

NEWS CAPSULE

Akhil booked under NSA

DIBRUGARH, Sept 25: KMSM leader Akhil Gogoi, who is facing sedition charges, has been booked under the National Security Act. He was today produced before the CJM Court where a bail petition was moved against the Moran PS case, but owing to the NSA, the order was kept in abeyance.

— Staff Correspondent

Kaziranga

KAZIRANGA, Sept 25: The Kaziranga National Park will open its gates on October 2 for the tourist season 2017-2018. State ministers Pramila Rani Brahma and Atul Bora will attend the opening ceremony, said park director Satyendra Singh today. — Correspondent

Heroin haul

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Crime Branch of City Police this morning caught two persons from a lodge at Ganeshguri with 135 grams of heroin worth Rs 51 lakh in the black market. The arrested — Muzibur Rehman (29) and Qurnat Ali (45) — hail from Kartinganj. — Staff Reporter

Corruption case

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: A team of CM Vidyasagar today arrested two engineers, Keshab Samowal, Bhobesh Saloi and Subhash Phukan from Guwahati in connection with a corruption case related to construction of rural roads in Dibrugarh. — Staff Reporter

The Assam Tribune on Internet
<http://www.assamttribune.com> &
<http://paper.assamttribune.com>

Indigenous people of State must pressurise govt: AASU

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Assam has been a victim of political injustice since the pre-Independence days, which encouraged migration of people from Bangladesh and posed a grave threat to the identity of the

indigenous people of the State. Under the present circumstances, all the indig-

Tackling illegal influx

enous people of the State must join hands to put pressure on the Government to take immediate steps to

deal with the problem. This is the view of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU),

people of the State to launch joint movement on the issue.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, AASU chief adviser Samujal Bhattacharya pointed out that way back in 1931, the then census head of the State, SC Mullan had warned about

(See page 2)



An artisan giving finishing touches to the idol of Goddess Durga on the eve of Sasthi in Guwahati on Monday. — *Photo*

BJP meet hails Modi's handling

SPL CORRESPONDENT

Doklam issue

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: The BJP national executive while hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of the Doklam stand-off said that during the discussion, constant communication and coordination with Bhutan demonstrated India's sensitivity towards the interest of friendly neighbours and the government's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

A political resolution, adopted at the end

of the national executive meeting here today, said that the skill, patience and firmness shown by the leadership while dealing with Doklam dispute has not only strengthened the security concerns of the nation but also enhanced the prestige of India in the world. This is a sign of mature politics and diplomatic victory of the government, the resolution said.

The government duly fulfilled its re-

sponsibilities when it provided humanitarian relief to Bangladesh for the Rohingya refugees, while ensuring that internal security was not compromised for its 125 crore citizens, the resolution said.

The BJP national executive dwelt at length on the problem of terrorism, saying that right from the beginning, the Central government led by Narendra Modi has adopted a tough policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and separatism. (See page 2)

Myanmar looks for more corpses as mass grave unearthed

YANGON, Sept 25: Myanmar troops today searched for dozens of missing Hindu villagers feared dead after the discovery of a nearby mass grave of 28 corpses in Rakhine state, evidence of what the army says is a massacre by Rohingya Muslim militants.

Northern Rakhine was plunged into crisis after Rohingya militants raided police posts last month, unleashing an army crackdown that has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians.

The vast majority — more than 430,000 — are Rohingya Muslims who fled across the border to Bangladesh from a military campaign the UN says likely amounts to ethnic cleansing.

But tens of thousands of ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, and the region's small population of Hindus, have also been internally displaced, saying they were attacked by Rohingya militants.

Yesterday, Myanmar's army said it had discovered two mud pits filled with 28 Hindu corpses, including women and children, outside a village in northern Rakhine.

Hindu villagers from the area told AFP last week that Rohingya militants stormed

(See page 2)

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Draft Bill against bandhs, strikes almost ready

Punitive action on bandh callers, participants suggested

SANJOY RAY

pulsive action against those calling bandhs, strikes or blockades.

Official sources told *The Assam Tribune* that consultations with all the line departments is all set to place the legislative draft proposal of 'The Assam Prevention of Unconstitutional Bandh Bill' in the next Cabinet meeting for its approval.

"Apart from imposition of fine, the violator would also be responsible for any kind of losses caused or damage inflicted on public and private property," sources said out.

Once the Cabinet approves the draft Bill, it would be tabled before the State Assembly. (See page 2)

bly in the next session for approval to make the anti-bandh law a reality in Assam.

Principal Secretary, Home and Political, LS Changsan told this reporter that the draft Bill may be placed in the next Cabinet meeting for its approval.

"The department has worked meticulously on the draft. It is a very important Bill directly related to security of human life and property, besides huge revenue loss caused to the State revenue. Bandh will be unconstitutional as per the proposed law," Changsan said.

The Gauhati High Court had

(See page 2)

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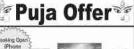
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EC asks parties to file no dues certificate

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: All recognised national and state parties will now have to submit an annual report to the Election Commission. Currently, there are no dues pending in the form of rent for occupying government premises, telephone, electricity and water bills. But the commission has not made clear as to what ac-

tion it would initiate against parties failing to file the report.

The report for a particular financial year should be submitted by June 30 of the following year.

"The Commission has directed that all recognised national and state political parties which are in occupation of accommodation provided by the govern-

ment for running their party office or for any other purpose, shall submit report to the commission on annual basis."

"The concerned political parties shall submit that they are not in arrears of any dues to the government on account of rent for the accommodation occupied by them and for services such as

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly.

— THOMAS PAINE

The Assam Tribune**Right turn**

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany has emerged somewhat bruised and battered from an election fray, yet victorious. The general elections were crucial not only for Germany but also the European Union. The isolationist stance adopted by the US and Britain's exit had created a vacuum, investing Merkel with the responsibility of providing the Union with a stabilizing leadership. Her humanitarian gesture of giving shelter to around a million immigrant refugees had created a backlash within her country and there had been apprehension that she might not get a fourth term. Though this did not happen, yet the backlash manifested itself in the outcome. Her Conservative Party secured just 33.2% of the votes cast, its lowest in the last seven decades since elections were held in post-World War Germany. Her main rival, the Social Democratic Party, fared even worse, getting barely 20.8%. Thus almost half of Germans who voted had rejected the two main entities which have dominated the German political landscape since the 1940s. On the other hand, the far right party, the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AFD), received an astounding 13.1% of the votes, which will enable it to enter the German Parliament for the first time in contemporary history. The AFD's success is likely to make Merkel rethink her liberal policies. She has already stated that she would address the concerns of voters who had repudiated her party.

The rise of the far right has been a phenomenon almost all over Europe. Just a few months back during the French Presidential elections, liberal elements had expressed similar apprehension that the National Front Leader Le Pen might secure an upset victory. But finally French liberalism prevailed with the win of Emmanuel Macron. The German elections have clearly revealed that the nation is taking a right turn. The problem for Merkel is that the results have left her politically weaker at a time others are looking up to her as a leader who can stem the inexorable advance of the ultra-right. During her last tenure she ran a coalition Government with Social Democrats, but the latter has this time around decided to sit in the Opposition benches. Thus Merkel has to look for alternative partners in the Free Democrats Party and the Green Party. Both these have liberal leanings and might, in fact, back away if Merkel adopts a please-all strategy, thereby leaving her Government vulnerable. Simultaneously, Merkel will have to play a leading role in the Brexit negotiations and will be hampered by any hint of instability at home. However, she has had a long innings and is a wily politician and no doubt will bring all her experience into play. As in France the German elections have shown a highly polarized society and her first job would be to combat this.

A doyen departs

With the passing away of Abdul Majid, the State has lost one of its cultural icons and the resultant void would be hard to fill. An acclaimed actor and director who is best remembered for the epoch-making *Chameli Mensab* (1975), Majid stamped his authority and ingenuity in the annals of Assamese film industry in a career that spanned over half a century. As a person too, Majid exuded the air of a perfect gentleman and it is this blend of artistic creativity and a down-to-earth persona – a rare combination in today's glamour-driven cultural world – that endeared him to the masses. He was an inborn actor and it was natural that he would take the call from the fascinating world of historians at an early age. The industrious cultural organizer that he was, Majid formed the Krishni Kendra at Jorhat while still in his teens and a few years later the Milti Silpi Samaj, which played a key role in promoting Assamese cinema and drama. It was due to the committed involvement of the Samaj that facilitated the making of the first President Silver Medal-winning Assamese film *Ranga Police* (1958) directed by Nip Baruah. A young Majid also made his maiden film appearance in this movie and his role as a negative character drew both popular and critical acclaim. There was no looking back for Majid since and he went on to act in a large number of films, with *Sat Nambaror Sandhankar* (2016) being his last. Although he portrayed several well-remembered negative characters, Majid was a versatile artiste who could do justice to any type of portrayal – something testified to by his effortless rendering of roles of diverse and demanding characters. The director within the actor also blossomed simultaneously, as he successfully directed a number of films besides TV serials and documentaries. *Chameli Mensab* was his most acclaimed venture and it went on to win the award for the best regional film in the National Film Festival. The soulful music scored by Dr Bhupen Hazarika was another highlight of the film, earning for the maestro the best music director honour. Majid also essayed the role of an eccentric tea-tribe character 'Monglu' to perfection in the film.

Films apart, stage drama was another area that brought out the best in Majid. He acted in innumerable plays including many in mobile theatres such as Aradhana, Awahan, Kohinoor, Indradhanu, Ason Star, Purvajyoti, etc., for several decades. He used to be a role model for aspiring actors and always encouraged newcomers, Jatin Bora, the most popular Assamese actor of present times, got his first break in the Majid-directed *Uttar Kaal*. His work ethics, discipline and dedication have been well known, and will continue to be a beacon for young artists. An artiste with a sense of social responsibility, Majid has also been an enduring symbol of the time-tested tolerance and pluralism of the Assamese society.

The quest for a better life**The Beaten TRACK**

DN Bezboruah

Ever since human progress made remarkable strides in some countries, there has been an urge among the more enterprising and adventurous people to migrate to such countries in the hope of a better quality of life. In the beginning, there was some hesitation about migrating to a country where the language was different. But this was an impediment only in the case of some. For the more enterprising lot even the need to learn a different language was no impediment in the outcome. Her Conservative Party secured just 33.2% of the votes cast, its lowest in the last seven decades since elections were held in post-World War Germany. Her main rival, the Social Democratic Party, fared even worse, getting barely 20.8%. Thus almost half of Germans who voted had rejected the two main entities which have dominated the German political landscape since the 1940s. On the other hand, the far right party, the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AFD), received an astounding 13.1% of the votes, which will enable it to enter the German Parliament for the first time in contemporary history. The AFD's success is likely to make Merkel rethink her liberal policies. She has already stated that she would address the concerns of voters who had repudiated her party.

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For centuries, European countries

had to contend with migration only from other European countries. The exception was migration from some central Asian Islamic countries. Spain seems to have had more of this than other European countries. It was mainly after large-scale migration of polyandrous Islamic people that European countries began to experience the impact of major threats to their culture and ethnic identities. Even a country like Germany witnessed the building of more mosques than churches in a time-span of about half-a-century. For several European countries, their liberal attitudes towards migration from other countries has proved to be their undoing. They are beginning to experience the hazardous outcomes of such generosity rather belatedly.

As I said at the beginning, migration generally takes place from a less developed country to a more developed one because the objective of all human beings is to improve their conditions and styles of living. We are obviously not talking of developers who move into underdeveloped places and proceed to develop them. They are a rare and totally different breed of migrants. They are generally the harbingers of change. For centuries, immigrants to European countries from outside Europe remained conspicuous and easily identifiable. But with rapidly increasing numbers and inter-marriages, it became increasingly difficult to identify immigrants. In Asian countries, where immigrants were from neighbouring countries and had the same skin colour and spoke languages with minor differences, it was

often impossible to identify the immigrant. And one important reason for this difficulty of identifying the immigrants was their number. In Asian countries, immigration was often triggered by great pressures on living space and for even marginal improvements in living conditions or incomes. About 30 years ago, I encountered a bureaucrat from Bangladesh who insisted that his compatriots in Dhaka were quite well off and would have no earthly reasons

of India, for example. For 22 years, India had two immigration laws – one exclusively for Assam, called the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, and the other called the Foreigners Act, 1946 for the rest of the country. But this is not all. There is a marked difference between how India's western and eastern borders are guarded. The western border between India and Pakistan is a closed, well-guarded border while the eastern border between India and Bangladesh is a virtually open, unguarded border signaling an open invitation to Bangladeshi farmers to graze their cattle on Indian soil. At some places along the border, people had to just look left and right to see that there were no BSF jawans around before stepping across the border into the other country. Things are very different in most advanced countries. There is

a concerted effort to keep foreigners without proper travel documents out. In sharp contrast, Assam has been significantly lax about the entry of foreigners into the State.

to migrate to Assam. I was not familiar with Bangladesh, but had seen many number of Bangladeshis in Assam. I had a fair idea of their economic condition as well their capacity for hard work. I did not need anyone to tell me that Dhaka was not all of Bangladesh and that there were people in the rest of Bangladesh who felt impelled to migrate to Assam because the prospects of a slightly better standard of living in Assam were undeniably bright. And no wonder there has been a migration of around five million people from Bangladesh to Assam in a little more than half a century.

In almost all Asian countries, immigration is a relatively easier undertaking than in the rest of the world because of lax legislation relating to immigration. Take the case

of a concerted effort to keep foreigners without proper travel documents out. In sharp contrast, Assam has been significantly lax about the entry of foreigners into the State. We all look back to the Assam Movement against foreign nationals living illegally in the State which installed the AGP in power. Quite naturally, one of the principal responsibilities of the AGP was to detect and deport as many illegal migrants from other countries (mainly Bangladesh) as possible. The AGP got down to the task with commendable sincerity. In the first five years of AGP rule, 12,178 aliens were detected and deported. In fact, in the very first year of AGP rule, 1,142 aliens were deported from Assam. However, in the next five years of Congress rule, the number of aliens deported came

down to 8,822. In 1996, when the AGP came to power for second time, people had reasons to hope that the number of deportations of Bangladeshi nationals would increase. But during the second five-year stint of the AGP only 4,778 foreigners were deported. Between 2001 and 2005 (the first five years of Tarun Gogoi's Congress rule), only 1,734 foreigners were deported. This number further declined to 780 during the next five years (2006 to 2010) of the Tarun Gogoi government. Thereafter, between 2011 and 2015, the number of foreigners deported declined drastically to just 265. In fact, in the year 2015, just one foreigner was deported!

The objectives of the illegal migrants and of the government concerned are bound to be at cross purposes. All over the world, the illegal migrant is bound to explore every possible means of getting into the country of his choice, and the government concerned is duty-bound to prevent all such attempts. But the success rate seems to be higher among illegal migrants. Apart from examples near home, there are the typical examples of the success rates of Mexicans routinely entering the United States without travel documents and North Koreans getting into South Korea in a clandestine manner. In most cases, the failure of immigration officials to prevent such illegal migration may be attributed largely to inefficiency and corrupt practices. In fact, whenever there is a sharp decline in the detection of illegal migration and the deportation of such migrants, there is legitimate reason to attribute this to bribery. Eternal vigilance (which is said to be the price of democracy) of committed citizens is perhaps the only means of achieving the desired objective of preventing illegal immigration.

Durga Puja: rejuvenation of family values

■ Debamoy Ghosh

In autumn, the Durga Puja brings us the celebration of family values and culture. Ma Durga's mantra of invocation describes her as 'debeshi bhaktisubhobhorrushononute' which means the goddess who coordinates the family. Another part of the same mantra says, 'yaideb pujoishwami tabolung sushtira khob'. It means 'kindly be merciful enough to stay static as long as she would be worshipped'.

In the mid-autumn, the Goddess comes to the heart of the people across Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya and many other places as a daughter returning to her father's home from her in-law's house. And she is not alone; rather she has come with her family – two sons Kartik and Ganesha, and two daughters Lakshmi and Saraswati. The conventional Durga idol which is the symbol of a strong family bonding reflects family values and the sense of joint family culture in our society, where a woman, a mother of four children, is seen

coming to her father's place on a vacation. The nature has also taken a new look on her arrival as it brings festivity in the air. It is a true home coming for a daughter after a year.

This everlasting concept of family values takes us back to those days when family meant everything to us. A father who earned food for us, a mother who nurtured the family, helped us to grow bigger and independent. Their sacrifices made us stand firm to fight the daily struggle. They taught us how to deal with difficult situations in life with fearless mind with the head held high. The decline in family values and tradition makes the worship of mother goddess Durga more relevant today. Many mourn the loss of joy and togetherness in households. Families today are just a breed or species minus the warmth and unity of a decade or two ago.

The idol of Ma Durga, which is usually found in Bengal consists of seven other idols along with it. The same structure, reflecting family

bonding, is also common in other parts of eastern and north-eastern India as well as in Bangladesh. The Goddess is seen in the middle of the structure and her children are placed on both the flanks. Ganesha is placed a little below than Lakshmi on the right side of Durga. Kartik is positioned below Saraswati similarly on her left. The great lion is placed on the one side of the structure, the other side, the demon, Mahishasura can be seen. The right leg of the goddess is placed on the back of the lion and her beautiful fingers of the left leg are placed on the shoulder of Mahishasura. In our patriarchal society, the role of the father is also imperative. The image of Mahadev above the Ma Durga idol signifies a father's role in his family.

But who is Ma Durga? What is her identity? The ancient Hindu scriptures say; the word Durga conveys many meanings. Durga is she who is unknowable or incomprehensible. It is only possible to know her if she is kind enough to her devotees. Durga is she, who saves the mankind from evil, obstacle, dis-

ease, sin, fear and enemy. She, who contains the strength of universe as well as a loving mother, saves her children. The mother goddess is also depicted as a warrior woman with different arms in her ten hands. Riding on the great lion, she eliminates Mahishasura to protect the universe from evil force. The lion is a symbol of kingship which signifies a superpower. Devi, who is also known as Mahamaya, kept the great lion with her in the war against Mahishasura.

The struggle of divine power with evil force is eternal, prevalent in and outside of our soul. Thus, the evil force is also part of our daily lifestyle. Arrogance, boast, vanity, egotism, anger, cruelty and ignorance are actually evil traits living in our soul. On the other hand, courage, good behaviour, knowledge, charity, self-control, worship, simplicity, non-violence, free of anger, love for animals, amity and sacrifice are some qualities which bring divinity to a common man. Mahishasura signifies the evil traits that are perilous for peace and tranquility in the uni-

verse. The evil force may acquire power but it is wrongly directed and harmful to mankind. The mother goddess brings divinity into the minds of the common people to eliminate the malevolence.

Her children have different significance in human life. Devi Lakshmi symbolizes the growth and development. She characterizes the wealth and knowledge. According to Hindu scriptures, Lakshmi is not only worshipped for wealth, but to keep the good sense in mind and lead an honest and meaningful life. It is said that the person who is lack of moral character is far away from Lakshmi. Ganesh is worshipped for the fulfilment of one's sincere desire. This is the reason that he is called as Siddhidatta. Devi Saraswati gives us learning, education and knowledge, whereas Kartik is a warrior prince and the symbol of good looks, vigour and bravery.

The mother goddess, who is seen standing with her family, is the ultimate source of power. Her appearance depicts strong bonding of a family where collective force can win any obstacles or evil.

Letters to the EDITOR

Letters to the EDITOR

Modi skirting key issues, alleges Gogoi

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is adopting diversionary tactics to shift the attention of the voters away from issues of concern to hide the Central government's failure on the economic front, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said here today.

Addressing a press conference, Gogoi said that Modi is indulging in 'vote bank politics' and the ruling BJP is attempting to polarise the society and create divisions on religious lines.

"They want to welcome Hindu Bangladeshis, but, at the same time, they term the Ro-

hingyas as infiltrators and ter-

rorists. What is that if not vote bank politics?" Gogoi said.

Gogoi added, "People of the country want action to tackle price rise, they want jobs to be created, agriculture to be revived and economic growth to bounce back. Modi had promised to address these issues in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Now, however, all sections including farmers, women, artisans, small traders and students are suffering. The economy is in a mess."

"So the government is trying to put a shroud over its failures. It is attacking institutions including universities and the judiciary."

Gogoi said that Modi is act-

ing as a "pracharak".

"He (Modi) continues to be a pracharak. He is still doing only publicity. There is no implementation," said Gogoi.

He also lambasted the Sarbananda Sonowal-led ministry at Dispur, saying that the people of Assam have become disenchanted with the State government.

He said that the condition of roads, bridges, hospitals and schools in the State is pathetic.

The Congress leader op-

posed the State government's reported move to issue per-

mits for opening more liquor shops across the State, ostend-

itly for enhanced revenue generation.

"Is that the only way to increase State revenue... by making people of Assam addicted to alcohol? They want to destroy Assam. Even liquor by the brand name of 'Rhino' is being allowed," said Gogoi.

He also took exception to

the State government's popu-

lation policy.

"The population policy is needed, but not to victimise people belonging to one particular religious denomination. Besides, on one hand you are introducing a population policy to control population growth of the State and on the other you

want to welcome Bangladeshi Hindus to Assam," Gogoi said.

The former Chief Minister condemned framing of charges under the National Security Act (NSA) against KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi.

"This is injustice. Democra-

cy is under threat. The govern-

ment wants to silence all voices of dissent. They want to muzzle the voices of all those who oppose the government on any issue and they want to term all opponents of the govern-

ment as 'anti-national'.

Morover they put us in jail because we opposed demonetisa-

tion. They want to beat all opponents."

Gogoi called for making pub-

lic the 'framework agreement'

signed between the Centre and the NSCN(IM) and said that the North East Democratic Al-

liance (NEDA), with Himanta Biswa Sarma as its convenor,

should clarify its stand regard-

ing the boundary of Nagaland.

He further said that there is lack of coordination among the partners of the ruling alliance at Dispur and added that the Congress' position is Assam is much better than in many other states.

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cially under Guwahati city

limits for opening more liquor

shops across the State, ostend-

itly for enhanced revenue gen-

eration.

The engineers have been

asked to ensure that the con-

tractors use only 60-70 IOC

bitumen.

The contractors have been

asked to maintain proper lay-

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and dusty surface. Need for

proper rolling by static and BM

rollers and strict supervision by

the departmental engineer during execution of the road

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Certain norms need to be

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Forecast for NE: Moderate rain/thunderstorms are very likely to occur at many places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura during night and morning. Rain/thunderstorms are very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh.

Warning: Heavy rain is very likely to occur at all places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on September 28 & 29.

Temperatures :

Max (°C) Min (°C)

Dibrugarh	32.7	24.1
Tezpur	33.8	25.7
Silchar	35.8	26.4
Dibruri	31.5	26.9
Jorhat	34.0	25.6
M L Jaborpur	34.4	25.6
Shillong	24.0	15.2
Imphal	32.2	22.6
Itanagar	33.8	22.9
Aizawl	30.4	16.6
Agartala	34.2	27.7
Kohima	26.5	15.5
Passighat	33.9	25.5
Cherrapunjee	26.2	18.0

Bhowmick case: Tripura CM to 'discuss' SIT probe with cops

AGARTALA, Sept 25: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar has told a delegation of visiting journalists he will "discuss" their demand for a SIT probe into the killing of Shantam Bhowmick with senior police officials, the government said today.

A delegation of Agartala Press Club had called on Sarkar yesterday and demanded that an SIT be formed to probe Bhowmick's death and the trial be held in a fast-track court.

Bhowmick, who worked with a TV channel in Agartala, was covering an agitation by Indigenous People's Front of Tripura in Mandai area on September 20 when he was hit from behind and abducted. He was later found with serious stab injuries and died before he could be admitted to a hospital.

Sarkar also assured the delegation he would look into the demand for setting up a fast-track court, the statement said.

The opposition Congress party has demanded a judicial inquiry into the case by a sitting high court judge. BJP's State unit has demanded a CBI inquiry.

"The State police cannot investigate impartially as the incident had occurred in the presence of police personnel," BJP spokesperson Ashok Sinha told reporters on Thursday.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the killing, police said. - PTI

NORTH EAST

Zeliang seeks tripartite ceasefire with NSCN-K

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Sept 25: Nagaland Chief Minister TR Zeliang has urged upon the leadership of Myanmar during the recently concluded NE Connectivity Summit in Kohima to bring about a ceasefire between NSCN-K, Government of India and Myanmar so that there is permanent peace and development in the two countries, a CMO press release said.

"Let us convert sanctuary of insurgents into commercial hub through peace initiative and development process. You take initiative in your country Myanmar and we will take initiative in our country," Zeliang said.

The Chief Minister told this to the Myanmar delegation while attending the NE Connectivity Summit in Kohima to seriously work together in bringing about a ceasefire between NSCN-K, Government of India and Myanmar so that there is permanent peace and development in the two countries, a CMO press release said.

Korean company keen to invest in Nagaland

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Sept 25: World's second biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, Korea Gas Corp (KOGAS), a South Korean company, has shown keen interest to explore opportunities in Nagaland and ink agreement for possible investment in limestone and also LNG import unit in the State as transit point for export to ASEAN countries.

During a meeting with Nagaland Chief Minister TR Zeliang at his residential office in Kohima yesterday, Bo Sung Cassilia Park, president, Green Energy Inc Korea, expressed

that Nagaland has huge limestone reserve in Mimi village of Kiphire district and also oil and gas fields in pockets of the State.

Giving a slide show presentation, she said, if MoU could be eventually signed, then KOGAS can employ its large LNG carriers (NICKO ship) to export limestone to ASEAN countries through waterways, informed a CMO press release.

The crushed limestone is used for road base and railroad ballast. It is also used as raw material for cement plant and manufacture of glass.

Park said the company is engaged in import, refining and export and that Nagaland would agree for business collaboration.

be the best transit point to import, refine and supply of products from Middle East to South East Asia. She also suggested obtaining NOC from land owners and geological report as negotiation is being traded.

The CM suggested the delegates to conduct survey in November and also urged them to submit the concept note of the proposal and sample letters of Government of India favouring the joint venture, Kasi Lalith, Managing Director, Kaashi Visweshwar Minerals Pvt. Ltd, a partner of KOGAS, informed the Chief Minister that Bangladesh and Malaysia have also agreed for business collaboration.

Meghalaya PSUs incur losses of over Rs 389 cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Sept 25: Meghalaya's Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), most of which are loss-making units, have not submitted their accounts to the Accountant General (AG) for the past five odd years, Tittertawrell Chynne said.

Expressing concern over the poor financial health of the PSUs, he said, as per the CAB report, these PSUs incurred an overall loss of Rs 389.50 crore.

"The committee is deeply concerned over the loss incurred by these PSUs and thereby putting a huge burden on the State exchequer," Chynne said.

The Meghalaya Transport Corporation (MTC) is one such loss-making unit which is over-staffed. The MTC runs just 64 buses, but it has 383 staff to look after these buses.

He said that the Government has planned to close down Meghalaya Electronics Development Corporation and FDC, the Meghalaya Bamboo Chips Limited has already been shut.

Proposal to upgrade medical facilities at Lengpui airport

AIZAWL, Sept 25: Mizoram Health and Family Welfare department has proposed to upgrade medical facilities in the Lengpui airport near here by declaring it a Health department duty post, an official statement today said.

According to the statement, a high-level meeting of the officials of Health and Family Welfare department, Aviation Wing and the airport security cell decided to move the government expeditiously on the issue.

Primary Health Centre (PHC) of Lengpui would be upgraded as First Referral Centre to coordinate with the Airport Medical officials.

The meeting also decided to constitute the Lengpui Airport Health Advisory Committee which would oversee medical activities at the airport. - PTI

"These three units (MTDC, FDC, MGCC) have, however, not submitted their accounts for the PSU's performance.

Out of these PSUs, Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), Forest Development Corporation (FDC) and Meghalaya Government Construction Corporation Limited (MGCC) have been able to register profits and rest are incurring huge losses.

"These three units (MTDC, FDC, MGCC) have, however, not submitted their accounts for the PSU's performance.

"The State police cannot investigate impartially as the incident had occurred in the presence of police personnel," BJP spokesperson Ashok Sinha told reporters on Thursday.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the killing, police said. - PTI



Young boys and girls performing Wangala dance during the Invitational Football tournament at Rangsakona in South East Garo Hills district of Meghalaya on Monday. - UB Photos

SC directs MBBS admission of two colour-blind Tripura students

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Supreme Court has opened the door for colour-blind students to pursue MBBS course by ordering the admission of two such candidates from Tripura, who have scored high marks in the entrance examination, for the next academic year.

Terming its action as "transcendental importance of justice", the apex court said that peculiar facts and circumstances of the case required it to invoke special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

The two students had secured high marks in the entrance examination conducted

by Tripura Government in 2015 during the pre-NET period.

Without any statutory provision barring students from pursuing MBBS course, various colleges and Medical Council of India (MCI) were arbitrarily denying admissions to candidates suffering from Colour Vision Deficiency (CVD), popularly called colour blindness.

Both MCI and Tripura Medical College had initially objected to their admission into MBBS course as the two students suffered from CVD despite having qualified in the entrance examination.

"Keeping in view the trans-

iential importance of justice which is writ large in this case, we direct that the appellants shall be admitted in the MBBS course in the respondent No 2 College for the academic year 2018-2019 and the quota from the said year shall be reduced by two seats," a Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said.

The Bench, also comprising Justices Amitava Roy and AM Khanwilkar said, "we may add to add that we have used the words 'transcendental importance of justice,' as it conveys that we are invoking our jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitu-

tion in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case".

The apex court had on March 23 constituted an experts committee to ascertain whether colour blindness affected the prospects of students aspiring to become doctors.

The expert committee constituted by the court comprised doctors from AIIMS and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh and views of various curia senior advocate KV Vishwanathan assisted by advocate Shoeb Alam were also taken.

"The expert committee

shall review the situation and take note of the prevalent conditions of the study and practice and suggest changes for adoption in the medical course keeping in view the international practices," the Bench had said while directing the constitution of the committee.

In its report, the committee had opined that 'Colour Vision Deficiency does not have any embargo of any type whatsoever' and suggested the incorporation of a suitable provision in the Graduate Medical Education to the effect that a person with visual disability of category I and above shall not be

eligible to pursue Graduate Medical Education.

It had also recommended the "testing of Colour Vision Deficiency by Ishihara test be compulsorily incorporated in the format of General Physical Examination of the student, so that all medical students with suspect colour vision should be aware of severity of their deficiency before entering the medical course, and the kind of problems it may pose in the career they have opted".

The committee had also said that as per current global practices, there was no policy of regulating entry of medical aspirants to study and practice of the medical profession based on colour vision deficiency.

It has said that CVD nowadays was a common problem and does not significantly impact a person's ability to become a doctor.

The MCI had objected to the admission of students with CVD in MBBS course, in the wake of report of the expert committee. It had said that certain guidelines are required to be framed in accordance with the report of the Committee for controlling speciality and super-speciality courses as far as the CVD category is concerned.

The bench had on July 31 asked the MCI to apprise it whether the students could be admitted to MBBS course.

Both the students had initially challenged the denial of admission by the college during counselling in 2015 before Tripura High Court, but had failed to get any relief.

The students then moved apex court challenging the high court order saying the MCI had not framed any regulation debarring them from seeking admission and contending that denial of admission to them constituted violation of the constitutional guarantee of equality. - PTI

Khandu orders probe into student's death

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Sept 25: Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu, while expressing deep shock over the recovery on Sunday of a young student's decomposed body near JNV Tawang, today ordered for a thorough enquiry into the incident that led to the death of Tako Yame.

The victim, a native of Bana village in East Kameng district and 12th standard Science student of Tawang Govt Higher Secondary School, went missing

after a quarrel among students on September 16 last. A massive search operation was conducted by the district administration and locals. His decomposed body was recovered from the Biga bridge waterfall near JNV Tawang yesterday after nine days of search.

Conveying his deep sense of condolence to the bereaved family members, Khandu said that the State Government will ensure that timely justice is delivered to the aggrieved family. The Chief Minister also is

sued directives to the Home department to beef up security in the area to check recurrence of such incidents.

CBI inquiry demanded: Meanwhile, alleging that the murder of the young student was pre-planned and cold-blooded, Kurum Kumey Zilla Parishad Chairperson Sangha Tagk, in a letter to Home Minister, demanded the State Govt to recommend for a CBI probe or institute a SIT probe to unravel the truth behind the incident and bring the culprits to book.



A curtain raiser of Air Show programme held on the occasion of Air Force Day to be celebrated from September 30, in Upper Shillong on Monday. - UB Photos

Over 70 butterfly species spotted during Ziro Butterfly Meet

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Sept 25: More than 70 different species of butterflies were spotted and photographed during the 4th Ziro Butterfly Meet conducted at Pangi, Talle Wildlife Sanctuary under Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. The four-day meet concluded today.

Event organisers informed that the key sight included rediscovery of Giant Hopper (*Apostropheus fuliginosus*), which is assumed to be the first live photograph in India and the first to be recorded from Arunachal Pradesh. The species is reported to be very rare and so far, there has been no live photograph.

The species was sighted on the inaugural day at Pangi Camp at an elevation of



Giant Hopper

Participants were Bhutan Glory, Brown Gorget, Manipur Jeunequeen, Scarce Blue Oakleaf, Yellow Owl, etc., and the moth mimicking Bhutan Glory (Apatanii Glory).

Organised by Nguini Ziro, a local NGO

in collaboration with the Departments of

Forests & Environment and Tourism, Butterflies of NE India Group, ATREE (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment) and BAMOS Nature Conservation Society of Sikkim, the four-day event had the participation of young butterfly enthusiasts from the host district including members of Apatani Students Union and Ziro Biodiversity Management Committee. Lower Subansiri DC Kemo Lollen and DFO of Hopoli Division, Koj Rinya attended the meet.

During the meet, Nawang G Bhutia was felicitated by Nguini Ziro for entering Limca Book of Records for India on August 21 last for attracting maximum butterfly species to sit on his finger. On the concluding day, Yazali was declared to be the venue for the 5th Ziro Butterfly Meet 2018.

Bomb explodes in Imphal

NENMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, Sept 25: A low intensity bomb exploded at Mantripukhri in Imphal East district in the wee hours of Monday. However, there was no casualty.

The blast went off around 2 am at Mercyclane in Mantripukhri, damaging slightly the outer wall of a residential building.

On September 16, four persons got hurt when unidentified persons lobbed a grenade in the lawn of a building of one Mukesh K Sharma at Mantripukhri.

Rape accused arrested in Garo Hills

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, Sept 25: Sanjib Arengh, an accused in the kidnap and rape of a 12-year-old girl from Konchikol Apal Rajasimha under Kharkuta Police Station in North Garo Hills, was arrested early this morning when he allegedly went home.

The accused had allegedly waylaid the minor girl he knew, while she was on her way to school and raped her. He had even offered her Rs 50 to keep silent on the matter while also threatening the girl with dire consequences if she revealed the matter to anyone. The incident occurred on September 22.

Once the incident became public, the culprit fled fearing retribution from villagers as well as a lookout notice by the police. He had abandoned his motorcycle before fleeing into the jungle. Arengh had since been on the run. A man hunt was organised by police as well as locals though he was able to evade capture until his arrest at about 2 am this morning.

Govt taking steps to boost economy: Jaitley

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Acknowledging the dip in the country's growth rate, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said that the government was in the process of undertaking measures to change the "environment" and provide a boost to the Indian economy.

The growth rate has been fine except in the last quarter, where there has been a little dip in the GDP growth rate. During April-June, services sector improved, but

manufacturing brought it (growth down," he told reporters at the ongoing BJP National Executive Meet.

Pulled down by sluggish manufacturing, growth in the

I n d i a n economy in the first

Dip in GDP growth rate

This (low growth is due to three factors – low investment by private sector, which is also related to the ability of banks to support growth. Since GST (goods and services tax) was announced

to be rolled out from July 1, de-stocking took place in June and July. It resulted in higher sales, so services in fact went up," he said.

The government is said to

be considering a financial stimulus package following a sharp fall in latest key macro indicators such as the gross domestic product (GDP) and industrial production as well as a widening current account deficit.

On September 19, Jaitley

had chaired a high-level meeting to review the economic situation and possibly discuss a financial stimulus package as the remedy for falling growth rate. The meeting was attended by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu, Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian and Secretaries in the Finance Ministry – Ashok Lavasa, Subhash Chandra Garg, Hasmukh Adhia, Rajiv Kumar and Neeraj Kumar Gupta. – IANS

CAPSULE

Endeavour price hiked

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Auto-maker Ford India has raised prices of its premium SUV Endeavour by up to Rs 1.8 lakh following hike in GST rates. "The price of Endeavour has gone up in the range of Rs 1.2 lakh to Re 1.8 lakh depending on the variant," a company spokesperson said. The GST cess impact on company's other models has not been much, the spokesperson added. – PTI

New Maruti S-Cross bookings

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has opened bookings for the new version of S-Cross, which it plans to launch later this week. The new S-Cross can be booked with an initial payment of Rs 10,000 along with the 280-plus Nexa showrooms. MSI said in a statement today. The model would feature 1.3 litre diesel engine (IDIS 200) with smart hybrid technology. – PTI

Reebok India

BENGALURU, Sept 25: Reebok India today said the company is expecting a licence probably in one or two months over its application seeking government approval for 100 per cent FDI to open company-owned stores. "We (Reebok India Company) will get the licence may be soon, perhaps, in one or two months from now. You never know in India, but yes, we are waiting for the response from the government," Senior Marketing Director Silvia Tallon told PTI.

OKWU Sigma

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Mobility start-up company OKWU launched its latest smartphone Sigma here on Saturday. The smartphone, which comes as a follow-up to the successful Omicron model, was unveiled by Arjun Gupta, COO and Co-Managing Director, OKWU and Shakti Mochari, Regional Sales Head, Assam and North-east, a press release said.

Home decor store

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Wall Studio 21, a brand store for home smart solutions, opened its first showroom here on Sunday at Roodroorhat Market Road. A first of its kind in the North-east, the showroom will offer stylish home decor products and accessories from global brands such as Mafra, Kairos, Nextime, Haoshi, Karlsson, Progetti along with ethnic Indian Fusion wall and designer accessories, a press release stated.

Puja dishes at Taj

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: To mark Durga Puja celebrations, Vivanta by Taj has arranged for tasty dishes specially crafted for the festival. The dishes will be available during September 26-30 in restaurant 7. The dishes will be prepared under the direction of new executive chef Dipankar Paul, who has joined her from Taj Exotica, Goa recently, a press release said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Board of Directors of ONGC & ONGC Videsh Ltd, at a function, at Deendayal Urja Bhawan, in New Delhi on Monday. Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State (i/c) for Power and New and Renewable Energy Raj Kumar Singh are also seen. – PIB

Renault unveils Captur; launch in Oct

DEVAJIT CHAYENGA

SOUTH GOA, Sept 25: Global French automobile company Renault, the seventh largest car-maker in India, heralded its return to the "innovative and disruptive" market moves when it unveiled last Friday its latest product in India, the globally successful "premium SUV with a strong crossover DNA" – Renault Captur before a select media gathering here.

With an eye on the festive season launch, Renault India also announced opening of bookings for this latest entrant in the C-SUV category on the Renault Captur app and Renault India website at an initial booking amount of Rs 25,000.

Speaking at the glittering unveiling event, Sumit Sawhney, Country CEO and Managing Director, Renault India Operations, said: "Over the last five years, Renault has taken significant steps to expand its presence in India. The launch of Renault Captur is a significant step in Renault's growth journey in the country. Renault Captur exemplifies company's product strategy for India which is to launch products that create a unique vehicle class, while ticking all the right boxes in terms of design, features, technology and value."

Speaking about Renault India's strategic positioning in the country, he said, "Our



Sumit Sawhney (L), Country CEO and MD, Renault India, poses with the car.

growth strategy hinges strongly on launching products that cater to the volume and growing segments of the Indian automotive industry. Over the last few years, SUV sales are growing exponentially, making it the fastest growing segment in India. Renault Captur is a globally successful premium SUV that is widely acclaimed for its stunning expressive design, premium class-leading features and for its high scope for personalisation."

Already present in 75 countries with a million-plus sales figures, the most premium 'Platine' version of Renault Captur is being brought to the country with a lot of India-specific modifications, making it

Bookings open

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Telecom operators have requested the sector regulator TRAI to defer new call drop rules by six months in order to tune up the network as per the new norms.

"We have written to TRAI that give us two quarters to actually tune networks to implement the new regulation. TRAI has said that they would consider it. However, the regulator has not come back to us. It is a measurement issue. We are facing problem in getting

the right space for installing cell towers," COAI Director General Rajan S Mathews told reporters. He was speaking on the sidelines of curtain raiser of the New call drop rules

three-day industry event India Mobile Congress, starting from September 27 in Delhi. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on August 18 issued stricter version of quality of service rules which will come into effect from October 1. Under the new rule, penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh will be imposed if telecom operators fail to meet call drop benchmark and call drop will be measured at mobile tower level instead of telecom circle. Mathews said in States like Delhi the telecom companies have gone in court against local civic bodies to get space for mobile towers at reasonable terms. – PTI

of Yemen, the country of birth. Balkrishna, CEO of Patanjali, is now among the top 10 rich people in the country. Damani, the new retail king of D-Mart, is the biggest gainer with wealth increase of 320 per cent. The blockbuster listing of Avenue Supermarts, also added eight new entries in the rich list," Hurun said in a statement.

A massive rally in the stock market and the resultant jump in Reliance stocks saw the wealth of Ambani shooting up by a massive 58 per cent to Rs 2.57 trillion this year, says the report which is into the sixth year.

Ambani retains the richest Indian title for the sixth year running and this year he has climbed to top 15 in the Hurun rich list for the first time. His wealth is 50 per cent more than the GDP

Jain and family of Endurance Tech with a rise of 286 per cent.

At 34, Divyank Turakhia of Media.NET is the youngest self-made billionaire. He joins five other self-made individuals under-40, all from new technology businesses.

The 42-year-old Bengaluru-based Ambiga Subramanian is the youngest self-made woman in the list. She sold her shares in Mu Sigma, the data analytics unicorn that she co-founded. There are 51 women in the rich list this year.

The cut-off to top 100 has more than doubled to Re 4,400 crore since 2013. There are 136 billionaires this year, a record since the inception of Hurun Rich List in 2012. – PTI

Balkrishna, Damani in Hurun Rich List

MUMBAI, Sept 25: Acharya Balkrishna, the head of yoga expert Baba Ramdev-run FMCG company Patanjali and Radhakishan Damani of D-Mart have found their place along with Mukesh Ambani in the Hurun India Rich List 2017. A massive rally in the stock market and the resultant jump in Reliance stocks saw the wealth of Ambani shooting up by a massive 58 per cent to Rs 2.57 trillion this year, says the report which is into the sixth year.

Ambani retains the richest Indian title for the sixth year running and this year he has climbed to top 15 in the Hurun rich list for the first time. His wealth is 50 per cent more than the GDP

ADVERTISEMENT

Walk-in interview has been fixed by the following Institutions for filling up the following vacant posts under Assam State AIDS Control Society on the date as mentioned against the Institutions. The selected candidate will be appointed on contractual basis in ART/ FIART Centres for a period of up to 31.12.2017 and may be extended based on performance appraisal as per the terms of reference of the concerned institution.

If the number of candidates exceeds 10 for particular posts then written test will be conducted on the same day and aptitude will be given due weightage in the selection process. The institution will send the list of selected candidates to the Assam State AIDS Control Society for their information; however the appointment, yearly appraisal and contract renewal will be done by the institution every financial year.

For more details of qualification and other necessary information please visit www.assamstateaids.org

No	Name of the Institution and Venue	Name of the Post	No. of Post (Rs)	Consolidated Pay	Date of Walk-in Interview
1	Office of the Principal cum Chief Superintendent Guwahati Medical College & Hospital Bongaigaon, Guwahati, Assam 781022	Staff Nurse	1	13,000/-pm	04/10/2017
		Care Coordinator	1	6000/-pm	
2	Office of the Superintendent, B.C.P Civil Hospital, Nagpur, Assam	Medical Officer	1	36,000/-pm	05/10/2017
3	Office of the Principal cum Chief Superintendent Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat, Assam 785001	Senior Medical Officer	1	45,000/-pm	06/10/2017
4	Office of the Principal cum Chief Superintendent Silchar Medical College & Hospital, Silchar	Counselor	1	13,000/-pm	16/10/2017
		Data Manager	1	13,000/-pm	
5	Office of the Principal cum Chief Superintendent Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur Bihag-784153 Assam	Counselor	1	13,000/-pm	24/10/2017
		Pharmacist	1	13,000/-pm	
		Care Coordinator	1	6000/-pm	
		Senior Medical Officer	1	45,000/-pm	25/10/2017
		Data Manager	1	13,000/-pm	

Sd/- Director
Assam State AIDS Control Society
Khanapara, Guwahati-781022

Janasanyog/DF/1299/17

DME/299/2016/11843

RE-TENDER INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

RE-Tender are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for supply and installation of various Equipments/Machines for 200 Bedded Cancer Hospital of GMCH, Guwahati and other Medical College Hospitals of Assam, under the Health & FW Department, Govt. of Assam. E-tender in bid Bid System affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight point five paisa) only for (local Tenderers) or IPD of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only in case of Tenders from outside of the State of Assam in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam Sixmille, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

IMPORTANT DATES OF THE E-TENDER

Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	e-Tender Publishing	26.09.2017	11.00 AM		
2	e-Tender Download	26.09.2017	11.00 AM	16.10.2017	12.00 Noon
3	Pre-Bid meeting	Details in the tender			
4	Bid Submission	10.10.2017	12.00 Noon	16.10.2017	1.00 PM

Brief Schedule

Sl. No.	Description (Name of Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/Installation Schedule/Completion period	Tender Fees	Eligibility
1	Details of the 11 nos. item list may please be seen in the e-tender.	5.00 lakhs	25 days	Rs. 5,000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited dealer

The detailed information of bidding documents is available online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement may obtain the same by registering in the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favor of the "Director of Medical Education, Assam Sixmille, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022, at SBI-Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DATA ENTRY OPERATOR

Dated: 22.09.2017

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates, who are citizens of India as defined in Article 5 and 6 of the Constitution of India in Standard Form as published in Part-IX of the Assam Gazette with self-Attested copies of all testimonials in support of age, educational qualification, caste, experience, if any, along with 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs for engagement of 1 (one) number of post of Data Entry Operator under the office of the District Legal Services Authority, Lakhimpur, North-Lakhimpur on contractual basis.

Name of the post	No. of post/Category	Educational Qualification	Selection criterion	Consolidated Pay
Data Entry Operator	1 (One) Unreserved	Higher Secondary with 6 (six)months Diploma/Certificate in Computer proficiency from a recognized Institute	Written Test, Computer Skill test and viva-voce/Oral interview	Rs. 12,000/- (Rupees twelve Thousand and only per month to be incurred from the NALSA Fund

The engagement of contractual staff shall be for a period of one year from the date of signing of the contract by the person engaged on contractual basis under the following terms and conditions

- After expiry of the contract period of one year the contractual engagement will automatically stand terminated.
- If the services of the contractual staff are required beyond the contractual period of one year the Assam State Legal Services Authority/District Legal Service Authority, Lakhimpur may re-engage the said contractual staff afresh for such other period which shall not exceed one year at a time, subject to the approval of Hon'ble Executive Chairman of Assam State Legal Services Authority.
- Applicant must be an Indian Citizen.
- Applications along with all testimonials pertaining to education, age, experience must reach the undersigned during the office hours within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of the Advertisement latest by 24.10.2017.
- The name of the candidate must be registered with any of the Employment Exchange of the State of Assam.
- The candidate should not be less than 21 years and more than 43 years of age as on 1.1.2017. The upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years for SC/ST candidates i.e. upto 48 years. There will also be a relaxation of upper age limit in respect of persons with disability by 5 years i.e. upto 48 years. The age limit of the candidate will be calculated on the basis of matriculation/HSLC. Admit Card/Certificate issued by a recognized Board/Council and no other document shall be accepted in lieu thereof for the purpose.
- One self addressed envelope of 5 cm x 11 cm affixing postal stamp of Rs. 5 (five) only is to be enclosed with the application alongwith Mobile Number, if any.
- Applicants, who are already in service should submit their application through proper channel with no objection certificate from his/her employer.
- List of the eligible candidates for Written Test, the date, time and venue will be notified in the official Notice Board and the same also be uploaded in the official website <http://lakhimpurjudiciary.gov.in>.
- Incomplete applications will be rejected without assigning any reasons. No application shall be entertained after the last date fixed.
- No TA/DA will be entitled in appearing in the Written Test/Computer Skill Test and viva-voce/oral Interview.
- Candidates having experience in judicial/Legal works with requisite qualification as stated above shall be given due weightage.
- The applicants whose applications are found in order will be called for Written Test to be held at a place and date to be notified later on, after which the qualifying candidates in the Written Test will be further called for Computer Skill Test followed by viva-voce/oral interview.
- In case of non-receipt of Call letters, the candidates may collect the Call Letters/Admit Card from the office of the undersigned.
- Canvassing directly or indirectly will disqualify the candidature.

Sd/- District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman
District Legal Services Authority,
Lakhimpur, North-Lakhimpur, Assam

Janasanyog/DF/832/17

Police custody

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Chief Executive Officer of Mangaldai Zila Parishad Bhupesh Chandra Das, who was arrested by CMI Vigilance sleuths while taking bribe, was today produced in a court here which remanded him to four days' police custody.

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Along with the enthusiasm and fanfare, Durga Puja is poised to come with some inconvenience for commuters in the city – thanks to the puja committees which have encroached on por-

tions of the road and a callous administration which has chosen to overlook it.

The norms for obtaining NoC are being openly flouted by a number of puja committees, with little concern for the inconvenience that their action is going to cause to commuters.

A number of puja committees have erected their festooned gates and other decorations like LED boards, usurping portions of the roads, further squeezing the narrow paths of the city. In most cases, almost the entire footpath has been blocked. One puja committee has blocked the exit of a bye-lane at Rajbari.

Deputy Commissioner M Angamuthu said the administration has not given permission to anyone to encroach on the roads and block them. "If any committee has done it, we will do it unauthorised. We will check and do the needful," he said.

DCP (Traffic) Amanjeet Kaur admitted that some panchals, mostly those located along the roads, have erected their gates usurping a bit of the pathways. "We are trying to tell them to avoid it. Generally most of them are abiding. Thought the areas in and around the celebrations are bound to witness congestion due to the crowd

Meanwhile, the City Traffic

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Reference: Adv. No. SMET/TMC/Recruit/45/2013/519 dated: 21.08.2017 (Janasanyog/D/8139/17) published in major Local dailies for filling up various vacant posts in Tezpur Medical College & Hospital.

Advertisement No. SMET/TMC/Recruit/45/2013/519 dated: 21.08.2017 (Janasanyog/D/8139/17) has been reopened with the following amendments:

1. Candidates, who had already applied earlier for the posts mentioned at Sl. No. 16, 17 and 18 need not apply again.

2. All other Terms & Conditions of the advertisement shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Principal cum Chief Superintendent
Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur

No. DHTCM/C 18/2017/458
Extension of time for submission of Bid
This is for information of all concerned that the time for submission of Bids (E-tender) in separate group invited vide Press Notice No.-DHTCM/C,18/2017/345 is hereby extended upto 15.00 hrs. of 05-10-2017 due to some technical problems. Details information for Extension of time will be intimated on the website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Sd/- I/c Addl. Director,
Handloom & Textiles, Assam
Guwahati-1.

CORIGENDUM NOTICE

Reference: Adv. No. SMET/TMC/Recruit/45/2013/519 dated: 21.08.2017 (Janasanyog/D/8139/17) published in major Local dailies for filling up various vacant posts in Tezpur Medical College & Hospital.

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Sd/- Principal cum Chief Superintendent
Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Corrigendum notice for inviting tenders for the sum of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty Five only) are invited from the intending registered Suppliers/Contractors/Firms and authorized dealers for supplying of "MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES" (List Enclosed) for official use in the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Guwahati. Assam during the financial year 2017-18.

The last date of submission of proposals is 17-10-2017 up to 2.00 PM.

For details may contact the undersigned.

Sd/- District Election Officer,
Chirang

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

(2nd time)

NIT. No.; ATP/O/ASIDE/S-Device/MDTC/2011/8/PI-II/491
Assam Trade Promotion Organisation invites sealed proposals from reputed firms having wide knowledge & experience on CCTV Surveillance system (1) Supply & Installation of 1000 Channel CCTV surveillance system with operation & maintenance services (2) Supply & installation of existing CCTV surveillance system along with operation & maintenance services at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.

The last date of submission of proposals is 17-10-2017 up to 2.00 PM.

For details may contact the undersigned.

Sd/- General Manager, ATPO
Maniram Dewan Trade Centre
Beltuchi, Guwahati-35

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (E-TENDER)

e-Tenders in, 2 (two) Bid System affixing Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (or IPO of Rs. 10 in favour of "Director, WPT & BC, Assam" for bidders located outside Assam) are invited from Hon'ble Government of Assam, State Election Commission, Engineering Manufacture, Authorized Dealers/ Distributors/ Government Agencies and Govt. Registered Suppliers for fixation of suitable rates of supply of Agri Machineries for the year 2017-18. The complete e-tender documents may be obtained from the website - <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. Detailed tender documents are available at www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Janasanyog/D/753/17 Sd/- Director, WPT & BC, Assam

ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

No. 275PS/CDR-23/1/2014-2015

NOTIFICATION

In continuation of this Office Notification No. 270PSC/DR-23/1/2014-2015 dated 18.09.2017 published in the leading newspapers of Assam, it is for information of all concerned that the interview for the post of Research Assistant under P&D Deptt, earlier scheduled to be held on 06.10.2017 has been partially rescheduled as shown below. The date of interview scheduled earlier on 07.10.2017 will remain unchanged.

ANNUAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations offering non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty Five only) are invited from the intending registered Suppliers/Contractors/Firms and authorized dealers for supplying of "MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES" (List Enclosed) for official use in the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Guwahati. Assam during the financial year 2017-18.

The tender will be received by the undersigned on or before/07/10/2017 Up to 1400 Hrs. and will be opened on the same day at 1500 Hrs. in presence of the tenderer or his authorized representative who may like to be present. If the last date of receiving the tender falls on any public holiday, the subsequent working day will treat as last date of receiving the tender.

The rate of items should be mentioned clearly in both figure and words against each items alongwith quality and brand of the items. The taxes and other charges, if any, should be shown separately against each item as applicable.

Each tender should be accompanied by Earnest Money of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand only) which will be returned to the successful tenderer. Assam in the form of NSCKV/P. The Earnest Money of the unsuccessful tender will be released after finalization of the contract.

Successful tenderer will have to deposit security Money of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only by NSCKV/D duly pledged in favour of the Commissioner of Police, Guwahati, Assam which will be released on the completion of the duration of supply.

Assam Police HQ, registration Certificate, GMC Trade License, copy of the PAN Card, Last two years Audited Balance Sheet and Earnings Certificate must be furnished along with tender, otherwise the quotation will be treated as cancelled.

The successful tenderer will have to supply the indented articles within three days from the date of receipt of the supply order from the undersigned. The supplier will have to replace the rejected articles immediately at his own cost.

The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest quotation and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The tender should be superfluous tender for supply of "MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES" for the year 2017-18.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner of Police (Admin.)

Janasanyog/D/3739/17

CITY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

POLICE

Police has imposed a number of restrictions on the city roads during the puja days.

Goods-carrying vehicles will not be allowed to enter the city from 1 pm to 4 am from Jalukbari, Garchuk, Lokhara, Belota, Horigon and the Chilong side.

The DRP Road will be one-way only from the Ganesh Mandir side. There will be no entry for vehicles coming from the Zoo Road side to Ganesh Mandir.

There will be no entry on AK Azad Road from the Nepal Mandir side towards Sarabhati, on MS Road from the Shani Mandir side, on Dr JC Das Road from the Khuchbandi point, from Malgaj Chariali and the Kamakhya Railway Station level crossing, towards RKG Choudhury Road and SC Road from Kumarpur Pachali, Fatasi Ambari.

There will also be no entry on Belota-Joyanagar Road from Joyanagar Chariali to Belota Chariali, Bhetpara Chariali-Belota Chariali Road will be one-way from the Belota Chariali side. No vehicles will be allowed to enter from the Anuradha Point to Hatighar Chariali. Several bus routes have been altered accordingly.

Like last year, the inmates of old-age homes have also been invited. They will be brought by the committee members to the puja venue for paying obeisance to the deity.

The district administration has opened a control room for convenience of the public during the Durga Puja days. The control room number is 0361-2733052 and the toll-free number is 1077.

Panjabhi: The Bhartiar Kalakshetra Sarbanjan Durga Puja Committee (BKSPDC) is all set to organise the second edition of the Durga Puja with a five-day programme at Jilkha Path near the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Panjabhi.

Besides the daily puja rituals, Thijo Naam and Nagara Naam will also be held on the occasion, along with other cultural programmes. Bhog will be served to all the devotees on Saptami, Asthami and Navami.

Susuli: Like in previous years, Durga Puja will be celebrated this year at the Sunasil Kali Temple from September 26 with traditional fervour. During the Puja, Pani Tola, Kuman Puja, Arati, Naam Prasanga and other rituals will be held, stated a press release.

Majid's contributions recalled

STAFF REPORTER

petent authorities.

"Advisory on do's and don'ts during Puja has been prepared and circulated through leaflets to all the Durga Puja committees," said DC.

The district administration will also be celebrating Durga Puja for the 41st time with traditional rituals.

The five-day event will be marked by various competitions like Gosani Naam, Urali, Arati, besides Ojapali and Jatra presentations. The organising committee has made arrangements to make the festival a success, stated a press release.

Sunuali: Like in previous years, Durga Puja will be celebrated this year at the Sunasil Kali Temple from September 26 with traditional fervour. During the Puja, Pani Tola, Kuman Puja, Arati, Naam Prasanga and other rituals will be held, stated a press release.

No. AWTD/02-2017/252
EXTENSION NOTICE

The last date of submission of Bids for Procurement of Night Navigation Equipments, issued vide reference No. AWTD/02-2017/252 dated 31st July, 2017 is extended to 12th October, 2017, 3 pm.

Sd/- Director,
Inland Water Transport, Assam &
Additional State Project Director,
AIVTD Society

Janasanyog/D/1618/17

Applications are invited from Indian Citizen as defined in articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India in the prescribed Standard Form as published in Assam Gazette Part-II from the intending eligible candidates for filling up of the following vacant Grade-III sanctioned posts under the Directorate of Museums, Assam, Amburi, Guwahati-781001.

No. D.M.6141/PI/2017/3

Sd/- Director, PWD (Building), Assam, Guwahati-3

Shah slams Rahul over politics of dynasty, appeasement

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Coming down heavily on Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi, BJP president Amit Shah on Monday said his party totally opposes politics of dynasty and appeasement and only believed in politics of performance.

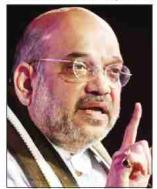
In his presidential address to the BJP national executive meeting, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cabinet ministers, MPs, MLAs and state unit chiefs, among others, Shah said the government was working towards ending the suffering of the people of the country and fighting corruption and terrorism.

Railway Minister Piyush

Goyal, who briefed the media on Shah's closed-door address to hundreds of members of the BJP national executive here, said the party president accused Gandhi of hurting the dignity of the nation by saying that dynastic politics was the way in India.

"The BJP rejects the politics of dynasty and appeasement. Condemning Gandhi's statement, the BJP president said the party believed in politics of performance and not appeasement or dynasty," Goyal said citing Shah.

"The Congress and Rahul Gandhi, both disapprove of the politics of performance but the BJP will continue to work for



the case of 'good governance and performance' in the party which helped its leaders to reach where they are today."

He said President Ram Nath

Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan – all BJP leaders – had reached their position due to their hard work despite their humble backgrounds.

Shah questioned Gandhi over scams during the UPA regime which he said were to the tune of Rs 12 lakh crore.

"What did he do against his corrupt government? They (Congress) kept the nation poor, deprived of development. Why did Rahul Gandhi allow the policy of appeasement to grow?" Shah asked.

Goyal sarcastically said Gandhi's leadership was of

BJP's interest. "We welcome political competitiveness, Rahul Gandhi in active politics is in favour of the BJP. We wish that he continues leading the Congress. The longer Gandhi practices his politics it's better for BJP."

Amid concerns over slowing economic growth, Shah lauded the government's efforts to boost the economy and heralded its actions like demonetisation and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Shah said fundamental changes in the economy would make India a world leader. "What was the state of

economy in 2014? This was acknowledged by many well-known economists. Fiscal

growth rate was about 4 to 4.5 per cent down.

"The value of rupee was also dropping. There was a policy paralysis," Shah said.

He praised every aspect of the current economy and appreciated Modi for that.

"At present, the way our government has successfully dealt with the economy could be understood by the fact that fiscal deficit has come down to 3.5 percent. Current Account Deficit is 0.6 per cent, inflation three per cent from double-digits," Shah said.

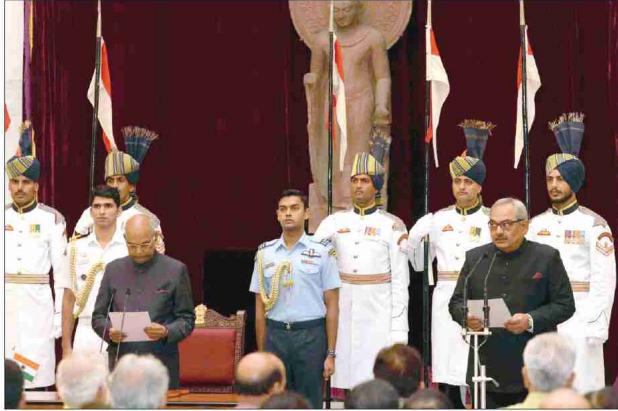
Shah spoke of demonetisation and GST, saying that there was now an environment in the country that the govern-

ment was strictly dealing with black money.

"In the past three years, there has been no time when a terrorist is not killed. Now the terrorists are running for cover and security forces have dominance," Shah said.

The BJP president also discussed the recent stand-off with China in Doklam near Sikkim and said India displayed its perseverance and decisiveness to the entire world.

Shah lauded External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's speech to the United Nations General Assembly in which she attacked Pakistan as the land of terror. – IANS



President Ram Nath Kovind administering the oath to Rajiv Mehrishi as Comptroller & Auditor General of India during the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, on Monday. – IANS

Sharad Yadav begins 2nd phase of campaign against Nitish

PATNA, Sept 25: JD-U rebel leader and former party president Sharad Yadav on Monday slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and said there is a condition like "Another Nagri Chaupat Raj" (ruler in oblivion amid chaos) in the state.

"There is a condition like 'Another Nagri Chaupat Raj' in Bihar. It was evident last week when a portion of a canal collapsed a day before it was to be inaugurated by Nitish Kumar. Rampant loot and corruption are everywhere," Sharad Yadav told media persons after landing at Patna airport from Delhi.

"Law and order has totally collapsed as reports of murder, rape and bank robbery have increased," he said.

Last month, during the first phase of campaign, he visited eight districts in Bihar, including Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Supaul and Madhepura.

Sharad Yadav is now on a four-day visit to six districts in Bihar, including Patna, Bhojpuri, Gaya, Aurangabad and Jehanabad. He is scheduled to address 29 public meetings during his visit.

Yadav reiterated that he was still with the Grand Alliance of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress. – IANS



Hundreds of his supporters, including some Janata Dal-United (JD-U) leaders, welcomed Yadav as he came out of the airport, shouting slogans in his support.

Yadav reiterated that he was still with the Grand Alliance of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress. – IANS

TN govt constitutes inquiry commission

CHENNAI, Sep 25: The Tamil Nadu government constituted today an inquiry commission headed by a retired high court judge to probe the death of then Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa nearly 10 months ago.

"To conduct inquiry and submit report on the death of former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, an inquiry commission headed by retired high court judge, Justice Arumugam, has been constituted," according to an official release here.

A government order has been issued for this purpose, it said.

On August 17, Chief Minister K Palaniswami had announced that a commission of inquiry would go into the death of Jayalalithaa.

The 68-year-old AIADMK supreme died

following a cardiac arrest on December 5 after being in hospital for 75 days.

A probe into Jayalalithaa's death was one of the demands made by then rebel leader and now Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam for the formal merger of his faction with of Palaniswami. The two factions had merged on August 21. – PTI

Terror funding

NIA quizzes trader body head, Kashmir student

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: The NIA today examined the head of a traders' body and a Kashmir University PhD student in connection with a case related to the funding of terror activities in Kashmir, officials said.

Yasin Khan of Kashmir Traders and Marketing Federation, and PhD scholar Aala Fazil have been examined here, a National Investigation Agency (NIA) spokesman said.

They were summoned by the probe agency to appear before it today. The duo were questioned about alleged fundings to various groups that pelted stones at security forces, he said.

The NIA had registered a case on May 30 against separatists and secessionist leaders, including unidentified members of the Hurriyat Conference, who have been acting in connivance with active militants of proscribed terrorist organisations Hizbul Mujahideen, Dukhtaran-e-Millat, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other outfits and gangs.

The case was registered for raising, receiving and collecting funds through various illegal means, including hawala, for funding separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and for causing disruption in the Valley by pelting the security forces with stones, burning schools, damaging public property and waging war against India, the NIA said in the FIR.

Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based chief of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the front of the banned terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has been named in the FIR as an accused.

The FIR also names organisations such as the two factions of the Hurriyat, one led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani and the other by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the Hizbul Mujahideen and the Dukhtaran-e-Millat, an-all women outfit of separatists.

The NIA has also secured confessional statements from two of the accused in the case.

A confessional statement is recorded before a judicial magistrate. The accused confirms in it that he or she is giving a statement without any pressure from the probe agency. – PTI

Trinamool suspends Mukul Roy for six years

KOLKATA, Sept 25: West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress on Monday suspended its founding member Mukul Roy for six years for "anti-party activities", hours after the former Railway Minister announced that he would quit the party after the Durga Puja.

Trinamool secretary general Partha Chatterjee told media persons here of the punitive action against Roy, who is a sitting Rajya Sabha member. "We have heard the news of Mukul Roy. He has decided to quit the party after the puja. For the past few years, he has been indulging

in anti-party activities and trying to weaken the party from within."

"Trinamool Congress disci-

plinary committee has recommended punishment against Mukul Roy to the party's leader and chairperson Mamata Banerjee. Accordingly, Roy has been suspended for six years from the party."

Accusing Roy of "succu-

lating to the pressure of the central agencies" – a reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate probing the Saradha chit fund scam and the Narada sting footage in which Roy has been interrogated, Chatterjee wondered why he has not resigned from his Rajya Sabha seat immediately and added that he has been weakening the party for his own interest and through his own plan. – IANS

Shah to flag off BJP padyatra from Oct 3

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Condemning political killings in Kerala and West Bengal and expressing concern over the deaths of its workers in the two states, the BJP on Monday said its Kerala unit will hold a protest 'padyatra' in the southern state.

The march to protest against political violence in Kerala would be held from October 3 to October 17, Union Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nitin Gadkari said.

BJP president Amit Shah will flag off the fortnight-long 'padyatra' in which several Un-

ion Ministers and senior BJP functionaries will participate, he said.

The 'padyatra' was conceived in August, soon after the killing of Rashtriya Swamayee Sangh office-bearer E Rajesh on July 29 in Thiruvananthapuram.

The BJP has been accusing the Left Front government led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Kerala of escalating political violence in the state which it claimed was aimed at crushing the BJP and the RSS.

The BJP has just one member in the 140-seat Kerala Assembly. – IANS

West Bengal's Durga Puja carnival now a Didi show

KOLKATA, Sept 25: Known to maintain a punishing work schedule, the Durga Puja festival has kept West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee busier than usual. Apart from attending to pressing administrative issues, "Didi" has been dashing around the city, soaking in the festive spirit in more ways than one.

From drawing the eyes of the goddess at a puja marquee, to penning the theme song for another, and coming out with a CD of songs she has written and set to tune – Banerjee seems to have left no opportunity to showcase her versatility during the biggest carnival in this part of the world.

She is also the star inaugurator of the marques of big budget community puja in the city and its outskirts. Banerjee's brief inaugural speeches have also hogged the limelight,

not only for her discourses on communal harmony in her down-to-earth style, but also for the way she has repeatedly made veiled attacks on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which the Trinamool Congress chief now considers her principal opponent.

Bringing forth her creative side, Banerjee wrote the lyrics of the theme song for south Kolkata's Suruchi Sangha – a major crowd puller.

State Sports Minister Aroop Biswas, the chief organiser of the puja, hoped the song, rendered by Sreya Ghoshal, would be a smashing hit.

"It is a matter of great honour for us that the Chief Minister herself took out time to write the theme song for us on the third consecutive year. On the previous two occasions, numerous CDs of her theme song were sold from our stalls. It

seems her song – *Ekatar Joyo-*

unity) would be popular this

The recently-released pu-

tains nine songs written and composed by Banerjee, and sung by noted Bengali crooners like Indranil Sen and Rupankar. And Trinamool insiders say many community puja organisers (read Trinamool leaders, who helm almost all puja committees) have ordered the album and its songs are now heard in many marques.

On the day of Mahalaya, that essentially heralds the homecoming of the goddess, Banerjee drew the eye of Goddess Durga in South Kolkata's Chetla Agrani Club, patronised by her close lieutenant and state Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim.

She also began her inauguration routine from that day, with Naktala Udayan Sangha in South Kolkata being one of the early birds.

"Besides inaugurating the puja here, she visited the Kan-

yasree" (Banerjee's pet project to stop marriage of minor girls and promote their higher education) stall where an exhibition about the scheme's achievement is on." Naktala Udayan Sangha spearhead and state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said.

According to state secretariat Nabanna sources, request letters from different cities and suburbs for inaugurating their marques flooded Banerjee's office as also her residence months earlier. Around 50 prominent community puja

were shortlisted from them.

However, Banerjee's puja engagements have not been free from controversies.

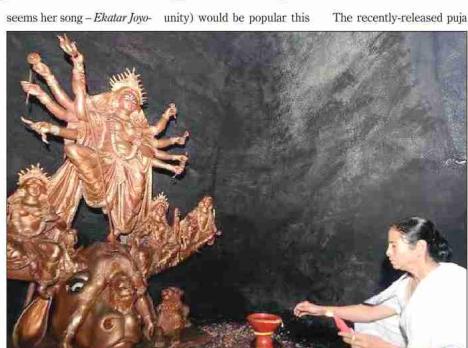
Days back, Banerjee announced that immersion of Durga puja idols wouldn't be allowed on October 1 – when Muslims in the state would

observe Muhamarram. The ban was vehemently opposed by Hindu right wing organisations, who called it "yet another example of minority appeasement" by her government.

Acting on a petition questioning the government decision, the Calcutta High Court revoked the state's directive and allowed the immersion to take place till midnight on all days after Dussehra, including Muhamarram.

However, under instructions from Banerjee, top bureaucrats and police officers met the media and declared that as per the court order, police permission was needed for immersion on October 1.

"The permission for immersion would be granted as per the judgement of the state administration," said Home Secretary Atri Bhattacharya. – IANS



gaan (the triumphant song of



Sharjah ruler Dr Mohamad Al Qasimi Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi being received by Kerala Governor P Sathasivam and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. — UNI

Ram Rahim Singh approaches HC, challenges CBI court order

CHANDIGARH, Sept 25: Jailed Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh today moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, challenging a special CBI court's verdict sentencing him to 20 years in prison for raping two disciples.

The CBI court in Panchkula on August 28 had sentenced Ram Rahim to 20 years in prison after his conviction. "We have filed an appeal today in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Through this, we have challenged the order of the CBI court," defence counsel Vishal Garg Narwana said here.

He said the CBI verdict has been challenged on several grounds. "One of the grounds was that there was a delay of more than six years in recording the statements of the women (victims) by the CBI after the incident," the defence

counsel said.

The CBI had claimed that the two women followers were sexually exploited in 1999 and the agency recorded their statement in 2005, Garg said.

He alleged that the CBI had also concealed some portion of the victims' statement.

Ram Rahim was convicted by the special CBI court on August 25, following which violence and arson had erupted in Panchkula and Sirsa districts which left 41 people dead and scores of injured.

The judge pronounced two sentences of 10 years rigorous imprisonment in each of the two rapes that date back to 2002.

The controversial sect head is currently lodged in Sunaria jail in Rohtak district of Panchkula.

In April 2002, an anonymous

letter was written to the then chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, complaining about the alleged sexual exploitation of a woman follower at the Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters in Sirsa.

In May 2002, the high court directed the Sirsa district and session judge to probe the allegations in the letter. In September 2002, the high court handed over the matter to the CBI after the district court indicated the possibility of sexual exploitation.

In December 2002, the CBI registered a case of rape, criminal intimidation against Ram Rahim.

The CBI filed a charge sheet against the Dera head in Ambala court in July 2007. The charge sheet mentioned the sexual exploitation of two 'sadvis' between 1999 and 2001. — PTI

The sixth accused in the case, Bhawana Pandey, was arrested here on the next day — September 21.

The CBI had sought extension of custody on the ground that they were required to be confronted with each other to unearth the entire conspiracy and involvement of other public servants in the case.

The court also remanded the other three accused — Palash Yadav, Saraswat and Pandey — to 14-day judicial custody as the CBI did not seek their further custody. — IANS

Court declines to extend CBI remand of Orissa HC ex-judge

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: A local court on Monday rejected a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) plea seeking custodial interrogation of retired Orissa High Court judge IM Qudus and two others and remanded them to judicial custody.

The CBI told Special Judge Manoj Jain that it required three more days for further quizzing of Qudus, BP Yadav and Biswanath Agrawala. But the court rejected the plea and remanded the three accused to 14-day judicial custody.

The probe agency also told the court that the accused was not co-operating in the investigation.

Qudus, BP Yadav, Palash Yadav, Biswanath Agrawala and Ram Dev Saraswat were arrested on September 20 by the CBI on charge of helping an educational trust barred from admitting medical course students.

The sixth accused in the case, Bhawana Pandey, was arrested here on the next day — September 21.

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The court also remanded the other three accused — Palash Yadav, Saraswat and Pandey — to 14-day judicial custody as the CBI did not seek their further custody. — IANS

BJP adopts agenda to realise PM's dream of new India by 2022

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: The BJP today adopted a six-point agenda, seeking to rid the country of poverty, terrorism, casteism, communalism and corruption, to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a new India by 2022, said Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

The political resolution, passed at the party's national executive meeting, also sought to dispel concerns over the state of the economy and praised measures like GST and demonetisation.

The resolution, Gadkari told reporters, also regretted the opposition to the Modi government's move to grant constitutional status to the OBC commission and asserted that the BJP would achieve it.

It claimed the government had "delivered" on its promise on corruption and black

money, adding that demonetisation, a move which invited sharp criticism from opposition, "broke the backbone of black market as well as the black money hoarders".

"The overwhelming public support for demonetisation needs to be underscored," the resolution said, adding that it paved the way for strengthening the foundations of a transparent economy.

The Central government's policies had brought rewards for honesty in public life and the government deserved rich compliments for bringing in a transparent economic system, the resolution stated, praising the roll out of the GST which led to "one nation, one tax".

The resolution also praised the Modi government on highlighting the issue of terrorism globally, isolating Pakistan and

exposing terrorist organisations like Hizbul Mujahideen. The national executive welcomed the fruitful dialogue between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping and referred to the success of the government's foreign policy due to which terrorism was at the forefront in the resolution passed at BRICS summit 2017.

The BJP government with its humane and sensitive diplomacy has improved and strengthened bilateral relations, it said.

Discussing the party's six-point agenda, Gadkari said, "The party has decided that working towards six goals will be its mission to help realise the Prime Minister's vision of a new India by 2022."

Having a clean India free of litter is one of them, he added.

Asked about concerns over the economy following the fall

in GDP growth rate, Gadkari, a former BJP president and one of the government's most senior Union Ministers, said some "teething problems" happen when major reforms are undertaken.

"The government is consistently resolving difficulties being faced by the people and the traders during the initial period of the implementation of this tax," the resolution said.

On the Kashmir issue, it said a "remarkable balancing act" by showing no mercy to terrorists while displaying a marked degree of sensitivity towards the common man being used by terrorists.

The national executive also hailed the government for its efforts for the "upliftment" of women, enabling them to live a life of dignity. — PTI

ED attaches Rs 1.16 cr assets of Karti Chidambaram

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: The ED today attached assets worth Rs 1.16 crore of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's son Karti and a firm allegedly linked to him in connection with its money laundering probe in the Air-Cell-Maxis deal.

The agency issued a provisional attachment order, signed by Joint Director and investigating officer of the 2G spectrum allocation cases Rajeshwar Singh, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for attaching the assets.

"Enforcement Directorate has attached movable assets held by ASCPL (Advantage Strategic Consulting Private Limited) in the form of fixed deposits to the tune of Rs 26 lakh and movable assets held by Karti P Chidambaram in the form of fixed deposits and bal-

ances in saving bank account to the tune of Rs 90 lakh approximately," the central probe agency said.

The firm ASCPL is allegedly linked to Karti and the ED said it was "controlled" in connection with the Aircel-Maxis case.

Aircel-Maxis deal
by him through another person, identified as S Bhaskararaman, whom Karti had described to the agency as his Chartered Accountant and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), the agency said.

In his reaction, the senior Chidambaram called the ED action "a crazy mixture of falsehoods and conjectures".

"The press note is intended to intimidate me and to silence my voice. I will not be intimidated," he said.

Official sources in the ED said while P Chidambaram

states that the "only" charge sheet in the case has been quashed, the FIR still stands and that Karti was not named in that complaint.

"This is a fresh probe against Karti in connection with the Aircel-Maxis case," a source said.

The case pertains to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval granted in 2006 by P Chidambaram.

The agency said it is investigating "the circumstances of the FIPB approval granted by the then finance minister (P Chidambaram)".

The ED also alleged that Karti has "disposed" of a property in Gurgaon, which he had allegedly rented out to a multi-national company "to whom foreign direct investment (FDI) approval had been granted in 2013". — PTI



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Industries and Commerce Department, Assam

Good News for Small Tea Growers

₹5,000/- per bigha
for New Plantation for
Small Tea Growers

The plant population
per bigha should not be
less than 1,500 plants.

Maximum of ₹1,00,000/-
per person (up to 20 bighas)

Admissibility

- ✓ Small Tea Growers whose name features in the Directory of the Small Tea Growers will be entitled for the benefits under the scheme.
- ✓ Small Tea Growers possessing biometric identity cards issued by the Tea Board shall also be admissible for availing this incentive.
- ✓ Existing plantation/planting commenced prior to submission of application shall not be considered for assistance.
- ✓ Only one application per STG will be entertained for consideration of assistance.

For further details, please contact
District Industries and Commerce Centres or visit www.industries.assam.gov.in



Janasanyog DF/1286/17
Photo: M. S. Ravi

Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan



ISLAMABAD, Sept 25: Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan from London on Monday, a month after he went to the UK to be with his wife Kulsoom Nawaz, who is undergoing cancer treatment.

Sharif arrived at the Benazir Bhutto International Airport here at 7.30 am where he was received by senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party leaders, Dawn news reported.

The ousted Prime Minister is expected to hold an informal meeting with the PML-N leadership for consultations on his appearance before the accountability court.

Speaking to the media before departing for Islamabad on Sunday night, Sharif said he went to London to inquire after the health of his wife.

In his remarks, Sharif continued to question the court's decision to disqualify him.

"We did not commit any

corruption. If this was about Panama (Papers), then why was I disqualified for holding an Igama (work permit for UAE)?" Sharif said.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the Supreme Court's handling of his review petitions, Sharif said he had never thought of not returning to Pakistan.

But the ruling party's rivals, particularly the Pakistani Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leadership, had been claiming that the disqualified Prime Minister had left to escape accountability in the references filed against him.

Sharif has been summoned on Tuesday in three corruption references, filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), reports Dawn news.

No one from his side, family member or legal counsel, appeared before the accountability court in Islamabad during the hearing of the case on September 19.

Taking to Twitter to express herself, Maryam Nawaz Sharif termed her father's decision to return home a courageous step in the face of the "biased" accountability process that awaits him.

"It takes great amount of courage and valor to be willing to pay the price for challenging what needs to be changed. Not everyone can do that." – IANS

Around the WORLD



World's smallest squirrel discovered in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Sept 25: Indonesian scientists have found the world's smallest squirrel in the country's Borneo rain forest, authorities revealed on Monday.

The Bornean pygmy squirrel or exiliscurus exilis was found in Meratus mountain of South Kalimantan province, Xinhua news agency quoted a senior scientist as saying.

"One of surprising things is the fact that there is a unique and endangered species, the smallest squirrel in the world in Meratus mountain," the scientist added.

The species, found on September 16 during an expedition, is 73 mm long and weighs about 17 grams.

"This type of species lives across Borneo Island, especially the area with height of over 1,000 metres above sea surface," the scientist said. – IANS

World's largest aircraft passes first engine tests

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25: A colossal airplane with the world's largest wingspan – designed to serve as a launching platform for sending rockets into low-Earth orbit – has successfully completed its initial engine tests.

"In these initial tests, each of the six engines operated as expected," the spaceflight company Stratolaunch, which is led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen announced.

The 747 twin-turboprop engines were loaded with fuel, started one at a time and then allowed to idle at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California, US.

The double-bodied airplane is designed to serve as a mobile launch platform to carry rockets into low-Earth orbit.

The Stratolaunch plane will make a runway style takeoff, and when the aircraft reaches a cruising altitude of 11,000 meters, the rockets it is carrying will detach and then launch small satellites into low-Earth orbit.

Stretching 118 metres across, the aircraft's wingspan is longer than a professional football field, the 'Live Science' reported.

The vehicle weighs nearly 227,000 kilogrammes when empty and unfuelled, but it is designed to carry another nearly 250,000 kilogrammes between the two fuselages. – PTI



Trump announces new travel restrictions

WASHINGTON, Sept 25: US President Donald Trump has announced new travel restrictions for eight countries including North Korea, replacing the previous ban on six Muslim-majority countries.

In a statement, the White House called the new restrictions a "critical step toward establishing an immigration system that protects Americans' safety and security in an era of dangerous terrorism and transnational crime," CNN reported.

"We cannot afford to continue the failed policies of the past, which present an unacceptable danger to our coun-

try. My highest obligation is to ensure the safety and security of the American people, and in issuing this new travel order, I am fulfilling that sacred obligation," Trump said in the White House statement.

For the last three months, the administration used an executive order to ban foreign nationals from six Muslim-majority countries – Iran, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan – from entering the US unless they had a "bona fide" relationship with a person in the US.

"Making America Safe is

my number one priority. We will not admit those into our country we cannot safely vet," Trump tweeted just after the proclamation was released.

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US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross meets Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the Zhongnanhai State Guest House in Beijing on Monday. – UNI

ISIS challenges Prince Harry to a fight

LONDON, Sept 25: A Singaporean member of the dreaded ISIS group has challenged Britain's Prince Harry to fight the jihadists and threatened to send him to "hellfire".

The man identifying himself as Abu Uqayl, appeared in a three-and-a-half minute video in which he encourages would-be terrorists to fight for ISIS in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

"To Harry, you come to Singapore and tell such stories to gain sympathy for the London terror attacks. Why don't you come here and fight us if you're man enough, so that we can send you and your Apaches (helicopters) to hellfire," says

Merkel's centre-left challenger, Martin Schulz, conceded his Social Democrats had suffered a "crushing election defeat", with projections showing the party's worst performance in post-WWII Germany.

He vowed to take his party, the junior partner in Merkel's outgoing "grand coalition" of Germany's traditionally dominant parties, into opposition.

"We have a mandate to form a new government, and no government can be formed against

Merkel wins fourth term

German elections

Angela Merkel addresses a news conference a day after the general elections, Berlin on Monday. – UNI

us." Merkel told cheering supporters. She added that it wasn't a "matter of course" to finish first after 12 years in power; and that the past four years were "extremely challenging".

Stressing that "we live in

stormy times" internationally, she declared: "I have the intention of achieving a stable government in Germany."

The biggest winner was the four-year-old Alternative for Germany, or AfD. It finished third after a campaign that

centered on shrill criticism of

Merkel and her decision in 2015 to allow large numbers of migrants into Germany, but also harnessed wider discontent with established politicians.

One of AfD's leaders, Alice Weidel, said it will provide "constructive opposition". But co-leader Alexander Gauland struck a harsher tone, vowing that "we will take our country back" and promising to "chase" Merkel.

Final results released shortly before 4 am (0200 GMT) today showed Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and their Bavaria-only allies, the Christian Social Union, winning 33 per cent of the vote - down from 41.5 per cent four years ago. It was one of their weakest post-war showings. – PTI

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Weiner sentenced to 21 months in prison

NEW YORK, Sept 25: Former Congressman Anthony Weiner who pleaded guilty in May to sexting with a 15-year-old girl, was sentenced on Monday to 21 months in prison and three years of supervised release.

"The difference here is that this is a very strong compulsion," said Judge Denise Cote in handing down the sentence, saying that compulsion was evidence by "the destruction of his career on two occasions".

Weiner, who was unaccompanied by his wife Huma Abedin, buried his face in his hands on hearing the sentence. The sentencing was delivered in US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Weiner, 53, also faces spending the rest of his life as a registered sex offender for his lengthy and lurid social media contacts with the North Carolina teen, the USA Today reported. – IANS

Indian held for selling fake jewellery in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Sept 25: An Indian national in possession of 14.5 kilograms of impure silver jewellery was arrested by the police in western Nepal, media reported.

Surendra Saha, 51, of Motihari district of India's Bihar was detained from Baglung municipality on Saturday night, the Himalayan Times reported on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team detained Saha with a variety of impure silver jewellery worth about Rs 320,000, from Traffic Chowk two nights ago, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Bishwa Rajisingh Thapa.

Saha had been involved in transporting contraband jewellery from a Razaul-based Indian trader and selling to traders in Baglung, the police official said.

An examination of the confiscated jewellery revealed that each of the items contained only 50 per cent silver, the police said.

Saha would be handed over to the Belahiya-based Bhanubhai Customs Office, in Rupandehi district, for further investigation into the case, the official said. – IANS

Former 'world's heaviest woman' dies



Her treatment in India was abruptly stopped after her sister Shaimaa, on social media, alleged that Eman was not receiving proper treatment in India

ders co-occurring with a primary disease or disorder.

Eman weighed roughly 500 kilogrammes when she arrived in India in February, but had lost an astonishing 323 kilogrammes after undergoing a series of medical procedures.

Her death comes few days after she celebrated her 37th birthday on September 9, surrounded by family and friends.

Eman's sister Shaimaa Selim had posted on her Facebook page on September 11 a photo of her sister celebrating birthday at the hospital.

Commenting on her sister's death, Shaimaa said Eman's death is God's will and "we accept it", according to Aliththad, the Emirati newspaper. Shaimaa added that Eman's body will be flown to Egypt tomorrow to be buried in Alexandria.

Eman was admitted to the Burjeel hospital on May 4 after arriving in the UAE from India. She had been under the supervision of over 20 doctors from different specialties, who were managing her medical condition. Initially, she underwent treatment at the Saifee Hospital in Mumbai for severe obesity. – PTI

Kushner used pvt email account for WH officials'

WASHINGTON, Sept 25: US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and White House senior advisor Jared Kushner has occasionally used a private email account for correspondence with fellow administration officials, his lawyer confirmed.

"Kushner uses his White House email address to conduct White House business. Fewer than a hundred emails from January through August were either sent to or returned by Kushner to colleagues in the White House from his personal email account," counsel Abbe Lowell told CNN on Sunday night.

Politico had first reported Kushner's use of a private account and said it was set up in December and was used to sometimes trade emails with senior White House officials, outside advisers and some others about media coverage.

Lowell said that the emails on Kushner's private account were "usually forwarded news articles or political commentary and most often occurred when someone initiated the exchange by sending an email to his personal, rather than his White House, address".

Federal law requires that all White House records be preserved, including emails.

Regarding concerns that some of the emails might not have been preserved since Kushner was not using a White House account, Lowell told CNN: "All non-personal emails were forwarded to his official address, and all have been preserved, in any event."

During his campaign, Trump repeatedly criticised Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server to send and receive email during her tenure as Secretary of State. - IANS



A woman walks past the church dome, which collapsed six days after an earthquake, in Mexico City on Sunday. — UNI

'US will do everything to avoid nuclear war'

WASHINGTON, Sept 25: US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said that they wanted to avoid nuclear war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"The president doesn't want to be in a nuclear war, and we will do everything we can to make sure that doesn't occur," said Mnuchin.

"I can assure you the president's number one priority is the safety of the American people and our allies," he added.

Mnuchin was the latest top official to offer reassurance after US President Donald Trump triggered tension with the DPRK with threats, Xinhua reported.

Trump on Tuesday threatened in a speech at the UN General Assembly that the



US "will have no choice than to totally destroy" the country if forced to defend itself or its allies.

After the threat, the DPRK said it might test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean.

Meanwhile on Sunday, a

new poll found that an overwhelming majority of Americans oppose a pre-emptive strike on the DPRK and most Americans trust US military leaders instead of US Trump to handle the nuclear crisis responsibly.

According to the Washington Post-ABC News poll, 67 per cent of Americans believe that the US should launch a military strike on the DPRK only if the country first attacks them or their allies.

As to their confidence in Trump on solving the DPRK nuclear issue, 37 per cent of Americans trust "a great deal" or "a good amount" to handle the issue in a responsible way, with 42 per cent saying that they trust Trump "not at all". - IANS

Japanese PM calls for snap election

TOKYO, Sept 25: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday called an early election as he seeks to secure a stronger mandate to overcome "a national crisis" amid rising threats from North Korea.

Abe's decision comes amid rebounding approval ratings after a record low over the summer and with the opposition largely in disarray. In a national address, the leader said he would also dissolve Parliament's Lower House on Thursday, the Japanese media reported.

"Elections are the basis of democracy, and they should not be affected by threats from North Korea. Rather, I think this is an appropriate time to hold an election and seek the mandate of the people for how I am dealing with North Korea," Abe was quoted as saying by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation NHK.

Abe did not set a date for the vote but Japanese media suggest it will be on October 22.

The move comes one year before scheduled elections and amid a stronger showing in opinion polls for Abe who has seen gains for his response so far to North Korea. Pyongyang has fired two ballistic missiles over northern Japan in recent weeks, as it steps up missile tests amid a deepening regional crisis.

"We must not give in to the threat of North Korea. I hope to gain the confidence of the people in the upcoming election and push forward strong diplomacy," he said.

The country's 48th General Election comes after a shaky time for Abe and his government, which was wrecked by two corruption scandals linked to the Prime Minister and his wife, and the resignation of Defence Minister Tomomi Matsuoka over an alleged cover-up.

Abe, who has held power for five years, has seen his popularity fall significantly in the wake of the scandals. His decision to call a snap election, analysts say, is aimed taking advantage of a recent upturn in ratings.

The Prime Minister also announced a \$17.8 billion stimulus package on education and social spending. He said a fresh stimulus was needed for programmes to prepare Japan for the future.

Abe also said he would continue on his path of fiscal reform and would use the revenue from the recently introduced sales tax to balance the budget and reduce debt. - IANS

US shooting One dead, gunman identified

WASHINGTON, Sept 25: At least one person died and seven others were wounded on Sunday in a mass shooting at a church in Tennessee, US, local police said.

The incident took place about midday at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, about 15 km southeast of Nashville, Efe reported.

On its Twitter account, the Nashville Police Department said that a woman was found dead in the church parking lot and seven other people were wounded inside the church.

The suspect, identified as Emmanuel Kidega Samson, is a legal US resident who immigrated from Sudan in 1996, according to Xinhua.

The 25-year-old wore a mask and brought two guns to the church on Sunday and fired "multiple rounds," said police.

The gunman was wounded – apparently when he accidentally shot himself – and was taken to a local hospital.

A church usher who confronted the shooter was also injured by the shooter, although apparently he was "merely" beaten – reportedly pistol-whipped – and not shot. Once the gunman was wounded and/or subdued, the usher reportedly went to his own car, got his gun and then came back and guarded the shooter until police arrived on the scene.

Three men and three women were reportedly wounded in the attack, including church pastor Joey Spann and his wife Peggy. Police spokesman Don Aaron said that the shooter accidentally shot himself in the head, although his wound was not life threatening.

Earlier, the Nashville Fire Department had said on Twitter that medical personnel were attending to eight people wounded at the church in question, with the shooter being among the injured. - IANS



২০১৮ বর্ষৰ হাইস্কুল শিক্ষাত্ত/অসম হাই মাদ্রাজা পৰীক্ষাৰ লগত জড়িত সকলৈন শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰীৰ এক আবেদন

ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা হাইস্কুল শিক্ষাত্ত পৰীক্ষাৰ সকলো শিক্ষার্থী, অভিভাৱক আৰু শিক্ষাগুৰুক জনোৱা হয় যে আগস্টক শিক্ষাত্ত / অসম হাই মাদ্রাজা পৰীক্ষাৰ ফলাফল উল্লিখণৰণৰ কাৰণে অসম মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা পৰিষদে এক প্ৰচেষ্টা হাতত লৈছে। সেই উদ্দেশ্যে শিক্ষক, ছাত্ৰ আৰু অভিভাৱকৰ মাজত সময়সূচী গঠনৰ হেতু এখনি জাননীৰ যোগেদি বিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰধানসকলক জনাইছে যে বিদ্যালয়সমূহে পৰীক্ষার্থীসকলৰ মাজত প্ৰথমে আঞ্চেৰ মাহৰ প্ৰথম সপ্তাহত প্ৰাক্ বাচনি পৰীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত কৰিব আৰু সেই পৰীক্ষাৰ ফলাফল অভিভাৱকসকলক জনিবলৈ দিয়াৰ লগতে উত্তৰ বহীসমূহৰে অভিভাৱকসকলৰ হাতত অৰ্পণ কৰিব যাতে অভিভাৱকসকলে নিজ নিজ সন্তুষ্ণ শৈক্ষিক অগ্ৰগতিৰ বুজ ল'ব পাৰে। পুনৰ ডিচেম্বৰ মাহত পৰীক্ষার্থীসকলৰ মাজত মূল বাচনি পৰীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত কৰিব। সেই পৰীক্ষাত ভাল ফল দেখুৱাৰ নোৱাৰা শিক্ষার্থীসকলৰ বাবে এক জানুৱাৰীৰ পৰা চূড়ান্ত পৰীক্ষা হোৱালৈকে বিদ্যালয়সমূহে বিষয় অনুযায়ী নিৰ্দানমূলক (Remedial) শ্ৰেণীৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

ইয়াৰ জৰিয়তে অভিভাৱক আৰু শিক্ষকৰ মাজত পোনপটীয়া সম্পর্ক স্থাপন হোৱাৰ লগতে পৰীক্ষাৰ ফলাফল উল্লিখণ কৰাতো সহজ কৰিব। গতিকে সকলো অভিভাৱক, বিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰধান আৰু শিক্ষাগুৰুক সহায়-সহযোগিতা আগবঢ়াবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনালোঁ।

(ড° হিমন্ত বিশ্ব শৰ্মা)
শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী
দিছপুৰ, অসম

"য'ত পৰিষ্কাৰ তাতেই সংস্কাৰ"

'স্বচ্ছতাই সেৱা' মানসিকতাৰে,
আহক আমি সকলোৱে ঐক্যবদ্ধ
হৈ সমাজখন সুন্দৰ কৰি বাখোঁ।



নতুন ভাৰত,
নতুন অসম
আমাৰ অসম,
স্বচ্ছ অসম

জনতাৰ
my
চৰকাৰ
মাৰি সৱাকাৰ

পঞ্জীয়ন কৰক: www.assam.mygov.in

f /mygovassam /mygovassam /mygovassam

জনতাৰ
চৰকাৰ
মাৰি সৱাকাৰ



Flood of fake news on Facebook

Former US President Barack Obama once warned CEO Mark Zuckerberg about fake news on Facebook

As Facebook faces intense fake news scrutiny after disclosing the details about the presence of Russian political ads worth \$100 million on its platform during the 2016 US presidential election, it was none other than former President Barack Obama who had warned CEO Mark Zuckerberg about fake news on Facebook.

According to a report in *The Washington Post* late on Sunday, in November last year, Obama made a personal appeal to Zuckerberg to take the threat of fake news and political disinformation seriously.

"Unless Facebook and the government did more to address the threat, Obama warned, it would only get worse in the next presidential race," the report added. However, Zuckerberg acknowledged the problem posed by the fake news but "told Obama that those messages weren't widespread on Facebook and that there was no easy remedy."

Now, after an extensive legal and policy review, the social media giant has announced it would now shade those 3,000 Russian ads with Congressional investigators.

Facebook announced it had found more than 3,000 ads addressing social and political issues that ran in the US between 2015 and 2017 and that appear to have come from accounts associated with a Russian entity known as the Internet Research Agency.

Facebook earlier handed over the details to Amer-

ican Special Counsel Robert Mueller that included copies of the ads and details about the accounts that bought them and the targeting criteria they used.

Zuckerberg, who returned after taking parental leave after his second daughter was born, said in a post last week that he deeply cares about the democratic process and protecting its integrity.

Zuckerberg said: "We will continue our investigation, which happened on Facebook in this election. We may find more, and if we do, we will continue to work with the government".

The Facebook CEO noted that the social media company has already provided information regarding this issue with the special counsel and have also briefed Congress on it.

He stressed the company would now make political advertising more transparent. When someone buys political ads on TV or other media, they are required by law to disclose who paid for them. The company would strengthen the ad review process for political ads. Facebook would now increase investment in security and specifically election integrity.

"In the next year, we will more than double the team working on election integrity. In total, we'll add more than 250 people across all our teams focused on security and safety for our community," Zuckerberg said.

SOURCE: IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017:

This year you witness a lot of confusion surrounding your work and other day-to-day matters. Clear out the haze, or at least zero in on the source of confusion. Your determination will make all the difference. If you are single, your determination seems to be a strong suit for you. If you are married, your determination may not be as clear as it actually is. If you are attached, the two of you could be dealing with a tendency to anger easily. Nevertheless, your communication with each other seems to be working well. Keep it going! SAGITTARIUS tends to be an upbeat sign for you to be around.

The Star Signs for King of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Intuitive; 3-Adventurous; 2-Sober; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Your imagination takes you down various paths, should you choose to follow some of your ideas. Your intuition might be off, use logic, if possible. Anger emergencies if you do not resolve some of your frustration into resolving the problem at hand. Tonight: Say "yes."

Taurus (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Your creative project could prove challenging. A friendship might be a difficult handle, as the other party seems to be on a different track. Tonight: With friends.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Deter to others, as it appears that several people around you would prefer to be in control. You might not be able to handle everything that is happening anymore. An argument with a roommate or family member could start up from out of the blue. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Understand that you need to slow down if certain matters start getting confusing. You might want to double-check messages, meeting times, etc. The approach would be better than arguing later. You will accomplish more than you thought you could. Tonight: Know when to call it quits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ No one doubts your creativity and originality. A partner or loved one could bring up a negative attitude and cause some confusion. You and your couple have fun elsewhere. If you are not careful, a love one might decide to pull back as a result. Tonight: Make up for lost time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Your responses to tension could be over the top, as you might snap at others and/or causing an argument. Focus on your priorities. Unfriendly or family or personal secret has the potential to leak out. A partner's argument won't be helpful. Tonight: Paint the town red.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Your intentions are good, but someone else still might interfere with them. Arguing with a partner can try to isolate the feeling and prevent intimacy. A discussion with close friends would be strange and difficult, no matter how you proceed. Tonight: Speak your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You might want to take a leap of faith with a money matter, if you feel like it. Even though, you should carefully assess the risk you are considering taking. Understanding when you need to back off and get past a problem. Avoid a pushy friend. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ You might experience a moment of heartbreak before you realize it. You will be in denial. Try to keep your focus, and you won't make a mistake. Honor a change of pace. Take a deep breath, and just go for it. Tonight: Try not to overthink a decision you already made.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You might have some difficulty getting to the bottom of a problem. Note what triggers you, as it could be helpful in determining the solution. Maintain a low profile. You need some downtime before you dive right in. Try to determine the true cause. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ You might be surprised by a major secret surrounding a key matter. You'll know how to clear the haze, but be careful if the issue involves your finances. You might opt for more clarity. A partner does not see eye to eye on this matter, no matter how you present the issue. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You might be confused that some things are clear and concise, but others still might be confused. You will need to clarify your message in order to avoid a major misunderstanding. An associate or partner could be unusually argumentative. If you can, try to avoid an argument. Tonight: A must show.

Thought for the Day
Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
— FRANCIS OF ASSISI



THE PHANTOM

R

By Lee Falk



BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Kids

CN

StarPlus

colors

Entertainment

22:30 Woh Di Non Ki Baat Hai

23:00 Crime Patrol Dial 100

22:00 Dhol Maan Prem

13:30 Ek Aadha Aap Ghare

14:00 Love Ka Intezar

15:00 Dill No. 21

16:00 We Bare Bears

17:00 Ben 10

18:00 Dragon Ball Z

19:00 Teen Titans Go

20:00 Oggy & the Cockroaches

21:00 Tom & Jerry Show

22:00 Grizly And The

23:00 Chota Bheem

13:30 Chota Bheem

14:00 Dill No. 21

15:00 Dance Plus

16:00 Ishqzaade

17:00 Ishq Mein Kehata

18:00 Rishabh Ka Chakravati

19:00 Meri Durga

20:00 Crime Patrol Dial 100

21:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

22:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

19:00 Kuch Rhee Pyar Ke Asa

20:00 Men Saal

21:00 Kundali Bhagya

22:00 Kundali Bhagya

23:00 Tu Mein Saarh

13:30 Crime Patrol Dial 100

14:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

15:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

16:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

17:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

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21:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

22:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

23:00 Crime Patrol - Satak

Movies

HBO

21:30 Thai Hangover Part II

16:16 Pacific Rim

18:36 Man of Steel

23:14 Tower of Death

SONY PIX

21:30 Piranha 3D

SONY

13:48 Star Trek Beyond

16:20 Men in Black

18:24 The Mummy

21:01 Jurassic Park III

23:30 Star Trek Beyond

STAR MOVIES

21:00 Commando

21:30 Star Trek Beyond

ডেংগু
পৰা
সারধান
হওক !



ডেংগু বোগৰ লক্ষণসমূহ					
• অতিপাত জ্বর	• মূখের দিয়ে	• চুক্কি পিণ্ডকাল বিবোৱা	• জলের অবৈষ্যকতা নাইক, দ্যুম্হ, দাতন	• শব্দীভূত সৰা বৰ্ষা দাপ বা ঘামচি	
• গাঢ়িৰ বিষ	• মাসে পেশীৰ দিয়ে	• চুক্কি পৰা পৰা	• আবাধৰ পৰা কেজে ও খোলা	• সুশ্ৰ লক্ষণ আৰি	
অলাপটীয়াল বাটম-বৰ্তন (কাগজৰ কাপ-প্ৰেছ), টাৰাৰ, নাকৰিবৰ ঘৰো। ঘৰী টাৰাৰ অভিত জাৰা ঘৰোৱা পানীয় হোৱ অং ঘৰ (ফোটো) কৰ্ণী পানোৱে সেৱে ঘৰৰ কোনোৱে মুকুলি পানোত পৰাৰ জন্ম হ'বলে নিৰ্বাচন আৰু এন্দৰে ঘৰৰ বৰ শৰ্ষৰি প্ৰতিবেদ কৰক।					
ডেংগু ঘৰো ঘৰোৱা বৰকাৰী পাৰালৈ ল'বলগীয়া সাৰধানতাসমূহ					
সকলো জিলা, সদৰ চিকিৎসালয় আৰু চৰকাৰী চিকিৎসা মহাবিদ্যালয়সমূহত এই বোগৰ বিনালীয়া পৰীক্ষা উপলক্ষ					

Federer leads Europe to maiden Laver Cup title

PRAGUE, Sept 25: World number two Roger Federer handed Team Europe the maiden Laver Cup title after beating Team World's Nick Kyrgios in a super tie-break thriller in Prague.

Federer, this year's Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, won 4-6 (8/6), 11/9 to give Team Europe an unbeatable 15-9 lead yesterday.

But the 36-year-old Swiss legend struggled against the 20th-ranked, 22-year-old Australian and his flawless serve, losing the first set on a single break.

When he finally broke Kyrgios halfway through set two, he yelled "Come on!" in relief, only to lose his serve again in the next game.

But Federer capitalised on the system of the tournament he had founded - forcing Kyrgios into longer exchanges, he edged him in the second-set tie-break, then came back from 5-5 down in the decisive super tie-break.

"It kind of felt good going into the tie-break," Federer said.

"It was a nail-biter at the end but for me personally it was a dream scenario."

"It was an incredible journey re-

ally, it was way better than I ever thought it would be," he added about the tournament.

"It felt like winning some of the

biggest matches in my life. It was like a fairy tale."

Kyrgios said the loss "just hurt."

"I gave everything I had and I

came short."

The start of the clash saw the controversial Kyrgios briefly kneel on the court in a gesture which sparked speculation that he was joining the ongoing protest against US President Donald Trump.

But Kyrgios explained this was his trademark gesture to "remember the two most important people that have passed away" - a reference to his late grandmother and grandfather.

A host of NFL players chose to kneel in games across the US on Sunday during the playing of American national anthem in a demonstration against racial inequality.

Team Europe, the odds-on favourites with five of the world's top seven players, entered Sunday with a 9-3 lead which narrowed as Jack Sock and John Isner beat Tomas Berdych and Marin Cilic in the opening doubles rubber.

On Sunday, the winner of each rubber earned three points, against one on Friday and two on Saturday. - AFP



Switzerland's Roger Federer holds up the trophy as he celebrates with fellow members of Team Europe after winning the Laver Cup tennis tournament in Prague, Czech Republic, on Sunday.

State baseball team for nat'l meet

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: Assam is participating in the Sub Junior National Baseball Championship which started at Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh today.

The Assam team members are: (Officials) Jun Dutta, Biju Gogoi, Hemanta Nath, Subhasis Shah, (Players) Ravi Ranjan Kumar Singh, Gouruv Chetry, Bhaskar Sonowal, Rohit Kumar Yadav, Sahid Akhtar Hussain, Prachya Dutta, Pallew Dutta, Bhaskar Jyoti Konowar, Bili Phukan, Maran Jyoti Gogoi, Yusuf Salim Hussain, Khuman Das, Ashok Haque.

City Premier League

GUWAHATI, Sept 25: The 9th edition of the City Premier League got off yesterday, organised by the City CCC.

Results: (Today) Cobra (80/5) bt Eagle (79) by 5 wkt; Kangaroo (97/5) bt Shark (45) by 52 runs; Bull (132/6) bt Lion (128) by 4 wkt. (Yesterday) Crocodile (79) bt Cobra (32) by 47 runs; Tiger (144) bt Panther (143) by 1 run; Lion (136/6) bt Rhino (135) by 10 wkt.

Maradona to kick off football conclave

KOLKATA, Sept 25: Argentine legend Diego Maradona will kick off a football conclave on October 3 in the presence of a galaxy of current and former Indian stars like Blaichung Bhutia, Sunil Chhetri and IM Vijayan.

The first session of 'Goal 2017' will bring the country's top current and former footballers and celebrities together.

The day will start with a session with Vijay Goel, former

Union sports minister.

It will be followed by a session with former India cricket captain and Atletico de Kolkata co-owner Sourav Ganguly who will speak about 'A career that could have been', giving insights on his love for football.

Indian head coach Stephen Constantine, ATK chief coach and star Manchester United forward Teddy Sheringham, Jamshedpur FC head coach Steve Coppel, former ATK coach

Antonio Habas, Vijayan, Jo Paul Ancheri and Subhas Bhownick will also attend the day-long session, a release stated.

In his second visit to the football-crazy city, Maradona will also lock horns against Ganguly in a Match for Unity - Deigo vs Dada on October 5 at the Aditya School of Sports Arena at Kadambaghat at Barasat.

The arena will have provision for multiple sports disciplines, including indoor games and was launched today. - PTI

on India football by Nita Ambani, chairperson ISL.

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অসম চৰকাৰ

দুর্গা পূজা আৰু শাৰদীয় শুভেচ্ছা

যি গৰাকী সৃষ্টিশক্তিক্রিপনী দেৱীয়ে সকলো প্ৰাণীতে
মাতৃত্ব গুণেৰে বিৰাজ কৰে, শৰণাগতসকলৰ কল্যাণকাৰিণী,
সমৃদ্ধি আৰু সিদ্ধি (কৰ্মত কৌশলদায়িনী) তেওঁ সকলো প্ৰাণী
বৰ্গৰ মাজত শান্তিৰ প্ৰতীক হিচাপে বিৰাজ কৰক।

অসমবাসীলৈ শাৰদীয় শুভেচ্ছাৰে—

সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল

মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী, অসম



Ton-up Ali too much for West Indies

BRISTOL, Sept 25: Moeen Ali's blazing century set up England's 124-run victory over West Indies in the third one-day international at Bristol last night as the hosts went 2-0 up with two to play in a five-match series.

Ali's 53-ball ton – with his second fifty coming just 12 deliveries earlier – was the cornerstone of England's imposing 369 for nine.

West Indies were in with a chance so long as the big-hitting Chris Gayle was making 94.

But when the veteran opener, who missed a rain-swept no-result in the second ODI at Trent Bridge on Thursday with a hamstring injury suffered warming up on his 38th birthday, was run out the tourists' hopes of winning disappeared with him.

West Indies were eventually dismissed for 245, with fast bowler Liam Plunkett taking five for 52 – his maiden ODI five-wicket haul – as England won 65 balls to spare.

Earlier, all-rounder Ali sprinted to his hundred with nearly half of his runs coming via eight sixes, before he fell for 102.

His century also included seven fours, with the left-hander needing a mere 12 balls for his second fifty.

England's total was their largest in a

one-day international against West Indies, surpassing their 328 for seven at Edgbaston in 2009, and their fifth-largest in this format overall.

Man-of-the-match Ali's hundred was also the second quickest by an England batsman at this level after Jos Buttler's 46-ball ODI century against Pakistan at Abu Dhabi in 2013.

England lost three wickets for nine to be 217 for six in the 35th over.

But a partnership of 117 in 76 balls between Ali and Chris Woakes (34) proved the tide in match favouring 28 sixes in total.

Jonny Bairstow (84) and Ben Stokes (73) had the platform for a large total with a fourth-wicket stand of 132 in 20 overs.

With Ali leading the charge, England scored 123 runs in their last 10 overs being sent into bat.

Ali's six-hitting assault really got going as England scored a remarkable 50 runs in two overs – the 45 and 46th of their innings.

He should have been out for 87 when he smashed a Jerome Taylor full toss to square off for Gayle to drop the catch at point.

Ali went to his century with two scores in three balls of Miguel Cummins – a pull off the leg side followed by a soaring drive over long-on.

He eventually bailed out of spinner Ashley Nurse and received a standing ovation from a near-capacity crowd.

"I enjoyed myself," Ali told Sky Sports. "The ground isn't that big so it's nice to play on it. I just tried to slug as much as I could."

West Indies opener Evin Lewis hit two sixes in David Willey's first over before the left-arm quick had him caught at mid-on by Ali.

SCORECARD

England: J Bairstow c and b Holder 13, A Hales lbw b Cummings 35, J Root lbw b Cummings 84, E Morgan c Hopkins b Holder 0, B Stokes c Lewis b Powell 73, J Ballance c Lewis b Holder 10, D Willey 10, C Woakes c Ali b Willey 13, S Hooper b Butler & Plunkett 20, M Samuels c Butler b Plunkett 11, J Mohammed c Bairstow b Plunkett 35, A Cook c Woakes b Rashid 1, A Hebditch c Ali b Plunkett 11, A Rashid b Bashir 1, D Banton c Morgan b Plunkett 12, J Taylor b Rashid 0, M Cummins not out 4. Extras: (b3, w7) 10. Total (all out, 39.1 overs) 345. Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-21, 3-24, 4-26, 5-28, 6-30, 7-32, 8-34, 9-36, 10-39, 11-41, 12-42, 13-43, 14-44, 15-45, 16-46, 17-47, 18-48, 19-49, 20-50. **Batting:** Willey 4-0-34-1, Plunkett 8-1-0-52-5, Ali 10-0-65-0; Stokes 4-0-25-0; Rashid 6-0-34-3. - AFP



England's hundred hero Moeen Ali gestures after reaching his century off 53 balls.

U-17 WC a 'morale booster' for youngsters: IM Vijayan

KOCHI, Sept 25: India became a venue for the U-17 FIFA World Cup is going to be a huge morale booster for the young and upcoming footballers, said India's football legend IM Vijayan.

"The very fact that our country is staging this mega event in itself is going to be a morale booster for the young (footballers). With Kochi becoming one of the venues, this is a great blessing for our youth as this is a great experience," Vijayan told the media here.

Lauding KRP Rahul, the only Kerite in the India U-17 World Cup squad, Vijayan said: "He is really talented and has been doing his best in all the opportunities that he has got."

Vijayan is one of the most decorated Indian footballers of recent times. The 48-year-old, who donned the Indian team jersey 79 times, scored 40 goals in his international career spanning 15 years.

He last played in 2004 for his home team Kerala Police.

Vijayan, who also represented Mohan Bagan, East Bengal, JCT Mills and Churchill Brothers, was the first footballer to be nominated as the Indian Player on three occasions. - IANS

Sindhu recommended for Padma Bhushan

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Olympic silver medallist shuttler PV Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award, by the Sports Ministry here today.

"Yes, we have recommended Sindhu for Padma Bhushan," a Sports Ministry official told PTL.

A two-time bronze medalist at World Championship, Sindhu has been simply unstoppable ever since becoming the first Indian to win a silver at Rio Games last year.

The 22-year-old from Hyderabad clinched the 2016 China Open Super Series Pre-

mier, India Open Super Series, bagged a historic silver at the Glasgow World Championship last month before lay-

ing claim to her third Super Series title at Korea Open this month.

A three-time Macau Open

champion, Sindhu also won the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold in Lucknow this year.

Riding on a series of good performances, Sindhu achieved a career-best world ranking of number two in April for a brief period. Last week, she climbed back to her number two position, following a good week at Seoul.

In 2014, Sindhu won four bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games, Incheon Asian Games, Uber Cup and Asia Championship.

In March 2015, Sindhu was

awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri. - PTI



I have been hitting sixes since childhood: Pandya

"And I used to hit sixes before too, it's just that I am hitting them at a higher level now. I have been hitting sixes since childhood otherwise," Pandya told reporters at the post-match press conference.

"So whatever you say, if you say Pandya changed my game, then so be it. I have no problem," he added.

Pandya's 78-run knock yesterday came at a time when India had lost four wickets in quick time.

Further talking about his ability to hit sixes at will, Pandya said he pretends reading the game before making shot selection.

"It's not just about hitting. It's pretty important that I read the game. That time (in Chennai) I thought that Zampa was bowling and I knew that I could hit a six off him anytime I wanted to. That's why I waited till the seventh over and then I got the opportunity to change the momentum and eventually one changed the momentum in that game," he said.

"I tried and it came out pretty well. That's just my thinking. It's about being positive and backing yourself. If I feel like I go for it, I read the situation and go for it," Pandya said.

Pandya, who usually bats at number

seven after MS Dhoni, came out to bat at number four yesterday.

"It does not make any difference where I bat," Pandya asserted.

"Rather than seeing this as a challenge, I see this as an opportunity to do something nice for the team. When I was told I was going to go out to bat next, I was happy. This is the first time I played so many balls, so it was great," he said.

"The message was always simple. Play your game, however you play. I can play all kinds of innings. Obviously the plan was to target the spinners and it came out pretty well."

With his consistent performances, Pandya is expected to carry the weight of expectations like other star players of the team. However, the all-rounder says he does not think that way.

"I don't think that much. I focus only on the things, which I can focus and right now I am just playing my cricket. I just back myself and if you back yourself, you always come out on top. I

mean you can't score everyday but yeah, backing yourself is pretty important," he said.

He also acknowledged the platform provided by openers Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane with their 131-run partnership.

"The shots which they played were outstanding. Many people have said it in the past and I am saying it again. It's a treat to watch them play and the way they play," Pandya said.

Pandya also dismissed suggestions that the team was under pressure while chasing an imposing 294 yesterday after losing four top-order batsmen.

"I don't think so. I was batting on 40 or something and the equation was also at run-a-ball. We knew if we took the game deep, then the boundary balls will also come, since the margin of runs was not much," he said.

"We bat pretty deep, and it was only a matter of spending more time. We actually knew we could get over the line," Pandya signed off. - PTI



Agar out of India series with fractured finger

INDORE, Sept 25: Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar has been ruled out of the ongoing limited-overs series against India with a fractured finger, handing the visitors another setback after they lost the series by going down in the third ODI here.

Agar fractured the little finger on his non-bowling hand attempting to stop a ball on the boundary during India's successful run chase, which handed the hosts an unassailable 3-0 series lead.

"He will return home to Australia and consult a specialist with a possibility of surgery."

Agar was initially not part of the ODI team but was included after leg-spinner Adam Zampa was harshly dealt with by India's middle order in the first ODI in Chennai. - IANS

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

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

Originalising from Japan, 'su' means not a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

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