city by ourselves is much easier than having a guide along with us. Therefore, we ditched our guide and went on to explore the city by ourselves the next day. We dropped in at Marina Bay and took a ride on the Singapore Flyer to get a picturesue view on the city.



The bird's eye view of the city from the giant wheel is a sight to behold. However, if one needs to see the real beauty of Marina Bay, one must visit it in the evening.

The next day, we planned to explore Sentosa Island, which is a township with all kinds of fun places such as Universal Studios, Underwater Sea Aquarium, Madame Tussauds, casino, beaches, cable car rides, water sports, cafés and much more. We started with the Underwater Sea Aquarium where we encountered sharks, dolphins, sea dragons, jellyfish and various sea creatures. Then we headed towards the cable car and later soaked ourselves under the sun on the beach until sunset.

If you visit Singapore, do not forget to visit Orchard Road. It is an area that attracts a huge crowd of shopaholics, but it might burn a hole in your pocket as the entire street is filled with designer brands from Victoria's Secret, Louis Vuitton to Prada et al. There are other streets in Singapore to explore such as Bugis Market, Mustafa Centre, Desker Road and Little India. If you are looking to buy something to take back home, then you can shop in these areas, as these are cheaper in comparison to Orchard Road.

So, our five-day trip in this made island of Singapore came to an end. While in Singapore, a few things that would definitely catch your attention are: cleanliness and lack of pollution, people following traffic rules religiously, no unnecessary honking of vehicles, people are relaxed and not in a hurry, but, yes, too busy on their phones!

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MACHINE

DIRECTOR: ABBAS-MUSTAN
STARRING: MUSTAFA, KARA ADVANI, RONIT ROY, JOHNY LEVER

Seasoned director duo Abbas-Mustan have obviously run out of ideas to pull off trademark thrillers which earned them fame and box-office success back in the 1990s. They are now just a pale shadow of their former selves. In *Machine*, they blatantly copy their own *Bazigar* (1993), but the rehashed version is simply dull. All this in the name of cashing in the male lead, the son of Abbas. The saving grace is the cinematography in exotic locales.

A rich girl, Sarah (Kara Advani), falls in love with Ransh (Mustafa) in the 'swanky' college that they go to. Both are racing enthusiasts. After winning over his rivals and the routine songs, Ransh marries Sarah. He must also impress Balraj Thapar (Ronit Roy), Sarah's father.

A lot of twists are forcibly inserted into the plot after Ransh hauls Sarah off a cliff during their honeymoon. But all that is diluted with too many intrigues. Mustafa is another addition to the Bollywood list of non-actors who are doomed to failure. Kara Advani looks serious, but her histrionic skills are severely limited. Ronit Roy reprises the bad dad act. Johnny Lever puts in a friendly appearance.

A band of musicians led by Tanishk Bagchi completes the annihilation of old hits like *Chatur naar* and *Tu cheez badi*.

AT THE THEATRES

Jitu Changmai



AGAYA HERO
DIRECTOR: DEEPEKAR SENAPTI
STARRING: GOVINDA, ASHUTOSH RANA, MURALI SHARMA, MAKARAND DESHPANDE, CHANDRACHUR SINGH, HARISH

Govinda must be a very frustrated man today, otherwise he would not have committed such professional hara-kiri. Nobody is offering him any role, nor is any actress worth her name ready to opposite him. So he has produced *Agaya Hero* (it must be on a shoestring budget because the tacky production values are no better than those of a C-grade film) himself as a means of self-aggrandizement. The result is a major embarrassment for even the most die-hard fans.

An overdone rap, Govindra Varma (Govind), is brought in to check the terror unleashed by an unknown villain with the silliest (maniacal?) laughter ever. Varma puts together a plan called 'Abhay Chakra' (that was the original title when the film went on the floors years back!) to nab the baddies, including two brothers (Ashutosh Rana and Murali Sharma) and a politician (Makarand Deshpande).

All actors are in a hamming race. What are have-beens like Chandrachur Singh and Harish actually up to?

The music built around Govinda's reputation as a dancing hero is not a redeeming factor as well.

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Archie



beetle bailey



Mind over matter

Despite being a game of glorious uncertainty, cricket does leave some room for making predictions. Yet it's hard to fathom why the hit-and-miss experts, the cricketing fortune tellers, make predictions with not just a fair degree of certainty, but with a concoction of misplaced confidence and arrogance. On a number of occasions such predictions get them out stumped or hit-wicket. Yet, that doesn't seem to prevent them from carrying on blustering their flagship predictions.

Full marks to the visiting Australian cricket team, therefore, for smashing into smithereens all those predictions made by former Indian cricketers and commentators in the run-up to the Test series against India. They won the first Test of the ongoing series at Pune quite handsomely, stopped the 10th Test Indian juggernaut, and created enough self-doubts in the mind of Virat Kohli to drive him out of form. No one had ever imagined that the man, who till the other day, had been belting out double hundreds on a regular basis would lose form almost instantly. True, the Indians, stung by the reverse, did come back hard at the Kangaroos to level the series at Bengaluru. But in the third Test at Ranchi, it was the Aussies, rather than the Indians, who actually went away with a definitive psychological advantage, having denied the hosts a win when Kohli's men looked all set to go 2-1 up in the series, especially

SPORTPOURRI

Debashish Bezbarah

after they had snapped up Warner, Renshaw and skipper Steve Smith, the first-inning hero, much before the team total reached the three-figure mark in the second essay.

Who could have imagined that young strokemakers like Shoaib Marsh and Hardecombs would offer a dead bat to almost everything pitched up to them for an entire day, so that Australia could crawl to a memorable draw? They a p p l i e d themselves so beautifully, watching the ball like a hawk and playing a pa-

tient, waiting game, that they made even the world's best spinners at the moment – Ashwin and Jadeja – look ineffective on the final day.

Scroll back a bit and recall the similar feat that Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane had achieved in the second Test, or the monumental partnership that Pujara and Wriddhiman Saha had stitched up in the first innings at Ranchi, when the chips were woefully down. The hosts would have lost the third Test in a jiffy had it not been for the double-centurion Pujara and the ton-up Saha. So, the Australians had first made India fight their lungs out for survival and then denied the hosts a win to carry the momentum into the decider.

So much for the four-nil drubbing that the experts had predicted for the Aussies. It all points to the strength of mind over matter. The Australians have managed to upset the pre-series predictions purely on the strength of their mental toughness. Of course, the Indians, too, have shown their own mental prowess in the last two Tests, as a result of which we have been privileged to witness a magnificent series of Test match cricket so far reminiscent of the Test cricket of yore when batsmen's patience, perseverance, defensive technique and slow building of innings used to be sources of delight. The final Test beginning Saturday promises to dish out yet another riveting contest.

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Articles for *Horizon* should carry the address and contact number of the contributor. Articles can also be e-mailed at - horizon@assamtribune.com

AGENCIES