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NATIONAL

2 militants killed in Srinagar encounter

SRINAGAR, June 25: Security forces today gunned down two militants holed up inside a school on the outskirts of Srinagar, ending an encounter of over 14 hours in which two Army men were also injured.

The militants had entered the Delhi Public School located close to the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway last evening after attacking a CRPF party in the nearby Pantha Chowk, killing one officer and injuring a constable.

The road opening party of the CRPF was attacked in high security zone located less than a km away from the headquarter of the Srinagar-based Army Corps.

Immediately thereafter, the security forces cordoned off the school premises which has seven buildings, comprising 36 rooms, and the staff and others were evacuated last night itself.

An offensive to flush out the militants was launched this

morning, a police official said. "The exchange of fire between security forces and militants began at around 3.40 AM and ended at 7.45 AM," he said.

"The gunbattle is over and two militants have been killed," the official said this evening. He said the search and sanitisation operation was, however, underway at the encounter site.

Two Army personnel were injured in the gunbattle this morning. Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police SP Vaish said that there were reports of the presence of two militants inside the building, but the exact number would be known after the search of the complex was over.

On the operation getting prolonged, he told reporters, "There are 36 rooms, the building is huge. So, it has to be searched floor by floor, room by room." — PTI

GJM 'window' for Muslims

DARJEELING (WB), June 25: In a change of stand, the GJM today decided to allow a 12-hour bandh relaxation only for the Muslims to celebrate Id-ul-Fitr in the Darjeeling hills tomorrow.

The Muslim community in the hills will be given a 12-hour relaxation on June 26 from 6 am to 6 pm, to celebrate Id," the senior Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader said.

Muslims can also use vehicles with stickers mentioning the purpose to go to the plains and meet their relatives, he added.

"Except this, everything remains the same. The indefinite shutdown will continue," he said.

Earlier on Friday, GJM supremo Bimal Gurung had said that there would be no relaxation for Muslims to celebrate Id, the biggest festival of the community. On the same day, the GJM had provided a 12-hour bandh relaxation to the boarding schools of the hills to evacuate the stranded students. — PTI

Diversity is our strength: PM

NEW DELHI, June 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today extended Idd-ul-Fitr greetings to all and said inspiration should be drawn from such pious festivals to spread happiness and to take the nation forward.

He emphasised that India's diversity is its specialty as well as its strength. "The holy month of Ramzan was celebrated with devotion. Now it is time for Id. On the occasion of

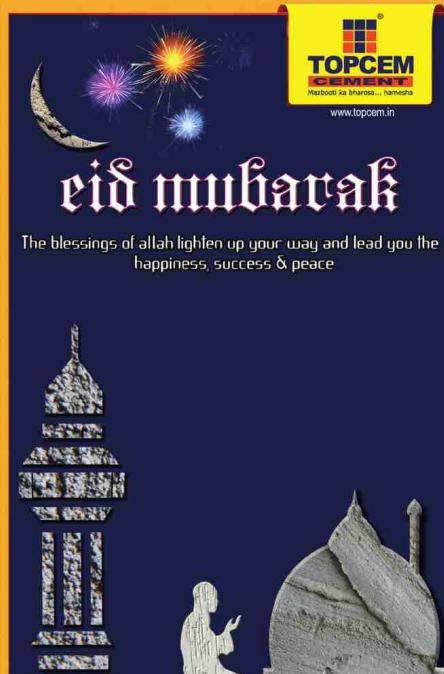
Idd-ul-Fitr, my best wishes to all," Modi said in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. Idd-ul-Fitr, which marks culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan, will be celebrated tomorrow. "Ramzan is a month of holy donations, to spread happiness... Come, let us all together take inspiration from such pious festivals to keep spreading the treasure of happiness and keep taking the nation forward," he added. — PTI



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed, on his arrival at Joint Base Andrews, Washington DC, on Sunday. – UNI

Syria's Assad goes on unusual visit to Hama for Eid prayers

DAMASCUS, June 25: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday made an unusual visit to the central city of Hama in order to perform the prayers of the Eid ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

The state-owned Syrian Arab News Agency reported that Bashar al-Assad prayed at al-Nouri Mosque in Hama among clerics.

Sheikh Nahjem Eddin al-Ali, who led the prayers, said during the Eid sermon that the presence of the President in Hama was a sign that "Syrians are steps away from victory and the return of security and peace to Syria," reports Efe.

"One of the most important goals of the war against Syria was to tear the social structures and ties down by striking the confidence of the Syrian man in himself and in his social environment, but the crisis instead strengthened the ties among the Syrians," added al-Ali, who concluded by praying to God to protect Syria.

Al-Assad usually performs Eid prayers in Damascus. Since the war in the Arab country started in March 2011, his trips to other cities have become very rare.

On the occasion of Eid ul-Fitr, the Syrian authorities have released 225 detainees from the Adra prison in the northern part of Damascus, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. – IANS

34 high-rise tower blocks across UK fail fire-safety test

LONDON, June 25: All high-rise tower blocks tested across the UK so far for flammable material similar to the cladding related to the blaze at a 24-storey residential tower in London last week have failed their compulsory fire safety tests.

The UK-wide fire safety alert on residential tower blocks has been triggered by the Grenfell Tower blaze on June 14, which resulted in at least 79 deaths and displaced hundreds.

UK Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said today that as many as 34 buildings in 17 local council areas in the country were so far affected and tests in other areas are ongoing.

"The fact that all samples so far have failed the tests underlines the value of the testing programme we have set up with the Building Research Establishment to get samples checked properly in the laboratories. It is therefore very important for local authorities and housing associations to continue to submit such samples as a matter of urgency," the minister said.

"The landlords for all the affected buildings are taking action to inform tenants and implement the interim safety measures needed. Areas affected include the city of Manchester, Camden, Plymouth, Hounslow, Portsmouth, Barnet and Brent," Javid said.

Not all buildings failing the test are expected to be evacuated as people from Chalcots Estate in Swiss Cottage in north London spent a second night away from their homes after being moved out on Friday night as the estate was found to be vulnerable.

Javid said the decision to evacuate four towers on London's Chalcots Estate was taken because a failed cladding test had been "compounded by multiple other fire safety failures". – PTI

British Parliament hit by cyber-attack

LONDON, June 25: The British Parliament has been hit by a cyber-attack, officials at Westminster said.

The "sustained" hack began on Friday night, prompting officials to disable remote access to the emails of MPs, peers and their staff as a safeguard, BBC reported on Saturday.

The parliamentary authorities

accounts and systems, and we are taking the necessary steps to protect and secure our network.

"As a precaution we have temporarily restricted remote access to the network."

IT services on the parliamentary estate are working normally and a message sent to MPs urges them to remain "extra vigilant".



said hackers had mounted a "de-terred attack" on all user accounts "in an attempt to identify weak passwords".

A spokeswoman said they were investigating and liaising with the National Cyber Security Centre.

She said: "We have discovered unauthorised attempts to access accounts of parliamentary networks users."

"Parliament has robust measures in place to protect all of our

But a number of MPs have confirmed to the BBC that they are not able to access their parliamentary email accounts outside of the Westminster estate.

It comes just over a month after 48 of England's NHS trusts were hit by a cyber-attack. The latest attack was publicly revealed by Liberal Democrat peer Lord Leonard on Twitter who had also asked his followers to send any "urgent messages" to him by text. – IANS

Hacking group believes NASA will announce discovery of aliens



NEW YORK, June 25: Anonymous – the loose collective of hackers and online activists – claims that the US space agency NASA

is all set to announce the discovery of alien life,

life, the media reported. "NASA says aliens are coming!" the group wrote on their website.

In a video on the issue, Anonymous has

cited several other alien-friendly comments

made by astronauts and space exploration en-

thusiasts in the past, as well as various alien

and UFO 'sightings' as evidence that "some-

thing is going on in the skies above".

Anonymous' claim is based on a number of recent NASA discoveries coupled with comments made by one of the agency's spokesmen during a Congressional hearing in April titled 'Advances in the Search for Life', reported rt.com.

"NASA's recent advances, such as the discovery of hydrogen in Saturn's moon Enceladus and the Hubble team's promising results from the oceans of Jupiter's moon Europa, are promising signs that we're closer than ever to discovering evidence of alien life." Professor Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, told the hearing.

"Taking into account all of the different ac-

tivities and missions that are specifically searching for evidence of alien life, we are on the verge of making one of the most pro-

found, unprecedented, discoveries in history."

Zurbuchen said. – IANS

Putting others first can cost more lives in emergencies: study



TORONTO, June 25: Selfless heroism is not the best strategy for rescuing. In very critical situations, we have to be kind or selfish, but we can still help others if we have proper equipment and proper strategies," said Eishiro Higo, PhD candidate at University of Waterloo.

Researchers built a two-dimensional computer model of an actual three-level underground space in Kyoto, Japan that consists of a sub-way platform, a parking garage and

a shopping mall.

The model simulated severe flooding from a nearby river, with a mix of adults and senior citizens who must reach safety via staircases from the subway platform level to the surface.

Researchers ran the model using three different evacuation strategies: one in which people only worried about themselves, one in which people immediately worked together as a group and one in which those capable of saving themselves reached a safe place before trying to save others using a rope.

The team found that in most life-and-death scenarios when variables such as the ratio of adults to seniors were adjusted, the rope strat-

egy resulted in the highest overall survival rate.

In a typical scenario that assumed evacuation efforts beginning at a particular point in time, for example, 12 of 30 people survived using the rope strategy, while there were just five survivors using either of the other two strategies, researchers said.

Researchers found that crucial to the success of the rope strategy, however, was the availability of simple tools for use by rescuers.

Design features including handrails and raised areas on stairs for evacuees to brace themselves or rest also markedly increased the chances of survival. The study was published in the journal, *Expert Systems with Applications*. – PTI

Xi's first visit as Chinese President to Hong Kong

BEIJING, June 25: Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit Hong Kong next week to mark the 20th anniversary of its handover from Britain to China.

Xi's three-day visit to Hong Kong, China's special administrative region, will begin on June 29, Xinhua news agency reported.

After becoming the President, this is Xi's first visit to the island which is governed by China under the principle of "one country, two systems".

As per the pact agreed between Britain and China when the former handed over the rule to the latter, Hong Kong will have a high degree of autonomy and will preserve it for 50 years from the date of the handover in 1997.

Pro-democracy forces worry over slow elected reforms and indirect election of half of the lawmakers – said to be handicapped by Beijing – in Hong Kong.

According to the *South China Morning Post*, Xi has a packed itinerary that includes overseeing the swearing-in of the new Chief Executive, Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-nger, and her cabinet on July 1. – IANS



A soldier stands guard amid burnt-out cars and motorcycles at the scene of an oil-tanker explosion in Bahawalpur, Pakistan on Sunday. – UNI

149 killed, 117 injured as oil tanker explodes in Pak

LAHORE, June 25: About 150 people were charred to death and 117 others injured today in a massive blaze that erupted after an oil tanker overturned and crowds rushed to collect the fuel that spilled over on a highway in Pakistan's Punjab Province.

The oil tanker coming from Karachi and headed to Lahore overturned early this morning on the national highway at the Ahmedpur Sharqia area of the Bahawalpur district, some 400 km from Lahore, after a tyre burst.

The fire was apparently caused by someone who lit a cigarette after people from nearby localities gathered on the highway to collect spent petrol, officials said.

The blaze from the oil spill engulfed scores of residents, killing 149 people and injuring 117 others, officials said. District Coordination Officer (DCO) Bahawalpur Rana Salim Afzal termed it a "huge tragedy" in the history of Pakistan.

"At least 123 people were killed before getting any medical help while the rescue officials shifted more than 100 injured to the district headquarters hospital and Victoria Hospital in Bahawalpur where the condition of most of them is critical," Afzal said, adding some 50,000 litres of petrol spilled from the oil tanker. Afzal said women and children were among the victims.

"My cousin told me to pick bottles and come out of the house. When I came out of the house I saw many people rushing towards the highway and some going there by motorcycle. Me and my cousin Rashid reached the highway and joined the people busy in collecting the petrol spilling from the tanker."

"Suddenly the tanker burst and the people gathered near it were burnt alive. Rashid and I were a little away from the tanker therefore we are alive," Hanif said. He said it was "greed" of the villagers which took them to the "valley of death".

The Punjabi government said three helicopters were shifting the critically burnt people to Multan's combined military hospital and Nishter Hospital for providing better health facilities. Regional Police Officer Bahawalpur Raja Rafiq said the motorway police personnel had reached the spot when the oil tanker overturned. – PTI

UK school asks teen students to draft suicide note

LONDON, June 25: An English teacher in the UK asked over 60 teenage students to draft a suicide note for homework as part of a module on Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*, sparking outrage and prompting the school to apologise.

Pupils at Thomas Tallis school, Kidbrooke, London, were asked to pen a final note to their loved ones after reading one of the play's most celebrated scenes, when Lady Macbeth takes her own life.

However, the decision caused outrage among parents, some of whom claimed their children had been personally affected by the issue. *The Telegraph* reported.

Criticising Thomas Tallis for its lack of sensitivity, one mother said her daughter had been told to write the note – despite having lost three friends to suicide.

She was quoted as saying that her daughter had become "very distressed", and had told the teacher in question that such material made her feel uncomfortable. "My daughter had had personal experience with people her age committing suicide," the mother said. – PTI

Turkey rejects Arab demand to close military base in Qatar

ANKARA, June 25: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday denounced the list of demands put forward by four Arab states for encouraging or turning a blind eye to terror activities on either territory.

This month, Afghan authorities launched the Kabul Process, a peace initiative backed by numerous peace initiatives and international organizations, but rejected by the insurgency movement Taliban.

The first and so far only official meeting between the Taliban and the government took place in July 2015, but the process was halted days later as news of the killing of Taliban founder Mullah Omar broke. The Taliban has since refused to negotiate.

Since the end of the NATO combat mission, insurgents have been gaining ground in different parts of the strife-torn country. – IANS



Rescue workers pull a rescue dog across a river at the site of a landslide in the village of Ximao, Mao County, Sichuan Province, China on Sunday. – UNI



LOCAL FORECAST:
Generally cloudy sky.
Rain/thundershower is
very likely to occur. Maximum
temperature is most likely to be 34°C on
Monday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 33.8°C
Min 25.5°C

Retired college teachers' meet on July 2

GUWAHATI, June 25: The Assam Retired College Teachers' Association will hold its biennial general conference with a daylong programme at Arya Vidyaapeeth College here on July 2 from 10 am. Besides organisational matters, various issues such as pension revision under the 7th Pay Commission will be discussed at the meet. All the retired college teachers of Assam are requested to attend, stated a press release.

Namaz

GUWAHATI, June 25: The Id-ul-Fitr namaz will be held at the Guwahati Idgah field at Machihewa here at 9 am on June 27. As per rituals, the namaz will be held after visibility of the Moon, stated a press release issued by the Guwahati Idgah Committee. — Staff Reporter

Ambubachi Mela comes to an end



Devotees on the Kamakhya temple premises during the Ambubachi Mela, in Guwahati on Sunday - UB Photos

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 25: The doors of the Kamakhya temple would be opened for the devotees since early morning tomorrow marking the culmination of the Ambubachi festival. The temple witnessed an unprecedented rush of people since last evening, which is likely to increase further when the doors will be opened.

"Considering the rush of people this time, we expect a total footfall of more than 40 lakh people during the week-long fest. The number might go up as the devotees are lining up the entire night to go inside the temple. From next onwards, we have to make arrangements to accommodate more people," he added.

Last night also, the movement of devotees had to be stopped due to heavy rush. The "Nibrat" timing, which signifies the winding up of the Ambubachi Mela inside the temple, is 1.39 am on the intervening night of June 25 and 26.

"Despite the rush of people this time, the Mela was smoothly arranged by the administration in which the temple management authorities also extended their full cooperation. Since the rush would continue for a couple of days more, we are preparing to accommodate more people for darshan," said Sanjeeb Sarma, public relations officer of the Kamakhya Devata management committee. After completing the rituals inside the sanctum sanctorum, the authorities would open the doors by 6.30 am tomorrow.

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BJP slams attack on Baker

GUWAHATI, June 25: The State unit of the BJP has criticised the attack on actor and MP George Baker allegedly by TMC workers at Kalna of Burdwan district, West Bengal. State party president Ranjeet Kr Dass, terming the act as "highly regrettable" said every worker of a party has the right to be involved in party activities. He asked the TMC workers to refrain from such timid acts in the future and said such activities will never demoralise the BJP cadre.

Baker was travelling to Kalna as a part of the BJP's Vistarak programme when his car was attacked by some TMC workers. — Staff Reporter

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live.

— FLORA WHITTEMORE

**Need to act**

Kashmir continues to simmer with sporadic acts of violence. Apart from the security forces, the local police force too has been bearing the brunt of the lethal consequences of conflict. Only last month terrorists across the border had infiltrated into India and shot dead seven, including five policemen, while robbing a cash-van in the Kulgam district of South Kashmir. The latest policeman to have been killed was Mohammad Ayub Pandit, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who was lynched by an enraged mob in front of a local mosque in Srinagar. However, it is the aftermath of this brutal killing which provides a true mirror to the reality of the Kashmiri situation. Reportedly, only the leaders of the political entities visited the family of the slain officer to offer their condolences. But there have been no protests on the part of the stone-throwing brigade who are normally so keen to call for a shutdown at the killing of someone whom they called their own. In fact, during the burial of a militant or a protester, thousands gather to pay their 'respect', while few of the local population attend the last rites of a policeman or a soldier even if he belonged to Kashmir. This has been the pattern ever since the killing of Hizbul commander Burhan Wani, with the situation fuelled by Pakistan, degenerating into a warlike one rather than attaining a semblance of normalcy.

Given this degeneration, and the alienation of a large swathe, in particular of young people of Kashmir, from the national mainstream, it is surprising to observe the inertia which has gripped both the State Government and the Centre who seem incapable of any action to stem the rot. While the Mehboba Mufti-led coalition State Government appears to be at its wits' end as to how to govern in a near-anarchic scenario, the Centre has put its head in the sand, seemingly passing the buck to the security forces to handle the conflict as best they can. If the Centre assumes that a hard-line stance, and utterances by individuals like Amit Shah that there would be no dialogue with separatists till the stone-throwing ends, would ever bring normalcy to Kashmir, it is living in a fool's paradise. This lack of any initiative is proving convenient to Pakistan which is providing almost day-to-day fuel to keep alive the fires of discontent. It is time for the NDA Government to think out of the box and search for options to mere containment of civilian violence, and for the State Government to play a more proactive role. They have to bear in mind that a hard-line stance has never permanently solved similar problems in conflict hotspots around the world, as borne out by scenarios in Gaza, or closer at home in States like Manipur and Nagaland.

Drug trafficking

The past few years have seen a spurt in drug trafficking in the State and other parts of the North-east, with more and more seizures of huge consignments of narcotics corroborating the disturbing trend. Smuggling in heroin is said to be an all-time high in the North-east now. The frequent seizures of narcotics are clearly the proverbial tip of the iceberg and expose the growing magnitude of the nefarious illegal trade in narcotics. For long the North-east has been a major conduit of the flourishing narcotics smuggling originating from the infamous 'Golden Triangle' of Myanmar. Together with the bordering areas, Guwahati, too, is fast turning out to be a major transit point of narcotics smuggling — something testified to by the growing number of seizures and arrests made in the city. It has been established that contraband drugs from Myanmar enter the North-east mainly through the two border States of Manipur and Mizoram and find their way to various parts of the country through Guwahati. A natural fallout of this ominous development has been the running of a parallel arms racket in the North-east by the drugs mafia. That some militant groups of the region are also actively into the drugs racket has complicated and worsened the situation.

The situation emerging out of the easy availability of drugs is having serious and long-term socio-economic implications. A large number of teenagers and youths are increasingly falling prey to the trap, with drug addiction now a disturbing concern in the region. Policing apart, society as a whole will have to wake up to the hazard and ensure rectifying measures. Drug addiction is a grave social problem in States like Manipur and Mizoram, and as the practice of taking intravenous drugs is rampant, this has contributed substantially to the spread of the dreaded AIDS in the region. Drug abuse also has to be accorded the importance it deserves from the psychological, behavioural and social perspectives. Rehabilitation of the drug addicts is another issue that needs adequate attention from both government and non-government agencies. While no authentic survey is available to ascertain the actual number of drug abusers in the North-east, the figure is bound to be alarming. It is creating a grave social crisis, and the booming narcotics trade, if left unchecked, will have far disastrous impacts on society. Together with a sustained crackdown on the drug mafia, it is equally imperative for the Government of India to take up the matter of cross-border drugs smuggling and arms trafficking in all seriousness with its Myanmar counterpart. With the Indo-Myanmar ties now improving, India should firmly before Myanmar its legitimate concerns as without bilateral cooperation, it would be next to impossible to put an end to the cross-border movement of drugs and arms.

Khaplang's demise and insurgency in NE

■ **Brig Ranjit Borthakur (Retd)**

The death of the NSCN (K) chairman Shangwang Shangyung Khaplang on June 9, 2017 has again brought the issue of the Naga peace process to the forefront. Out of the three Naga leaders who had denounced the Shillong Accord of 1975 and formed the GRN (Government of People's Republic of Nagaland), only Thuingaleng Muivah is alive. Isak Chisi Swu, the former chairman of NSCN (IM), died in June, 2016.

Finding a permanent solution to the Naga insurgency is not easy. Sometimes in the past, one had heard views like 'Naga problem can be solved when the aging leaders die'. Such type of 'optimistic thinking' is far from truth. Can a six-decade-long struggle end with the death of the aged leaders?

However, Khaplang's death has given an opportunity to the Central Government to strive for a permanent solution to the problem. A solution to the Naga problem will put pressure on many other insurgent groups to commence talks with the Centre. A day after the death of Khaplang, Union Minister for State, Kiren Rijiju appealed to the Indian Nagas in NSCN (K) to surrender, assuring proper rehabilitation. The Government can only talk to the Indian Nagas, and not to the Nagas of Myanmar. Of course, his statement could also lead to further division amongst the Nagas which may be to the Centre's advantage, especially in the short term. The NSCN (K) has a sizeable representation of Nagas from Myanmar as well as the Nagas from Arunachal Pradesh

and Nagaland. It is pertinent to note that Khaplang himself was a Hermit Naga of Myanmar.

Vice-chairman Kangha Konyak (an Indian Naga) has been appointed as the chairman on June 21 last. Konay, born in 1943, had gone to China for arms training in 1976 along with Isak and Muivah. On taking over, he said: "I shall steadfastly pursue the just cause and aspirations of the Nagas."

The NSCN (K) leadership has to carry out a fine balance between the different tribes of the Indian Nagas and Myanmar Nagas. The other insurgents groups, particularly those aligned with NSCN (K), will keenly observe the new development. The chairman of NSCN (K) in all probability will also be the chairman of the ULFWSEA (United Liberation Front of West South-East Asia).

The Naga insurgency is replete with examples of defections of cadres and leaders from one group to another mostly based on tribal loyalties. Hence, it is likely that besides the most dominant NSCN (IM), the other two smaller groups, namely NSCN (R) and NSCN (KIO) — both formed due to the split of NSCN (K) — will try to engineer defection of NSCN (K) cadres to the respective groups.

There is no doubt that with the death of Khaplang, the Government will put pressure on the NSCN (K) to join the ceasefire process. Besides, the Nagaland Government, the civil society, Naga elders, etc., had been appealing to

Khaplang to join the peace process. The NSCN (K) had signed a ceasefire agreement with Government in 2003 but terminated the same in 2015 accusing the Indian Government of not showing sincerity. Khaplang then formed the ULFWSEA along with ULFA (I), NDFB, KLO and Corcor consisting of six major militant groups of Manipur. The organization carried out one of the most deadly attacks on June 4, 2015 at Chandel district

which reportedly tried to play one insurgent group against another either to weaken or strengthen a particular group. There are also instances when various agencies appear to be working at cross-purposes. In the decade of 1990-2000, NSCN (K) had the sole monopoly in Tirap/Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh, thus the tactic support of some agencies.

Though weak militarily, NSCN (K) has certain strategic advantages. The most important is that the organization has a ceasefire agreement with the Myanmar Government which allows the NSCN (K) and other aligned groups like the ULFA (I) to establish training camps in these areas.

Secondly, the NSCN (K) besides having a good understanding with many NE insurgent groups reportedly has good relations with the KIA (Kachin Independence Army). It's having a tacit understanding with the Myanmar army cannot be ruled out. Thirdly, unfortunately the NSCN (IM) which is demanding greater Nagaland comprising huge areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur, NSCN (K) has not officially made known their demands. Fourthly, the routes to various insurgent camps in Myanmar are through Tirap/Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh or through Mon district of Nagaland. All these areas are under the influence of NSCN (K).

The Central Government besides putting pressure on the NSCN (K) is also likely to approach the Myanmar Government to carry out operations against the Indian insurgent groups based inside Myanmar. The NSCN (IM) statement on the death of Khaplang, pardoning Khaplang for "all the political mistakes and crimes", is indicative of the fact that the organization is willing for reconciliation with the NSCN (K), it may even be a psychological play to encourage defections.

There is no doubt that there existed a deep animosity at the personal level between Muivah and Khaplang. It is pertinent to note that on April 30, 1988, the Council headquarters of the undivided NSCN (located inside Myanmar) was attacked by Khaplang and the Burmese Army resulting in killing of a large number of cadres, mainly belonging to the Tangkhul tribe. The attack was due to allegations by Khaplang that Isak and Muivah had made a 'secret understanding' with the Government of India to settle the Naga problem within the framework of the Indian Constitution. Muivah and Isak subsequently formed the NSCN (IM), the most dominant insurgent outfit in the region.

Next few months will be crucial for the future of the NSCN (K). Probably, the umbrella group ULFWSEA will carry out some violent activities to show their existence and solidarity amongst the different elements of the group. A holistic policy of the Central Government (unlike the piecemeal policy being followed now) involving all stakeholders can usher peace in the region. If NSCN (K) decides to talk with the Government, the other insurgent groups will be extremely difficult to secure shelter in Myanmar but this is unlikely in the immediate future.

Fish feeds and self-sufficiency in fish production

■ **Dipesh Debnath, Sona Yengkokpam**

Fish farmers of the region (barring some progressive fish farmers) mostly think that they will grow as such. Most of the times, a fish farmer will ask a question as to why their fish is not growing. If asked whether they are feeding the fish, often the answer would be that some mustard oil cakes (MOC) or rice bran (RB) are being put in the pond corners at unknown quantities and irregular timings. Normally, fish has to be fed 2-5% of their body weight (depending on the stage of culture), at fixed timing (e.g., 9 am and 4 pm) and at least two times a day.

Fertilization of fish ponds is one of the most critical and important pre- and post-stocking management steps for semi-intensive systems of aquaculture mostly practised in India. It is normally done with organic (such as cow dung, poultry/pig manure, etc.) or inorganic (urea, single superphosphate, etc.) fertilizers to generate within the pond ecosystem the natural fish food organisms called phytoplankton and zooplankton. These natural fish food organisms are generally not suffi-

cient for the stocked fish to support maximum growth potential of fish within a short culture period of 8-10 months. Hence, supplementary feeding with artificial feeds has become the most important post-stocking management measure which has the potential to deliver higher fish production per unit area of water. The level of fish production mainly depends on the quality and quantity of such supplementary feeds and the method of feed distribution followed. The quality of fish feeds is determined by the contents of major nutrients (such as protein, lipid and carbohydrate) and micro-nutrients (vitamins and minerals).

A good fish feed formulation with locally available feed ingredients could comprise of 54% protein ingredients (such as 5% fish meal, 15% groundnut oil cake, 15% mustard oil cake and 19% soybean meal) and 45% carbohydrate/energy ingredients (such as 30% rice or wheat bran and 15% maize flour), and remaining 1% vitamin-mineral premix. The feed manufactured using the above formulation will have 26-28% protein, which is normally sufficient in a semi-intensive system of fish culture.

Fish feeds and feed stuffs contain nutrients and energy sources essential for fish growth, reproduc-

tion and health. Deficiencies of these substances can reduce growth rates or lead to diseases, and, in some cases, excesses can cause a reduction in growth rate. As in human beings, a fish needs energy, protein and amino acids, lipids, minerals, and vitamins from diets. Energy intake is a basic nutritional requirement because maintenance of life processes takes priority over growth, reproduction and other functions. Thus, energy should be the first nutritional consideration while formulating diet for fish. The most important thing to emphasize is that protein and energy should be kept in balance in formulated diets. Any deficiency or excess of digestible energy can reduce growth rates of fish.

Protein requirements, as a proportion of the diet, decrease as fish approach maturity. Protein is used for fish growth if adequate levels of fats and carbohydrates are present in the feed; otherwise protein may be used for energy rather than growth. Lipids are important sources of energy in aquafeeds; they supply about twice the energy compared to proteins and carbohydrates. They supply essential fatty acids (EFA) that are needed for normal growth and development of fish.

They also assist in the absorption of

fat-soluble vitamins. The fatty acid composition of the dietary lipids has a significant influence on the tissue fatty acid composition of the fish. Hence, supplying appropriate levels/types of lipids (e.g., fish oil, coconut oil) in fish feeds may produce a designer fish (*omega-fish*) providing beneficial effects (e.g., cardiovascular health) on the consumer. Preparing feeds with higher levels of lipids (called nutrient-dense diets) is a recent trend in feed development, which might reduce the feed cost but the adverse effects should also be considered carefully.

Carbohydrates are the most economical and inexpensive sources of energy for fish and invariably fish diets have lots of carbohydrates. Vitamins are organic compounds necessary in the diet for normal growth and health of fish; they act as cofactors or substrates in many metabolic reactions required for life to sustain.

A judicious use of artificial feeds in fish culture systems of the North-east region should be advocated so that our productivity increases leading to boosting of total fish production. Farmers may not have to understand the basic principles of fish nutrition and feed technology, but they have to realize that feeding is must.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir — After India lost the final of the 2017 Champions Trophy against Pakistan in England recently, the fans have reacted rather too harshly. This is not the first instance that the much-worshipped heroes of Indian cricket have been treated as villains and asked to live up to the expectations in the ICC event. The 1996 and 2007 versions of the ICC Cricket World Cup had seen similar kind of reactions from the fans. The effigies of the players are being burnt and stones have been thrown at the players' residences. People have started using abusive words for the players. They have even questioned on the captaincy ability of Virat Kohli and demanded MS Dhoni be given the responsibility back. No doubt, Virat is the next best thing that happened in Indian cricket after Sachin Tendulkar. But MSD is the man who took team India to a level where we just can't think of a captain other than him. Yes, it was

Champions Trophy failure and fans' reactions

Sourav Ganguly who taught us to be much aggressive to win matches abroad in the mid-2000s and on the basis of the foundation laid by this great, Mahi won us the ICC Cricket World Cup at home in 2011. However, MSD is now at the fog of his illustrious career and having already retired from the longest form of the gentleman's game, it won't be a better idea to give him the captaincy back. It would only destroy the confidence of Kohli who is the backbone of India's batting. Hence, we should rather concentrate on building a stronger team with a blend of experience and youth for the next World Cup. If we are true sports lovers, we should stand beside the players both in their success and failures rather than indulging in meaningless criticism. Yours etc., KALYAN RABHA, Daulguri.

Political choice

Sir — This is response to the editorial 'Political choice' (June 21). Irrespective of his/her demographic credentials, i.e., caste, language or religion, an efficient, eligible person possessing merit should necessarily be provided a smooth passage to attain any responsible post, be it that of President/Prime Minister/Chief Minister/Cabinet Minister/Judge, etc. But one should not be given any post on a platter just because he/she is affiliated to any particular caste/religion/race. Let eligibility, not playing to the gallery, be the sole consideration while selecting any person for any particular chair. Yours etc., RAJAL CHATTERJEE, Peerless Nagar, Kolkata.

DHE guideline

Sir — The present DHE guideline for the selection of assistant professor in the provincial/government degree colleges needs to be modified soon as it devalues the in-service candidates. It gives 70% weightage towards the academic performance violating the UGC regulations. However, the present-day examination systems, from matriculation to postgraduation, allow many to score high marks which was unthinkable even a decade ago. On the other hand, good teachers turn to be excellent as years pass. Hence, awarding only five marks for experience

under this guideline is unjustifiable towards the in-service candidates in view of the 70% weightage given towards the academic performance. Further, age restriction given by the DHE, Assam to apply for the post of assistant professor not only violates the UGC regulations but also is discriminatory towards the experienced-in-service candidates. Moreover, some college teachers had joined against the sanctioned posts before NET/SLET becoming the minimum eligibility condition. A few among them were able to do PhD in their respective fields fulfilling the criterion, as per the UGC regulations of July 11, 2009, to be exempted from the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SLET. However, if they apply in other colleges now, they wouldn't be entitled to get marks for their PhD degrees under this guideline, although for them PhD is purely an additional qualification. Yours etc., DR MUKUL KR SARMA, Sarukshetra.

Railway appointments

Sir — It is quite disturbing to know that not a single Assamese name appeared in the list out of 51

people selected recently for appointment in the Indian Railways, for Assam region. This is not a new thing for the Assamese people. This kind of deprivation/discrimination against the Assamese people is going on since 1947. My question is to Rajen Gohain and others who are at the helm of affairs, whether this kind of discrimination is possible in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and the southern States? It is rubbish to say that our boys have no talent even to get selected for the second and third grade jobs. I don't want to blame the central leadership on this issue. The very purpose of putting a person from Assam as the head of the selection board is an indirect way to help the local people. The great paradox is that the Assamese people don't find other fellow Assamese as competent unless one is near to him. Gohain can't shirk his responsibility on this issue now. Yours etc., PRAFULLA DOWARAH, Guwahati.

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

Rly recruitment
AIUDF raps Centre
for 'discrimination'
against local youths

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 25: All India United Democratic Front has alleged that discrimination is being meted out to youths from Assam in particular and the North-east in general in Railway recruitment.

Party spokesperson Aminul Islam said such discrimination is unfortunate and cited the recent example wherein not even a single candidate from Assam was recruited for filling the vacancies of Commercial Inspector and Commercial Clerk in the NF Railway zone.

"It is unfortunate that local youths are being deprived under the BIP regime which came to power on the promise of protecting their interests," he said.

He said BIP leaders earlier promised of more Central Govt jobs for youths from Assam, but the situation is totally different on the ground. Islam said that the Assamese youths are getting deprived of railway jobs at a time when an MP from the State is holding the post of Minister of State for Railways. "The minister concerned should give an explanation to the people of Assam in this regard," he said. He alleged that the State government is helpless against the "Hindi lobby".

Scholarship for students

GUWAHATI, June 25: The Biva-Himangshi Memorial Trust has announced a scholarship for meritorious students (HSLC pass-outs) hailing from weak economic background, under which the trust would take care of all educational expenses of two selected students till the degree level. In a statement, the trust solicited response from such students who secured over 90 per cent marks in the HSLC exam. — Staff Reporter

'Public transport operators unleash reign of lawlessness'

Transport Dept, police mute spectators, commuters indifferent, says Prof Dutta

STAFF REPORTER

Motor Vehicles Act, which has rendered travelling a dangerous proposition for the common man besides perpetuating the traffic chaos.

Underscoring the need for better policing and a vigilant public to streamline the running of public transport, Prof Dutta said that the fines imposed for traffic rule violations for city buses, such as not stopping at designated stops or waiting beyond the stipulated time, was too meagre to be an effective deterrent.

Citing an example, Prof Dutta said that while travelling in a city bus (AS-

01-GC-8766) on June 9, he lodged a complaint to the City Police's Traffic Branch as the bus stopped much ahead of the designated stop at Ganeshguri, hindering movement of other vehicles, and then it stayed stationed at the stop for a fairly long time despite protests by him.

"At the end, following my complaint the Traffic Police intercepted the bus at Chandmari and slapped a fine of Rs 500 for the violations. I thank the police for that but the fact is that such a little amount of fine is unlikely to be any deterrent for the errant drivers and opera-

tors," he said.

Prof Dutta also said that none of the passengers in the bus joined him while he was protesting and none was asking for any ticket either.

"This passive attitude of the public is worsening the situation whereas an assertive public would have

gone a long way in securing their rights," he added.

He further said that the alarming incidence of road accidents in the State, claiming over four thousand human lives every year, as also the deteriorating traffic problems and the most uncivilised public transport

system, corroborated the fact that the authorities concerned have done little to stem the rot.

"This is criminal to have thousands of people getting killed on the State's roads but is the government taking any action?" he questioned.

Prof Dutta said that given the huge number of casualties in accidents, the State Government ought to have treated it as a serious law and order problem and initiated remedial measures accordingly, but it chose instead to remain a mute spectator.

"Provisions of the Motor

Vehicles Act are flouted with

impunity, as is evident from overloaded city bus and other long- and short-distance buses, the shockingly reckless driving of city buses, trekkers and delivery vans, and parking of commercial vehicles in places meant for private vehicles besides the wild driving indulged in by many private car and two-wheeler owners, especially the youth," Prof Dutta said.

He added that city buses and trekkers operate as per their whims, flouting all norms like stopping at unauthorised points and for a long time on the designated bus stops, creating traffic

snarls. "Issuance of tickets to passengers has ceased since long, and the conductors and handymen often behave in an uncivilised manner," he said, adding that rowdy elements have taken complete control of the city's public transport.

Criticising the City Traffic Police, Prof Dutta said its role has been reduced to clearing the road for ensuring safe passage of so-called VIPs including ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats. He said that the 'so-called VIPs' apart, the various armed forces also travelled in a manner as if they were a law unto themselves.

Drug abuse can lead to HIV infection

Shared needle & syringe amongst drug users may transmit HIV

Drug and alcohol intoxication affect judgement leading to risky sexual behaviour

Avoid drugs and keep HIV/AIDS at bay

HIV/AIDS is a Reality
Let's make it History

To know your HIV status,
visit your nearest ICTC in hospital



ASSAM STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY
www.assamsacs.org

Janasanyog/656/17



অসম চৰকাৰ



শ্রীযুত সর্বানন্দ সেঁগোৱাল
মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, অসম

আন্তর্জাতিক নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্য আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহ
বিৰোধী দিৰস উপলক্ষ্যে অসমৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী

মাননীয়

শ্রীযুত সর্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল দেৱৰ
অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ প্রতি আহুন



অসম চৰকাৰ



শ্রীযুত নৰ কুমাৰ দলে
মাননীয় সমাজ কল্যাণ
মন্ত্ৰী (ৰাজ্যিক), অসম

নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহ বিৰোধী দিৰস

উপলক্ষ্যে অসমৰ সমাজ কল্যাণ মন্ত্ৰী (ৰাজ্যিক)

মাননীয়

শ্রীযুত নৰ কুমাৰ দলে দেৱৰ
অসমৰ বাহ্যিক প্রতি গোহাবি

নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু ইয়াৰ আৰৈথ সবৰবাহ আজি সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰ বাবেই এক গুৰুত্ব সমষ্টি হৈ দেখা দিছে। নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহৰ ফলত আমাৰ সমাজৰ এটা প্ৰজন্ম আজি প্ৰায় খন্দসৰ কৰলত পৰাৰ উপক্ৰম হৈছে। যিবানেই বিপদজনক নহওঁক কিবা, নভুন কিবা এটা কৰাৰ বাবে নৰ শঙ্কামূলক এক সহজত প্ৰয়োগ আৰু ইয়েই আজানিতে তেওঁলোকক নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ দৰে ভয়াৰকৰ এৰ অভাসৰ প্ৰতি আগত কৰিব। এবাৰ এন্দৰ ক্ষতিকৰণ প্ৰয়োগতাৰ প্ৰতি আসক্ত হৈ পোৱাৰ পিচড়ি সহজে নহয়। কিন্তু এই বিষয়ে আমাৰ অধিকাৰণ লোকেই অবগত নহয়। সেই কাৰণে সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰাসীয়ে আজি নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ক্ষতিকৰণ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু ইয়াৰ আৰৈথ সবৰবাহ কৰিবলৈ বাবে সংকলনৰ মুক্তি হৈ থকা নাই। সেয়েহে আমিৰ সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰাসীৰ লগতে আন্তৰ্জাতিক নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহৰ বিকল্প এক সজাগতা সৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা আহি পৰিবে১। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত বাজাখনৰ সকলো হিতাক্ষৰী নাগৰিক, সেছামোৰী সংৰঠন, সংবাদ মাধ্যম আদিবৰ আন্তৰিক প্ৰচেষ্টাই নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহৰ প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰিবলৈ সম্ভলৱক হ'ব বুলি মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস।

সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল
মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, অসম

সমাজ কল্যাণ বিভাগ, অসম চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা জনহিতাৰ্থে প্ৰচাৰিত

নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু ইয়াৰ আৰৈথ সবৰবাহ আজি সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰ বাবেই এক গুৰুত্ব সমষ্টি হৈ দেখা দিছে। নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহৰ ফলত আমাৰ সমাজৰ এটা প্ৰজন্ম আজি প্ৰায় খন্দসৰ কৰলত পৰাৰ উপক্ৰম হৈছে। যিবানেই বিপদজনক নহওঁক কিবা, নভুন কিবা এটা কৰাৰ বাবে নৰ শঙ্কামূলক এক সহজত প্ৰয়োগ আৰু ইয়েই আজানিতে তেওঁলোকক নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ দৰে ভয়াৰকৰ এৰ অভাসৰ প্ৰতি আগত কৰিব। এবাৰ এন্দৰ ক্ষতিকৰণ প্ৰয়োগতাৰ প্ৰতি আসক্ত হৈ পোৱাৰ সহজে নহয়। কিন্তু এই বিষয়ে আমাৰ অধিকাৰণ লোকেই অবগত নহয়। সেই কাৰণে সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰাসীয়ে আজি নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ক্ষতিকৰণ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু ইয়াৰ আৰৈথ সবৰবাহ কৰিবলৈ বাবে সংকলনৰ মুক্তি হৈ থকা নাই। সেয়েহে আমিৰ সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰাসীৰ লগতে আন্তৰ্জাতিক নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহৰ বিকল্প এক সজাগতা সৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা আহি পৰিবে১। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত বাজাখনৰ সকলো হিতাক্ষৰী নাগৰিক, সেছামোৰী সংৰঠন, সংবাদ মাধ্যম আদিবৰ আন্তৰিক প্ৰচেষ্টাই নিচাযুক্ত দ্রব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আৰু আৰৈথ সবৰবাহৰ প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰিবলৈ সম্ভলৱক হ'ব বুলি মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস।

নৰ কুমাৰ দলে
সমাজ কল্যাণ মন্ত্ৰী (ৰাজ্যিক), অসম

সমাজ কল্যাণ বিভাগ, অসম চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা জনহিতাৰ্থে প্ৰচাৰিত

Brahmaputra Board mooted construction of multipurpose dams

AJIT PATAKARY

GUWAHATI, June 25: "The key to a long term, effective and reasonably permanent solution of the flood problem of the Brahmaputra valley lies in constructing some large storage reservoirs. This is clearly established by the study and analysis of the hydro-meteorological, topographical and geological data... No other measure, be it embankments, afforestation or watershed management would independently contribute as much to the reduction of the flood problem of the valley."

The above is quoted from Chapter XII of the Master Plan of Brahmaputra Basin, Part I, Main Stem. The chapter deals with the issue of storage dams. The Master Plan was prepared by the Brahmaputra Board and it was published in 1986.

AASU felicitates meritorious students at Barama

A CORRESPONDENT

TIHU, June 25: The Barama Anchal Student Union of Baksa district felicitated 115 meritorious students who excelled in the last HSLC and HIS examination, 2017.

A meeting was held in this connection which was also attended by local education trustees and teachers.

Speaking on the occasion, Manoj Swargiary, a pride of Baksa Zila, who shined in the UPSC examination said that patience and perseverance is the key to success. "If we want to achieve something, hard work is a must," he said while interacting with the students during the meeting.

Noted teacher of Barama HS School, Bharat Talukdar appealed to the pupils to follow the path of honesty. "Our students should adopt qualitative education so that they can work for the society," he said.

The students were presented with a citation and a bundle of books. The meeting also felicitated Manoj Swargiary with a *gomesa*, a *jap* and a bundle of books.

Earlier, Dr Sunil Sarma, retired Principal of Barama College, appealed to the students to dedicate themselves for the betterment of the society.

Appreciating the honour from the student body, Pramani Haloi mesmerised the audience by her eloquent speech. The meeting was also attended by Riyajuddin Ahmed, education secretary, Nalbari District Students' Union, Debadhar Sarma, Sarat Sarma, Naren Baro, Gangadar Ramchary and Kandarpa Sarma.

OBITUARY

Hiranya Hazarika

GUWAHATI, June 25: Leading tea farmer and social worker Hiranya Hazarika died at his Puranigudam Bisya Chook residence in Nagaon district on Thursday. He was 89.

Born at Puranigudam, Hazarika was instrumental in spreading the concept of small tea gardens at Puranigudam. Late Hazarika was also honoured by the State Government for his contributions towards modern farming. He was closely associated with the Puranigudam Bapun Hall and Library and was a founder secretary of Puranigudam Barowari Puja Committee. His death was widely mourned in the area.

Former secretary of Puranigudam Bapun Hall and Library Sarat Khauda and senior member Prafulla Saikia offered floral tributes to late Hazarika saying it was irreparable loss to Puranigudam.

Late Hazarika leaves behind his wife and a host of relatives.

Amulya Chakraborty

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, June 25: Noted actor and social worker Amulya Chakraborty passed away at his Bheruadol village residence here on Saturday. He was 70. His death was widely mourned in and around the area.



Members of the Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad staging a sit-in demonstration on the big dam issue at Rangiya, on Saturday. – UB Photos

Award for Dhubri Health Society

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, June 25: The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) centres of Dhubri have been awarded as the best in India in Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC).

The award was given to the District Health Society at a national workshop on CAC, organised by Ipas at Hyderabad recently. Ipas is a global non-profit organisation that works around the world to eliminate deaths and injuries from unsafe abortion and increases women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. Ipas's work is grounded in the belief that women everywhere must have the opportunity to determine their future, care for their families and manage their fertility. Renowned gynaecologist, Dr BC Pradhan received the award. It was also informed that the prize was given mainly for the outstanding achievement of the district post abortion Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (IUD).

"The health sector in the district has done really well when it comes to the implantation of Copper-T to the patients who have gone through abortion. This has not only helped in reducing population but has also protected the women from many health risks that may come from unwanted preg-

nancy," said Dr Neel Madhab Das, Joint Director of Health Services, Dhubri and a member of the District Health Society.

Das also told this correspondent that the district has been awarded for its good results in all the 13 centres, which have been conducting legal abortions with almost no cases of failure.

He also added that the main reason behind the population explosion in the district is the lack of family planning among the people. "If all the couples agree for termination of pregnancy, whenever they don't need a baby, many family issues and social issues will be solved," he added.

Dr Mohan Chandra Borah: a tribute

Dr Mohan Chandra Borah, distinguished scientist, entrepreneur, educationist and social worker passed away on June 16 at 1:45am at a private hospital in Guwahati. He was 80.

Born in Nagaon district in a very humble family, he had an exceptionally brilliant academic career. He did his PhD from Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University in 1970. He then worked at Manchester University, UK and published several research papers. He also obtained the membership of the

Institute of Physics, London and Institute of Metallurgists, London in 1970 and 1975 respectively. He also became the Chartered Engineer (C Eng) from the Institute of Metallurgists, London.

Borah returned back to Assam and joined Assam Carbon Products Limited as head of Research and Development and later started his own venture in 1984. He received an entrepreneurship award from the Government of Assam for his excellence in industrial activities. He was also the member of the board of Directors in Assam Tea Corporation Ltd (ATC) and Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. (AEDCL) for a period of four

years. He was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Tezpur Central University for a period of four years.

Borah was also a dynamic social worker who was associated with the governing bodies of Dispur Law College, Belta College, Deorai College, Guwahati Blind School, Pillangata High School among several other schools and colleges.

He is survived by his son and two daughters besides a host of relatives and admirers.

Today on the day of his *adyashraddha*, we pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

– Dr Dipankar Baruah

Dr Girish Chandra Borgohain

play *Chanda Horai Gol* – which bagged the best play, best director, best music and best actress awards. Thereafter we wrote his second play, *Pandalipji*, which was also highly acclaimed. During his service period in Sibsagar, he had acted, directed and given music in many plays at the famous Sibsagar Natya Mandir. Seuj Konwar Parag Chalisa, Abdul Majid were closely associated with him during those days.

Dr Borgohain was also an avid poet. During his free time, he used to recite poems of Ganesh Gogoi (Popuri Kabi), Hiren Bhattacharjee, Jatinra Nath Duarah and Rabindra Nath Tagore. He had written several poems and got them published in various newspapers, periodicals etc. He had also published a collection of short stories, *Tumuk Dekhbar Babe*, in the mid-80's. Hindustani classical music

was also his passion. He used to play the violin and sing old Hindi songs.

He was a social worker too and was associated with various socio-cultural activities of Doctor's Club, Asam Sahitya Sabha, various theatre/drama groups, the Tai Cultural Centre etc. He was hard working, strong, bold, intelligent, honest and kind; a complete gentleman. He was always immaculately dressed, was incredibly meticulous and his disposition automatically commanded a deep sense of awe and respect towards him.

To most people he was a very strict man. However, the people who knew him the best, know beyond his tough exterior there was an extremely loving and caring man.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

– Rohan Borgohain

Pronob Das

at Digboi and worked there for sometime. But he left IOC and joined Canara Bank as he felt that he could not pursue his creative endeavours at Digboi. He took voluntary retirement from Canara Bank a few months back due to poor health and breathed his last on June 11 last at Jorhat due to multiple organ failure.

Pronob was an introvert from childhood. He was a voracious reader in his schooldays and read nearly all the books in the reading section of Jorhat District Library. He wrote several articles and poems in the school magazine *Jeuji*. But the proud moment of his writing career was his receiving the Best Poet Award of IIT, Delhi for the year 1990. Several of his poems were published in *Chandrabbaga*, the premier poetry journal of India and a few other poetry journals in the early 90's. He wrote many poems in English but many of these have not been published as yet. Due to his failing health and the resultant depression, he kept to himself and avoided meeting people. But he was a very sensitive person and was deeply pained by the gross inequities of our society. Pain, loneliness and empathy for the poor were the recurrent themes of his poems.

On his *adyashraddha* today, his absence would be deeply felt by his friends and admirers.

– Anuj Goswami



Dr Girish Chandra Borgohain, an eminent ophthalmologist, violin player, script writer, poet, writer and a true philanthropist left for his heavenly abode on June 12 last.

During his service as an eye surgeon, he had performed numerous operations, especially cataract operations in hospitals and camps in remote villages. He was the pioneer in bringing the latest technology, computerised eye testing machine in the early 80's in Jorhat.

He was closely associated with Dr Bhupen Hazarika, during the making of *Chameli Mensheba* and *Ek Pal*.

During his studies at the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh he had written his first

poems were published in *Chandrabbaga*, the premier poetry journal of India and a few other poetry journals in the early 90's. He wrote many poems in English but many of these have not been published as yet. Due to his failing health and the resultant depression, he kept to himself and avoided meeting people. But he was a very sensitive person and was deeply pained by the gross inequities of our society. Pain, loneliness and empathy for the poor were the recurrent themes of his poems.

On his *adyashraddha* today, his absence would be deeply felt by his friends and admirers.

– Anuj Goswami

Swachh committee formed under Goalpara Municipality Board

CORRESPONDENT

a civic sense for maintaining cleanliness of the town.

GOALPARA, June 25: A swachh committee formed under the Goalpara Municipality Board (GMB) was inaugurated recently at a meeting held at Boro Bazar Chowk by the Deputy Commissioner Ghanashyam Dass.

Speaking on the occasion, Dass emphasised the need for a clean environment for maintaining a healthy mind and a healthy body. He also lauded the activities of the GMB and appealed to all the citizens of Goalpara for the need to have

organic manure and in this regard, a team comprising the EO of GMB, ward commissioners and officials from the PHE have already visited Kokrajhar and Bilaspur recently to look into the functioning of the composting manure units under the respective municipality boards. Goswami also mentioned that the swachh committee comprising nine members under his chairmanship will focus on maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the entire municipality areas in work places and also in homes.

Darrang DRDA approves schemes

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, June 25: After a long interval of almost five years, a meeting of the high powered governing body of DRDA, Darrang was held in Mangaldoi at the office of the Project Director (PD), DRDA on Thursday.

The meeting chaired by its president, the president of the Zilla Parishad, Darrang, Dipali Deka and attended

by its members including the Development Commissioner Ashok Kr Barman and MLAs of Sipajhar, Kalagona and Dalagon – Binanda Kr Saikia, Maheswar Boro and Ilias Ali respectively among others after a three-hour discussion accorded approval to all the rural development schemes undertaken in Gaon Sabhas for Gaon Panchayat Development Programme (GPDP) for all 75 GP's of the district. This would pave the way reportedly for according Government sanction of around Rs110 crore i.e., twice that of the specific annual labour budget allocation for the district amounting to nearly Rs 55 crore for implementation of the said schemes. At the start of the meeting, Bhupesh Ch Das, PD, DRDA, Darrang-cum-CEO, Darrang Zilla Parishad and member secretary of the governing body explained the objectives of the meeting.

Defunct water supply scheme irks people in Rangiya

CORRESPONDENT

ing their election campaign, but all these remain on paper," a group of residents who did not wish to be named said. "The Government of India has committed to providing every person living in rural India safe and adequate drinking water. That means enough water to drink, cook, bathe for the people as well as the livestock, but are they following the guidelines set by the Ministry," they questioned.

"Immediately after independence, two different water supply schemes were set up in the town – one near the then Circle Office of Rangiya, and the other one at Tinaliae of ward no. 5. Both the schemes had been providing proper drinking water to the people. But, during the first half of 90s, these schemes developed a blind eye in this regard. Worried over the situation considering the rising cases of water-borne diseases at Rangiya, the people have decided to launch a long-term agitation. "We have heard a lot of promises made by the politicians dur-

ing their election campaign, but all these remain on paper," a group of residents who did not wish to be named said. "The Government of India has committed to providing every person living in rural India safe and adequate drinking water. That means enough water to drink, cook, bathe for the people as well as the livestock, but are they following the guidelines set by the Ministry," they questioned.

"We are completely disappointed with the lackadaisical attitude of the authorities concerned. We want immediate revision of the water supply schemes which have remained non-functional for about 25 years, in the greater interest of the people," they unequivocally said.

It is learnt that equipment used in the water supply scheme have been damaged owing to mismanagement and lack of proper maintenance. "Most of the machinery used in the plant got rusted due to mismanagement and need immediate replacement. However, the authorities seem to be aloof about the matter," a technical expert opined.

At the end of the workshop, full dramas including child dramas in memory of dramatist Arun Sarma and Ratan Lohkatt, producer of Kohinoor Theatre will be staged. In this regard, a committee has already been formed with Krishna Roy, pro-

Drama workshop at Pathsala

ANN Service

PATNAMDALI, June 25: Patnambal, Pathsala an organisation specially devoted to drama is going to organise a month-long workshop on drama for children from July 2-31. The workshop will be held at Braja Nath

Sarma Nagtar premises. Prominent figures in this field will take part as resource persons in the workshop. Intending participants are requested to confirm their participation before June 30.



Gohpur AGP workers staging a dharna in protest against non-fulfilment of their long-pending demands at Gohpur, on Saturday. – UB Photos

Water Conservation Campaign under way in Dhemaji district

ANN Service

JONAI, June 25: Tagged with the nationwide 'Water Conservation Campaign' sponsored by NABARD, the Women Development Centre (WDC), a Guwahati-based NGO, is conducting a programme in three blocks of Dhemaji district.

Owing to its ongoing campaign titled 'Jal Jeevan Hai', it conducts awareness campaigns for the farmers to boost their agricultural activities.

The NGO has set a target of 350 villages in Dhemaji district, out of which 50 villages fall under Morkong Selek Block members, bank officials and State Agriculture Department field staff.

They explained to the farm-

ers about diverse aspects of water conservation, efficient water use, enhancement of traditional methods in agriculture with a localised approach. Thus, the Krishiji Jaldoots outlined resource mapping on the availability of check dam, natural water sources and possible measures of water conservation and gathered feedback on need-based irrigation schemes. They also constituted an 11-member Jal Samabd Committee in the targeted villages as per project norms and guidelines.

The NGO in collaboration with South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and Centre for Environment Education (CEE), launched its month-long



campaign in Dhemaji district with a day-long 'Krishi Jaldoot Training' in the Rural Self Employment Training Institute here early last month. The NGO has been entrusted to conduct the campaign in North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts of North Assam.

The Krishiji Jaldoots were earlier imparted training on motivating the farmers to apply irrigation system in their crop fields. Their training included rainwater harvesting (collecting rainwater in the farm ponds, ponds, pond revival etc), groundwater recharge (increase the irrigation area potential), pitcher irrigation and drip irrigation.

mulching, inter-cropping, furrow ridges, community-based water harvesting and spring-based development with bamboo-based irrigation applicable in hilly areas.

It is worth mentioning that NABARD launched the nationwide water campaign on March 22, coinciding with World Water Day to cover one lakh villages in water-stressed areas where groundwater is over-exploited. The campaign was targeted to reach out to 200 districts in 21 States across the country. The entire campaign has been designed and implemented by NABARD in collaboration with the Centre for Environment Education.

Meritorious students feted at Butikor High School

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, June 25: A programme was organised at Butikor High School here recently to felicitate the meritorious students who passed the HSLC Examination this year from the school with first division. Dimba Konwar, president, School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) as well as ex-teacher of the school, chaired the felicitation ceremony while Dilip Kumar Koch, headmaster of the school explained the purpose of it.

The ceremony attended by a good number of students, teachers, guardians and local people was inaugurated by Biren Kumar Konwar, assistant teacher of the school who

in his speech, explained the significance of the felicitation ceremony and thanked the successful candidates, their guardians and invited guests.

In the ceremony, five first division holding students of the school with letter marks in the HSLC Examination in 2017, namely Niharika Saikia Sonowal, Yubaraj Handique, Karisman Borsukia Sonowal, Ridhreswar Sonowal and Himangshu Sonowal were felicitated with a *phulam gamo* and mementos each by the teaching staff of the school. The teachers of Butikor ME School also congratulated the first division holding candidates with books and cover files. On the other hand, retired teacher Bhogeswari Haazarkarika and Akanbara Chetia also inspired

Cong leader shot dead at Jonai

ANN Service

JONAI, June 25: Unidentified miscreants last night shot dead one Hiranya Doley, Congress leader and a resident of Dekapam village under Simenapori Police Station in Dhemaji district.

According to report, four miscreants equipped with fire arms entered at his residence at around 8.30 pm and one of the miscreants shot him with pistol from close range, while he was sitting at the veranda.

Meanwhile, senior police officers of the district rushed to Dekapam and made spot verification. The police have recovered an empty cartridge and a pair of hawaii footware left by the miscreants at the spot. A case has been registered in Simenapori Police Station and investigation is on to nab the culprits.

Though none of the insurgents groups has owned the responsibility, police suspect hand of 'Liberal Democratic Council for Missing Land' because the killing. Having intelligent input that the insurgents

might be hiding at the hilly area at Assam-Arunachal boundary, the police and paramilitary forces are conducting search operation along the boundary at Deka and Sera areas.

Police said that the insurgents earlier served him execution letter demanding a ransom of Rs 2 lakhs which was not paid. He was also warned by the outfit for taking initiative to surrender a cadre of the insurgent group.

Rate police later staged protest on NH-15 at Dekapam, demanding early arrest of the culprits involved in the killing of Hiranya Doley, who earlier served as the chairman of Integrated Tribal Development Project at Jonai.

Dhemaji district police recently apprehended the self-styled chairman of the insurgent group Rupam Patir alias Rahan Patir and Abhijit Doley, a hardcore cadre. Earlier, also the duo was arrested by the police at Tezpur in 2012. The LDCM chief during police interrogation confessed that his organisation was formed in 2009.

Devotees pull Jagannath Rath with religious fervour

CORRESPONDENT

missioner S Vishwanathan who came along with his mother to offer prayers inaugurated the Rath Yatra by cleaning the street with the customary golden broom.

"I am happy to be a part of the celebrations here for the third consecutive year. Hope the festival ushers in happiness peace and prosperity in the lives of the people of the district," Deputy Commissioner said.

Also there was good crowd on both sides of the roads to witness the chariots being

Rath Yatra celebrated at Ram Raikuti Satra

CORRESPONDENT

the devotees drew the chariot to the Ghumuchabari situated half a km away from the Satra and the chariot will remain there for seven days and daily puja and other rituals will also be performed along side. A big mela was also organised. Rath Yatra was also held at Gaupuri.

GARIPUR, June 25: The three hundred fifty years old Rath Yatra of Lord Shrinivasa of the historic Ram Raikuti Satra of Satrasali situated along the Dibrugarh border in Dhubri sector was celebrated today with a day-long programme with the participation of nearly fifteen thousand sadhav devotees coming from various parts of the district and North Bengal.

On the auspicious occasion the devotees cleaned the entire premises of the historic Satra early in the morning and was followed by *naam-kirtan* by the male and female devotees of the Satra. The idol of Lord Sri Krishna and his brother Balaram made of brass metal were taken out from the Manikut and was taken to the Dighirpar Bathobari village in Sipahij Police Station area.

After performing all the rituals Puja the idols of Lord Krishna and Balaram were taken out and placed in the decorated brass chariot donated by Bir Chilarat, the great general of Cooch Kingdom and tied up with a strong rope and

then the chariot was pulled to show cause in writing along with copies of documents to be relied upon by the concerned bank as prayed for by the Applicant Bank shall not be granted.

In order to get the answer to the proceeding, the application will be heard and decided ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on or before the 9th day of June, 2017 at Guwahati.

IN THE DEBTS RECEIVERSHIP ACT GUWAHATI

(The Tribunal of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura and Assam) *VS* *APASA BUILDING - 1ST FLOOR DR. B. BAROOAH ROAD, GOURIAGARH, POKHRI, GUWAHATI - 781035 Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 ORIGIN OF APPLICATION NO.126/2017 HDFC BANK LTD.....Applicant*

versus

SRI JASBANT SINGH AND ANOTHER Debtors

SRI JASBANT SINGH (Defendant No.1) Son of Bachan Singh, Gogoi Complex, Opposite Gopinath Bhattacharya Hospital, Bellora, Guwahati-781028 District Kamrup (M), Assam

2. SRI JASBANT PATEL (Defendant No.2), House No. 78, Udayan path, Nabadya Nagar, Patharkuchi, Basistha, Bellora, Kamrup (M), Assam

Whereas, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to note that the Plaintiff has filed an Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed on 10.06.2017, Addendum No. 1 of Rs. 19,78,948.73 (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Eight and paise Seventy Three only). You are hereby summoned to appear before this Tribunal on or before the 10th day of July, 2017 to show cause in writing along with copies of documents to be relied upon by the concerned bank as prayed for by the Applicant Bank shall not be granted.

In order to get the answer to the proceeding, the application will be heard and decided ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on the 9th day of June, 2017 at Guwahati.

Registration C, Debits Recovery Tribunal, Guwahati

Four criminals nabbed

CORRESPONDENT

Sreejith Thiraviam, a night patrolling team of police from Pothorughat Police out post under Sipahij Police Station, apprehended four persons identified as Jahidul Islam, son of Hasen Ali of village Kalatoli 2, Abdul Selim, son of Rahman Ali of village Chaurasia, Moin Ali of Naushad Ali of village Kuirapara (all under Bokor Police Station in Kamrup (Rural) district and Saiful Islam, son of

According to the Superintendent of Police, Darrang,

MANGALDAI, June 25: Four members of an organised inter-district gang of notorious criminals who were involved in a series of criminal activities including theft, lifting of mobile towers etc., were nabbed red handed by Darrang police.

According to the Superintendent of Police, Darrang,

THIRAVIAM (Hindi)

Sgt. Salman Khan, Zhu Zhu etc.

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(23 June to 29 June 2017)

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At 10.00 am, 12.45 pm, 4.30 pm

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TUBELIGHT (Hindi)

Sgt. Salman Khan, Zhu Zhu etc.

CBI to question Tripura Minister on June 29

AGARTALA, June 25: Tripura Social Welfare Minister Bijita Nath, who received a CBI notice for questioning in connection with the Rose Valley group chit fund scam, today said she would share information with the agency.

"I am not aware about what information the CBI officials want to know from me regarding Rose Valley group, but I will share if any information is available with me," Nath told reporters.

The Social Welfare Minister said she received the CBI notice yesterday through the State Assembly and the CBI official would meet her at her official residence on June 29 at 10 am.

The notice was issued by CBI inspector Bratim Ghoshal under Section 160 CrPC (any police officer can call a person for interrogation in connection with a case).

"It appears that you are acquainted with the circumstances of case number 39(S) 2014 registered against the chairman of Rose Valley Limited and you are required to make yourself available on June 29," the notice said.

This is for the first time that the CBI has issued a notice to any Minister of Tripura.

WEATHER NORTHEAST	
Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur in many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya and light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Assam.	
Warning: Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on June 27 and 28 over Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya. Tripura on June 27, 28 and 29.	
Temperatures :	
Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	29.6
Tezpur	30.9
Silchar	35.3
Dhubri	33.4
Jorhat	33.4
N Lakhimpur	32.0
Shillong	25.6
Imphal	31.0
Itanagar	32.5
Aizawl	30.7
Agartala	35.6
Kohima	24.2
Pasighat	28.7
Cherrapunji	25.0
	18.3

Manipur CM launches city bus services in Imphal

IMPHAL, June 25: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh today launched the inter-district and city bus services here for its 100-day programme.

In the first phase, Manipur State Transport will operate city bus services in two routes, both originating from ISBT, Deulhahadhere. The transport agency would also initially have Imphal to Noney, Moreh, Kacheng, Yairipok, Moirang and Pherzawl bus services.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh expressed confidence that the newly-revived public transport system would be successful. Stating that inter-district bus services for the remaining districts would also be launched soon, the Chief Minister said that the State Government would procure additional buses for the purpose at the earliest. – PTI

Manipur man keen to contest presidential poll

IMPHAL, June 25: With the country's presidential election scheduled to be held on July 17, a young NGO leader from Manipur has expressed his desire to fight the election to the country's top post if he gets signatures of 100 MPs/MLAs.

"MPs/MLAs are requested to support me for nomination to the presidential election," said Dr Ibochouba Singh Konthoujam, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director & CEO of D-Cactus Education Centre Manipur in a message circulated in the social media.

Forty-two year-old Dr Konthoujam needs support of 100 MPs/MLAs) as seconders & proposers for qualifying the nomination before June 28. "I'm approaching MPs/MLAs in Delhi, Karnataka, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh apart from Manipur, through my friend circle."

Observers said, a citizen of Manipur to become the President of India would be merely a dream. – Correspondent

Tripura tribal party holds protests backing Gorkhaland

AGARTALA, June 25: A Tripura tribal party organised rallies in 29 places across the State on Saturday to support the demand for a separate Gorkhaland State in West Bengal's Darjeeling.

Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), a tribal based party in Left-ruled Tripura, held rallies and protest demonstrations in 29 places under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD) areas.

"We not only support the separate Gorkhaland State in West Bengal, we also strongly condemn the atrocities on the leaders and members of the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM)," IPFT President Narendra Chandra Debbarma told reporters here.

The IPFT has for the past few years been agitating for the creation of a separate State, carved out by upgrading the TTAACD area. The TTAACD was formed in 1987 under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect and safeguard the political, economic and cultural interests of the tribals.

The IPFT has announced blockading of National Highway-8 and the rail tracks for an indefinite period from July 10 in support of their demand.

NH-8 maintains the surface connection between the landlocked State and the rest of the country through Assam.

The politically-important TTAACD constitutes two-third of Tripura's 10,491 sq km area and 12,16,465 (mostly tribals) of the State's total 37 lakh population reside in the areas.

Almost all the political parties in Tripura have opposed the IPFT's demand for a separate State. – IANS

Himalayan black bear cub rescued

ITANAGAR, June 24: A Himalayan black bear cub was rescued in East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and handed over to the Forest authorities for rehabilitation.

Osset Tasing from Boleng in the district rescued the cub from an agriculture field on Thursday, Forest officials said today.

The Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) is an endangered sub-species of the Asiatic Black Bear. It is a medium-sized, sharp-clawed, black-coloured bear with a light brown muzzle and a pale yellow crescent on the chest. – PTI



Meghalaya Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Zenith Sangma handing over a handloom set to a weaver at Garobada near Tura on Saturday. – UB Photos

Khandu hails Bhupen Hazarika award winner Thongchi

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, June 25: Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu has congratulated eminent writer from the State, Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi for being selected for the prestigious 5th Bhupen Hazarika National Award 2017.

"It is a proud moment for every Arunachalee and people of North East in particular that a retired bureaucrat, an eminent writer of all times has been unanimously selected for the prestigious award," Khandu said in his congratulatory letter, terming it as a well deserved achievement.

Khandu said that this will definitely

inspire the young writers of the State and North East and will instill new zeal and passion amongst the members of the literary society Thongchileads.

The Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society also congratulated its president on being chosen for the award. "It is a bit of happy news for the members of APLS and people of Arunachal in general," it said.

Thongchi started

his literary pursuit from his childhood days. Although his mother tongue is Sherdukpen, a language hardly spoken by 6,000 people, he started writing in Assamese because it was then the medium of instruction in schools in North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), now Arunachal Pradesh.

While his first poem called Jonbaai ('The Moon') appeared in an Assamese children's magazine by the same name in 1967, he tried his hand at various genres including plays, short stories and novels, excelling in all of them.

He has so far written about a dozen novels, and numerous short stories and plays, all in Assamese. His most important novel is 'Mauna Orth Mukhar Hriday' (Silent lips, murmuring hearts) which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2005. Another novel 'Sav Kata Manuh' (The man who cuts corpses) vividly describes the tradition of how human bodies are ritually cut into over 100 pieces before disposing it off in to river. Many of his works have been translated into Hindi, English and other languages.



Annual Rath Yatra at Melaghat, 55 kms from Agartala, on Sunday. – UB Photos

Arunachal Govt extend Idd greetings

ITANAGAR, June 25: Arunachal Pradesh Governor P B Acharya and Chief Minister Pema Khandu today conveyed their hearty greetings to the people of the State on the occasion of Idd-ul-Fitr.

In a message, Khandu greeted the people of Muslim community and said he joins them in the celebration of the three-day festival of feast and festivity.

The Chief Minister reminded everybody of the basic message of Idd-ul-Fitr that says forgive and forget. "Let's build a new world where there is no place for hatred," he appealed.

The Governor expressed hope that the sacred occasion will usher in goodwill and harmony and further strengthen the values of a cohesive society.

On this Idd, I wish that Allah's blessings light up the path to oneness and lead to happiness and success, he wished. – Correspondent

Abducted trader rescued

TURA, June 25: A local businessman, identified as one Aktar Ali of Chokpot was rescued by police on Friday in South Garo Hills. He was kidnapped by suspected dacoits from his home on Thursday.

Ali was kidnapped by a group of five-six armed miscreants from Chokpot village in the district and was rescued from near Raja Rongal about 15 kms from Chokpot after an encounter with the kidnappers.

The victim runs a small tyre repair and iron grill welding shop in Chokpot.

"Our sources said that a demand was made for about Rs 20 lakh but the kidnappers settled for a lesser sum," said district police chief, Abraham T Sangma.

The family was supposed to make the ransom payment today giving the police an opportunity at nabbing the group. "Our men chased the group and fired on them. They however, managed to escape," added the SP.

Meanwhile, an overground worker of Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) surrendered to the police recently. He used to help GNLA cadres with material supply and assist them in crossing the international border with Bangladesh. – Correspondent

Gorkhas of Arunachal rally for Gorkhaland

ITANAGAR, June 25: Gorkhas in Arunachal Pradesh brought out a rally here Saturday in support of the ongoing movement in Darjeeling for the creation of a separate Gorkhaland State.

Gorkha men, women and children took part in the rally amidst heavy rains carrying pro-Gorkhaland placards and shouting slogans against the West Bengal Government.

The rally which started from IG Park, culminated at Itanagar Monastery where the protesters lit candles in memory of

three persons who were allegedly killed in clashes with police in Darjeeling on June 17. "We the people of Arunachal Pradesh are not supporting the Gorkhaland movement because we want a land in Darjeeling or Kalimpong. We are doing it for our identity," said All Arunachal Pradesh Gorkha Welfare (AAPGW) president Shyam Ghatali.

AAPGW chairman

Chambar Sonar said that it was high time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfil his promise made to the Gorkha community.

BJP's manifesto before the 2014 Lok Sabha election had said that the party will "sympathetically examine" the demand for Gorkhaland.

The rally was also supported by various unions and organisations including All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union and All Nyishi Students Union.

Arunachal Pradesh has been

a home to the Gorkha com-

munity for many decades. The

Gorkha population in the State

is said to be more than one lakh. – PTI

Kang fest begins in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, June 25: The nine day-long celebration of Kang (Rath Jatra) festival began with pomp and gaiety in Manipur on Sunday. The main events of the festival include the pulling of Kang, the traditional chariot and offering of flowers and fruits to Shree Shree Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra.

The financial assistance of MSJWS will be paid out of the interest accrued from a corpus fund of Rs 5 crore and Rs 2 lakh shall be provided to the family on account of death of the journalist and also to the journalist in case of permanent disability rendering the journalist incapable of earning a livelihood.

A sum of Rs 1 lakh shall be provided towards the cost of treatment of major ailments while Rs 50,000 in case of accidents. The Cabinet meeting recently also gave its approval to the payment of compensation for Rs 1,08,41,094 for the damages and injuries to tank trucks and their crews in several incidents during the economic blockade of National Highway 37 last year.

It also decided to revise the room rents in the Manipur Bhawans located at New Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati besides giving its nod for conducting the Panchayat elections in six Zilla Parishads.

The pulling of Kang was held at Shree Shree Govindaji temple complex here. A large number of devotees turned up in their traditional attire at the Palace Gate and temple to take part in the fest-



Kang festival at Palace compound in Imphal on Sunday. – Photo: Correspondent

Manipur Cabinet approves Journalists Welfare Scheme

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, June 25: Manipur Cabinet has approved introduction of the Manipur State Journalists Welfare Scheme (MSJWS).

The MSJWS, which was framed vis-a-vis the schemes implemented in neighbouring States of Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland and also in sync with the guidelines issued by Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is to provide one-time ex-gratia and relief to journalists and their family members.

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ally cut into over 100 pieces be-

fore disposing it off in to river. Many

of his works have been translated into

Hindi, English and other languages.

CAPSULE**TVS, Royal Enfield cut prices**

NEW DELHI, June 25: Two-wheeler makers TVS Motor Company and Royal Enfield have become the latest to pass on expected benefit of GST to customers by lowering prices of their vehicles. Niche bike maker Royal Enfield has reduced prices of its models by up to Rs 2,300 (on road Chennai) while TVS Motors did not disclose the quantum of price cut on its product portfolio. – PTI

IRDAI ad spend

NEW DELHI, June 25: Unable to spend even 50 per cent of earmarked funds for insurance awareness last fiscal, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is looking for innovative methods to utilise this year's advertisement budget that has been raised to Rs 66.5 crore. – PTI

Mahindra Scorpio

NEW DELHI, June 25: Utility vehicle major Mahindra & Mahindra has discontinued sales of auto transmission variant of its popular small utility vehicle Scorpio. "The automatic transmission that served the Scorpio well for all this time has come to the end of its cycle," a company spokesperson told PTI.

New India Assurance

NEW DELHI, June 25: Gearring up for the first-ever IPO by a PSU insurer, New India Assurance will soon be filing preliminary papers with markets regulator SEBI so that it can hit the market by December. New India Assurance is the largest among the four PSU general insurance companies. "We are hoping that the initial public offer (IPO) process gets completed by the end of the financial year...," New India Assurance CMD G Shrinivasan told PTI.

Fujifilm target

NEW DELHI, June 25: Japanese photography and imaging company Fujifilm is confident of doubling its share of its medical systems business to over Rs 1,000 crore, buoyed by opportunities in tier-II and III cities. "We are growing at 15 to 20 per cent in the (medical segment)... we would grow more than double in the next five years," Fujifilm India Managing Director Yasunobu Nishimura told PTI.

Essar Steel

MUMBAI, June 25: Essar Steel today said it aims to achieve 25 per cent market share in auto-grade steel over the next couple of years through strategic alliances and new product development. Auto-grade strength steel grade to maintain the safety standards of vehicles, while improving fuel efficiency through lightweighting. The company has developed the new product to meet automotive manufacturers' needs. – PTI

Pepe Jeans

MUMBAI, June 25: Global denim and casual wear brand Pepe Jeans will step up its presence in the country by opening 50 more stores this year and is also looking to enter the innerwear segment, a senior company official has said. "Our target is to open 50 stores in India, which will take our store count to 270 by the end of this year," Kavindra Mishra, MD and CEO of Pepe Jeans India, told PTI.



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ashok Gajapathi Raju Prasadi holding a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday. The Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha and Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, RN Choubey are also seen. – PIB

GSTN chief cautions against delay in filing returns

NEW DELHI, June 25: Despite the GST Council giving a one-month extension for filing returns under the new indirect tax regime, businesses should start uploading invoices much earlier, says Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) Chairman Navin Kumar.

He cautioned against delays on the part near the deadline due to increased traffic.

According to the current taxpayer behaviour on VAT payments, 80 per cent of the taxpayers file returns on the last two days of the deadline – 50 per cent are found to be filing on the last day and about 30 per cent on the penultimate day, he said.

"We are emphasising that the taxpayers should not wait till the last day to upload data on the website. If everyone comes on the last day, they will experience delays on our portal," Kumar told IANS.

"Taxpayers will start issuing tax invoices in July. But they have to report it in the system by September 5. So what we are telling the taxpayers is that if they have large transactions and many invoices, they should upload the data even before September 5," he said.

"We are providing the facility for them from July 15 to upload the invoice level data, so they will have time to put all the invoices on the system," he added.

Goods and services tax (GST) will come into effect from July 1 and GSTN provides the IT infrastructure for the new tax regime. According to the original schedule, the returns were to be filed between August 1 and August 20. This date has now been deferred by a month.

The first return that was to be filed on August 10, now needs to be filed by September 5. The second return which was to be filed on August 15 will now have to be filed by September 10 and the third return which was to be filed on August 20 now needs to be filed by September 15. After September 15, those who do not file their returns would have to pay a penalty.

As anxious traders and businesses get ready for the new indirect tax regime, GST may push them into the firefighting mode to tackle issues like internet connectivity or large number of invoices.

While small businesses which have only 100-300 invoices a month can upload it once, the bigger businesses will have to download the office tool from GSTN portal which has the maximum capacity of uploading 19,000 invoices. Further, bigger businesses will have to upload invoices multiple times, a process they should go for during the night hours or start doing weeks ahead, Kumar advised. – IANS

Priyanka Chopra made Skill India ambassador

NEW DELHI, June 25: Actress Priyanka Chopra will soon be seen endorsing government's flagship Skill India campaign, with the National Skill Development Corporation roping in the Bollywood celebrity as an ambassador for Skill India.

The former Miss World and Bollywood star, who is now making waves in Hollywood with her acting prowess, herself expressed interest in the initiative and will collaborate on a pro bono basis.

Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.

Earlier, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, Hollywood actors Siddharth Malhotra and Shabana Azmi and singer Mohit Chauhan had also become goodwill envoys for Skill India.

"As brand ambassador we have given a letter to Priyanka Chopra. The interest had come from her," National Skill Development Corporation MD and CEO Manish Kumar told PTI.

Kumar said the media team associated with NSDC is working on how to project Priyanka most effectively through the campaign, as she has emerged as a global youth icon. – PTI

EPFO may bring 500 small pvt PF trusts into its fold

NEW DELHI, June 25: Retirement fund body EPFO may bring 500 private PF trusts within its fold whose EPF accumulations are around Rs 1 crore each, or have up to 20 members, for offering better services to those subscribers.

Besides, this will improve monitoring of over 1,000 such trusts which have large subscriber base and manage huge EPF accumulations.

The Labour Ministry is in the process of amending Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952, so that large private PF trusts having accumulations can carry on the management of their employees' EPF money and accounts.

"After the amendment in the EPF Scheme, the existing pri-

vate PF trusts having up to 20 members or EPF accumulations of around Rs one crore excluding pension and insurance contributions, would lose their exemption from filing EPF returns. Their trusts' funds and accounts would be taken over by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)," a Labour Ministry source said.

The source added that after amendment to the scheme, these small trusts would be exempted from filing EPF returns for a period of 180 days after which they would lose the exemption.

The source further said that only those firms would be eligible to run PF trusts whose employee strength is at least 500 and EPF accumulations of

Daily revision sees dip in petrol, diesel prices

NEW DELHI, June 25: Petrol prices have been cut by Rs 1.77 per litre and diesel by 88 paise a litre ever since the daily revision in rates was implemented just over a week back.

State-owned oil companies this month dumped the 15-year-old practice of revising prices on the 1st and 16th of every month and instead adopted a dynamic daily price revision to instantaneously reflect changes in cost.

Prices of petrol and diesel are being revised at 0600 hrs everyday since June 16 and the biggest beneficiary has been the consumer.

Petrol price was at Rs 65.48 a litre on June 16 in Delhi and today it costs Rs 63.71 per litre, according to information available from oil companies.

Similarly, a litre of diesel was priced at Rs 54.49 on June 16 but has since dropped to Rs 53.61, thanks to the softening international oil prices.

"Previously, the benefit of any decline in international oil prices would have been passed on to consumers only after a fortnight, but now it is instantaneously reflected in the billing," explained a senior oil company executive.

The previous practice of revision in rate on the 1st and 16th of every month, which began with deregulation of auto fuel on April 1, 2002, was based on average international oil price and foreign exchange rate in the preceding fortnight.

"Many a time, international rates would fall for one week and then rise in the following. So, the net effect of this in the previous price revision policy was status quo or a marginal change in rate. But now, any decline is passed on immediately and the consumer gets the benefit," he said.

On the other hand, when oil prices rise, this would also hold true. – PTI

VitaraBrezza Treasure Hunt held

BUSINESS REPORTER

The event saw a turnout of 100-plus participants, who came with their near and dear ones in their VitaraBrezza SUV. Maruti Suzuki had planned a host of entertaining and engaging activities for the participants and their families ranging from a round of warm-up games, breakfast at Vivanta by Taj and lunch along with free tickets for entire family to Accoland.

The top four winning teams took home exciting prizes like HP laptop, Samsung LED TV, Sony home theatre system, Samsung microwave, etc. Every participant got assured gift packs for joining in the press release.



Dinesh Bihani

As per the latest auction sale (No 25) held at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) on June 2021, the total tea offerings were 1,12,872 packages, out of which 74 per cent were sold. Market witnessed a good demand. Brighter Assam teas maintaining quality sold around last level while remainder teas sold irregular and lower according to quality along with western Indian buyers. The auction average price for this week stood at Rs 145.17, up by Rs 1.52 from last year.

BOP	Price	BOP/M&BP	Price	OF/PF	Price
HALMARI	407	SOTAI	381	SOTAI	388
SOCKLATINGA	297	LUKWAN	381	SOCKLATINGA	282
HOKHMOL	291	BANAMALIE	350	HOKHMOL	279
DUFALTING	291	HOKHMOL	338	BANAMALIE	275
SOTAI	291	MADHUPUR	331	MADHUPUR	269

Secretary, Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association (GTABA)

Telecom sector financial woes

IMG to submit policy recommendations in July

NEW DELHI, June 25: The inter-ministerial group (IMG) looking into financial difficulties of the telecom sector is expected to submit its policy prescription to the Telecom Commission next month.

"The (IMG) recommendations will be submitted within a month," an official told PTI.

The IMG was set up on May 16 to examine issues that are affecting viability and repayment capacity of telecom companies. The group has to furnish recommendations for resolution of stressed assets, policy reforms and strategic interventions for the telecom sector in three months.

"Now, no external meetings are required by the IMG. There will be only internal meetings and examinations by various divisions of the Department of Telecom. The recommendations will be sent to the Cabinet for final approval after Telecom Commission examines it and firms up a view," the official said.

Another official pointed out that there are many issues in the sector on which the government cannot do much

they are sub judice, like definition of adjusted gross revenue (earning of companies from telecom services only) and many others that require a bold decision at the political level, especially in line with the suggestion made by the Economic Survey 2016-17.

According to the Survey, policy-making in certain areas like telecom and banking has been severely constrained by "abundant caution in bureaucratic decision-making".

It added that senior managers in public banks are wary of becoming the target of the so-called '4 Cs' – courts, CVC (Central Vigilance Commission), CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General).

The Supreme Court in February 2012 had quashed 122 telecom licences issued in 2008 and asked the government to allocate spectrum for mobile telephony through auction.

The CAG had said the spectrum allocated administratively in 2008 had led to a notional loss of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the national exchequer. – PTI

Job market eyes employment boost under GST regime**CAPSULE****Job market eyes employment boost under GST regime****Job market eyes employment boost under GST regime**



অসম চৰকাৰ

পৱিত্র ঈদ উল্ফিটৰ

পৱিত্র ঈদ উপলক্ষে সমুহ ইছলাম ধৰ্মাবলম্বী
লোকসকলৰ লগতে অসমবাসী ৰাইজলৈ
আন্তৰিক শুভেচ্ছা জনাইছো।

সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল
মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী, অসম



Janasanyog/4233/17



সমাজ কল্যাণ বিভাগ

আন্তৰ্জাতিক নিচাযুক্ত দ্রৰ্য

আৰু

অবৈধ সৰবৰাহ বিৰোধী দিৱস

শ্ৰীযুত সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল
মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী অসম



নিচাযুক্ত দ্রৰ্যৰ অপব্যৱহাৰ আৰু অবৈধ সৰবৰাহ
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গঢ়াৰ বাবে আমি সকলোৱে সকলোৱে সকলোৱে হওঁ আহক।

২৬ জুন, ২০১৭

সমাজ কল্যাণ বিভাগ, অসম চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা জনহিতাৰ্থে প্ৰচাৰিত



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Janasanyog/4249/17



Gamers' gain

Playing video games can boost attention, says a study

Does your child love playing video games? Let him, as it can help alter the brain regions responsible for attention and visuospatial skills – skills that enable us to recognise a square, triangle, cube or pyramid – as well as make them more efficient, say scientists in an analysis of over 100 scientific studies.

In the study, researchers led by Marc Palau from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya in Spain revealed that gamers showed improvements in several types of attention, such as sustained attention or selective attention.

Playing video games also increased the size and efficiency of brain regions related to visuospatial skills.

Further, in gamers, the brain regions involved in attention were found to be more efficient and required less activation to sustain

attentional demands tasks.

On the other hand, the right hippocampus was found enlarged in long-term gamers.

For the study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, the team collected and analysed 122 scientific studies, 22 of which looked at structural changes in the brain and 100 of which looked at changes in brain functionality and/or behaviour.

Conversely, video games can also turn out to be addictive, and lead to "internet gaming disorder", which can cause problems such as obesity, poor eyesight as well as emotional problems, the researchers warned.

"It's likely that video games have both positive (on attention, visual and motor skills) and negative aspects (risk of addiction), and it is essential we embrace this complexity," Palau explained. – IANS

Kids	Entertainment	Movies
CN 13:00 Santa La Le Re with... 15:00 Roli No 21 16:00 We Bare Bears 16:30 Chhota Bheem 16:30 Dholo Pachodh with... 21:30 Horni Honey 22:00 Ben 10 22:30 Ben 10 Ball Z 23:00 Telephoning	TONY 13:00 The Kool Bharmas Show 13:30 Yeh Moh Moh Ki Daag 20:00 Sankat Mohan Mahabali 20:30 Jaha Ki Juga 21:30 Jeheez 21:30 Beyond Reality 21:30 Beyond Reality Diwali 100	17:00 Jeheez 17:30 Jaane Na Dil Se Door 18:30 Saat Din 19:30 Saat Din Bhansali Saathy 19:30 Chhota Bheem 20:30 Chandni Chai 21:30 Dholo Pachodh 22:00 Dholo Pachodh 22:30 Chhota Bheem Sanjhi 23:00 Dhamaal Pham
PNP 13:00 The Tom And Jerry Show 13:30 Chhota Bheem 14:00 Dholo Pachodh 14:30 Chhota Bheem 15:00 Dholo Pachodh 16:00 Chhota Bheem 17:00 Mighty Raju	StarPlus 13:00 Tu Soondi Main Saanjh... 13:30 Ek Aashla Aashla Shee 14:00 Dholo Pachodh 14:30 Love Ka Intzaar 15:00 Dil Boley Obera	14:30 Kumkum Bhagya 15:30 Zindagi Ki Mahak 16:30 Pyar Abala 17:30 Woh Apna Si 18:00 Kumkum Bhagya 19:00 Sethi 19:30 Asli Desewang 20:30 Umar 21:30 Dholo Pachodh 22:00 Ek Ranggar – Swathmik 22:30 Ek Ranggar 23:00 Brahma Bakold Bhaga 23:30 Savitri Devi College and...
MIGHTY RAJU 13:00 Chhota Bheem 16:00 Dholo Pachodh 20:30 Chhota Bheem 21:30 The Tom And Jerry Show 22:00 Chhota Bheem 22:30 Torn and Jerry Tales 23:00 Dholo Pachodh 23:30 Telephoning	Colors 13:00 Ashish Ke Ehisaai Ki 13:30 Umar 14:00 Dholo Pachodh Ki Duthani 17:00 Thapki Pyar Ki 18:00 Dholo Pachodh Kolage and...	13:00 Kumkum Bhagya 21:30 Ek The Raja Ek Hi Rani 18:30 World Awaaz 19:00 Deewar 19:30 Shakti Ke 20:30 Shakti Ke Ehisaai Ki 20:30 Umar 21:30 Dholo Pachodh Dastaan 21:30 Ek Ranggar – Swathmik 22:00 Ek Ranggar 22:30 Ek Ranggar 23:00 Savitri Devi College and...
SONY 13:00 Chhota Bheem 16:00 Dholo Pachodh 20:30 Chhota Bheem 21:30 The Tom And Jerry Show 22:00 Chhota Bheem 22:30 Torn and Jerry Tales 23:00 Dholo Pachodh 23:30 Telephoning	ZCafe 13:00 Just for Laughs 14:00 Top 20 Funniest 14:30 Castle 15:00 Castle 17:00 The Big Bang Theory 19:00 Castle 20:00 Top 20 Funniest 21:00 Scam 22:00 Castle & Peace 23:00 Castle & Peace	STAR MOVIES 16:02 Predator 2
	Infotainment NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL Discovery HISTORY TV 13 National Geographic Rainbow	STAR MOVIES 16:02 Predator 2
	12:00 Animal Planet 12:30 Animal Planet 13:30 F1 for the Win 14:00 Animal Planet 15:00 Animal Attack 16:00 Jungle Safari 17:00 Whales Africa 18:00 National Geographic	12:00 Animal Planet 12:30 Animal Planet 13:00 F1 for the Win 14:00 Animal Attack 15:00 Animal Attack 16:00 Jungle Safari 17:00 Whales Africa 18:00 National Geographic
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BAI announces cash reward for Srikanth

NEW DELHI, June 25: Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh for Kidambi Srikanth after he clinched the Australian Open Superseries title in Sydney on Sunday.

Srikanth not only lifted his fourth superseries title but also became the only sixth badminton player in the world to make it to three consecutive superseries finals in a row.

In the final, the 24-year-old was up against Olympic champion Chen Long of China. The Guntur player was at his best against the World No. 6 and won 22-20, 21-16 comfortably.

Sarma congratulated Srikanth.

"We are really very proud of Srikanth for his achievements. It is simply phenomenal. He has not only made the whole country proud once again but has etched his name among the best and no word will be enough to praise Srikanth," Sarma said. — IANS



Ankush claims gold, Devendro gets silver

NEW DELHI, June 25: The fast-rising Ankush Dahiya (60kg) clinched a gold while the experienced L Devendro Singh (52kg) settled for a silver medal on the final day of the Ulanbaatar Cup boxing tournament in Mongolia.

The 19-year-old Ankush, who is a former Asian youth silver-medallist, defeated Korean Man Choe Chol in a split verdict, while Devendro lost to Indonesia's Alemas Sugoro, again a split decision.

India thus signed off with a gold, a silver and three bronze medals from the tournament. K Shyam Kumar (49kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg) and Priyanka Chaudhary (60kg) – lost their respective semifinal bouts to settle for bronze medals yesterday.

Devendro, a Commonwealth Games silver-medallist besides a former Asian Championships silver-winner, was the first to step inside the ring for India today and was his usual aggressive self against Sugoro.

The diminutive Manipuri, who is getting back to form after recovering from some niggles, exhausted his rival with a fine display of tempo-boxing, not letting the intensity slip even once.

Denied a clean shot due to Sugoro's shell guard, Devendro did well to connect fine body blows.

However, much to the Indian camp's disappointment, Devendro's overall dominance did not find favour with the judges who ruled 3-2 in Sugoro's favour.

However, the disappointment soon made way for celebration when Ankush edged past Man Choe Chol.

The youngster put his long reach and height advantage to good use and landed some lusty straight blows, which swung the contest in his favour. This is Ankush's maiden international medal at the senior level. — PTI

Srikanth lifts Australian Open Super Series

SYDNEY, June 25: A resolute Kidambi Srikanth clinched his fourth Super Series title with an incredible straight-game triumph over reigning Olympic and world champion Chen Long in the Australian Open final here today.

The No. 11 Srikanth won 22-20, 21-16 in a 45-minute clash against the World No. 6 Chinese, who is also a two-time All England champion.

It's his second successive after clinching the Indonesia Open Super Series Premier title last week.

"As a whole I played very well, but since I arrived in Sydney I have gastroenteritis and have had diarrhoea, so I have not been at my best physical condition,"

Kidambi Srikanth



tion. But since I made the final I wanted to continue to play as well as I could," an ecstatic Srikanth said after the victory.

"It's just that I'm not thinking of winning or losing. I missed competitive badminton and wanted to enjoy the match. It's like it happened because I missed that period of competitive badminton. It's like I wanted to hang in and play as many matches as possible," he added.

Entering the summit showdown, Srikanth was only the fifth player in the world to contest three successive Super Series finals (Singapore and Indonesia prior to this).

The Indian, a semifinalist in the last edition of the tournament, was the one to grab the early lead. Following a sedate start, Srikanth capitalised on his opponent's rather sluggish game to clinch a 10-6 lead.

"These conditions are such that you can't really attack, it's a bit slow, you have to be prepared for a long match. In all the breaks I had the advantage, the coach told me to keep going, not to make simple mistakes and allow him back into the match. My attack worked really well," Srikanth said.

But perhaps jolted by the lead he had conceded, Long gathered himself just in time, starting with a deftly-placed smash, to make it 11-11.

The Chinese shifted gears quite suddenly to add pace to the proceedings and his baseline strokes stood out for both ferocity and accuracy. But the Indian was no pushover and played the catch-up game quite well, coming up with a couple of brilliant smashes of his own.

"I'm playing better after the Sudirman Cup. I should thank my physio for keeping me fit for these two tournaments. It was tough for me on Tuesday and Wednesday," he said. — PTI

There is definitely a bit of lacuna: Bangar on Kumble quitting

PORT OF SPAIN, June 25: Batting coach Sanjay Bangar says Anil Kumble's departure as head coach has definitely left a void in the Indian cricket team – even though the players are "coping up" well.

Kumble, a spinner par excellence and a former India captain, tendered his resignation as chief coach after the ICC Champions Trophy due to "intenable" differences with skipper Virat Kohli.

On the eve of the second ODI against the West Indies here, questions related to the Kumble episode were directed at Bangar.

"We are professionals and such things are part and parcel of any organisation where changes happen. The support staff and the players have shown a lot of professionalism in compartmentalising the issues and so far we have coped up really well," said Bangar.

The 44-year-old former all-rounder said the team was focused on the job at hand.

"Everyone's contributed towards it and as I said earlier, when you part ways it's never easy. You need to accept that at times such things are going to happen, have happened in the past. But what is of paramount importance is that Indian cricket should keep moving forward and the performances of the team shouldn't really be affected in any manner."

Without a head coach, who also used to double up as the team's bowling coach, Bangar has his work cut out.

"Yes, Anil was doubling up. There were a lot of positive results under him. We all

know that the team enjoyed a lot of success. The void, there is definitely a bit of lacuna but the experience that this team possesses – when you have Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and Virat Kohli, who have played close to 700 international games, they're doing a lot of work behind the scenes, they are guiding the players."

Further speaking about the role of the coach, he said, "It's not only the coaching staff, the mentoring that they do and the exchange of ideas among them, there is a wealth of knowledge which the players benefit from."

Asked what defines the captain-coach relationship, Bangar stressed on trust.

"It's not only the coach and the captain, it's also the relationship and trust between the coach and all the players. Basically, it's a work in progress that requires a lot of time to earn the trust of the players."

"Once you do that, the job and the responsibilities of the coach become that much more easy. That is something that I've learnt to work with."

Regarding some of the senior pros' future, Bangar was positive.

"It all boils down to the fitness part. If you're fit and capable of delivering. You saw in the match against Pakistan, how the experience came to the fore – in the last eight overs we scored 108 runs and that wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of Yuvraj Singh."

"Even when we were four down at Cuttack, it was the experience of Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni, who got two big hundreds and put us on a score of 360." — PTI

Mithali Raj



Totals in excess of 250 good for women's cricket: Mithali

DERBY, June 25: Indian captain Mithali Raj feels posting totals in excess of 250 is good for the overall development of women's cricket.

Mithali's team started its campaign in the ICC Women's World Cup with a resounding 35-run victory over hosts England here yesterday.

Put into bat, Smriti Mandhana struck a sizzling 90 off 72 balls in a dominating batting display as India posted 281 for three – their best-ever score batting first.

Mandhana forged a 144-run opening wicket stand with Punam Raut (86 off 134) before skipper Mithali Raj (71 not out) completed an unprecedent seventh consecutive half century in ODIs.

"The way both of them started the innings... With the conditions assisting the bowlers and that's why England elected to field, it didn't feel like they were playing the World Cup or there was any kind of pressure or nerves on them, they just played on merit and kept going till 25 overs," Mithali said at the post-match press conference.

India then dismissed England for 246 with 15 balls to spare at the County Ground.

"Half the overs being played by the openers I think that's a great opening stand and we look forward for similar opening partnerships in coming games because if you have a solid opening stand your middle-order will come exactly when we are supposed to come and carry on from there, and that makes it much easier to post 250 and above, which is very good for the overall game of women's cricket."

Asked about her terrific, record run of form with the bat, she said, "I definitely don't want to be reminded about it, but it feels nice to get runs under your belt, feels nice to get runs for the team in the World Cup and the team does well, I am hoping that I continue to do that."

The Decision Review System has been introduced in the women's game and Mithali was all for it. — PTI



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo collides with New Zealand defender Andrew Durante as he attempts to meet a cross during the FIFA Confederations Cup match at the Saint Petersburg Stadium, on Saturday.

Portugal storm into semis, Mexico knock out hosts Russia

ST PETERSBURG, June 25: Portugal booked their place in the Confederations Cup semifinals with a comfortable 4-0 win over New Zealand at the Saint Petersburg stadium, while Mexico came from behind to snatch a 2-1 win to knock hosts out of the tournament on Saturday.

The European champions went into the game knowing a draw would be enough to see them through into the knockout stages, although in the end they cruised into the semifinals with a comprehensive win over the All Whites – who had no chance of qualifying having lost their opening two games.

Portuguese boss Fernando Santos made several changes to the team that beat hosts Russia 1-0 in Moscow on Wednesday but captain Cristiano Ronaldo was not one of them, despite many expecting the star striker to be rested.

Following a fairly uneventful opening 20 minutes Portugal began to apply more pressure with Ronaldo hitting the crossbar with a header just before the half-hour mark.

Portugal eventually took the lead from the penalty spot on 33 minutes after Danilo was adjudged to have been pulled down in the box.

Ronaldo duly dispatched the spot-kick for his 75th goal for Portugal, in front of the more than 50,000 fans at Saint Petersburg Stadium.

The lead was quickly doubled when Bernardo Sil-

va slotted home in the 37th minute after getting on the end of Eliseu's low driven cross, although the winger was injured in the process and later replaced.

New Zealand stuck to their task and did not let the quick-fire double defiance them, despite knowing they were staring at their third defeat from three games at the tournament and their 11th in 12 games played at Confederations Cup tournaments.

Ronaldo came on after the break to be replaced by Nani and Portugal added to their lead when Andre Silva scored a fine solo effort in the 80th minute.

A comprehensive win was sealed when Nani scored in the 90th minute.

New Zealand head home pointless, but Anthony Hudson and his young team can be proud of some superb performances against some of the world's best teams.

Portugal head into the semifinal as winners of Group A, ahead of Mexico on goal difference after the CONCACAF champions beat hosts Russia in Kazan 2-1 in an incident-packed game.

Mexico turned a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 win and a spot in the next round.

Aleksandr Samedov gave his side a deserved lead after 25 minutes, but Nestor Araujo and Hirving Lozano took advantage of some sloppy goalkeeping to turn the situation around. Yuri Zhirkov was sent off for the Russians. — Agencies



Brazilian Paulinho reveals Barca talks

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 25: Brazil international midfielder Paulinho has revealed he could join Barcelona this summer from Guangzhou Evergrande.

The Catalan club has made the 28-year-old a prime transfer target, along with Paris Saint-Germain's Marco Veratti.

In an interview with Brazil's Globo-sport, Paulinho said his agent Giuliano Bertolucci is negotiating with Barcelona officials, Xinhua news agency reported.

"I'm really proud that a great club like Barcelona are interested in me, there is no price for that," Paulinho said.

Despite being "flattered" by Barcelona's interest, Paulinho said he was unsure if a return to European football would be the best career move.

Before joining Guangzhou Evergrande in 2015, Paulinho spent two seasons at Tottenham Hotspur, the last of which saw him make only seven starts.

"I'm very happy where I am now and the way my career is going," said Paulinho, who was recalled to Brazil's national team after a two-year absence last year.

"When you feel this way, it's difficult to move. I need to weigh up a lot of things before making a decision," he said.

Last week, Guangzhou Evergrande coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said he doubted another club would be willing to pay Paulinho's \$40-million release clause. — IANS

S Korean President calls for N Korean Olympic participation

SEOUL, June 25: South Korea President Moon Jae-in said he hopes to see North Korean athletes at next year's Winter Olympics in South Korea to ease tensions over the North's nuclear programme.

Moon made the comments during the opening ceremony of the World Taekwondo Championships in the South Korean town of Muju, where a North Korean delegation led by International Olympic Committee member Chang Ung was also present.

The championships, which will feature a performance by the North Korean taekwondo demonstration team, mark the first sports exchange between the Koreas since the liberal Moon took office in May.

Moors has expressed a desire to use the February 9-25 Pyeongchang Olympics to reach out to North Korea, with relations between the two at their lowest point in decades. During his stay in the South, Chang is expected to meet South Korean officials to discuss cooperation at the Winter Olympics.

If North Korean athletes participate in the Pyeongchang Olympics, I think it would greatly contribute to realising Olympic values, which are about bringing humanity together and promoting world peace," said Moon.

Recalled key moments in sports diplomacy between the Koreas, including when they sent unified teams to the world table tennis and youth soccer championships in 1991, and their athletes marching together during the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. — AFP

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Federer thrashes Zverev to win ninth Halle title

HALLE WESTFALEN (Germany), June 25: Swiss great Roger Federer thrashed Alexander Zverev to win his ninth title at the Wimbledon warm-up tournament in Halle on Sunday.

The top seed lost his first match of the grass-court season last week in Stuttgart to Tomáš Hájek, but was in imperious form all week at Halle, culminating in the 6-1, 6-3 final victory over the home favourite Zverev. Federer will head to Wimbledon, which starts on July 3, as favourite to win an outright record eighth title.

Arunabh, Maharnav share joint lead

GUWAHATI, June 25: Arunabh Gohain and Maharnav Deka secured a joint lead with 3.5 points each after completion of fourth round in the Young Masters Chess Classic (second edition) organised by Guwahati Chess Academy at its RG Baruah Road premises here.

Altogether 22 players including 16 rated players are participating in the event. Pramod Kumar Nath is conducting the tournament as chief arbiter. The tournament will conclude tomorrow, stated a press release.

Results: Arunabh Gohain (3.5) drew with Maharnav Deka (3.5); Mayurk Chakraborty (3) beat Asishon Bharadwaj (2); Dhritiman Bar (2.5) drew with Aslesha Talukdar (2.5); Arkaprova Rajkonwar (3) beat Nihal Ishani Hazarika (2); Abhishek Dubey (3) beat Sajal Sanyal (2); Biplab Bhattacharya drew with Meenakshi Baruah (1.5); Gunjan K Basista (1) lost to Pren Gonanda Parasher Kashyap (2.5); Manish Gwa Basumatary (2) beat Baibhuti Baruah (2); Ishita Barman (2) beat Navoneel Choudhury (1); Aishwarya Zaman lost to Kuvam Kumar Kashyap (2).

Swimming courses in city from July 1

GUWAHATI, June 25: The Board of Sports of Assam, International School, Guwahati and the Gauhati Town Club (GTC) will organise their respective swimming courses in the city from July 1.

The Board of Sports of Assam will organise a 21-day special crash course in swimming from July 1 for the school children in the Bimala Prasad Chaliha Swimming Pool at the RG Baruah Sports here, while GTC will start its summer swimming crash course for all age groups at its own pool from July 4 to July 24.

International School, Guwahati in association with Nabin Mahanta Memorial Swimming Arena is going to conduct a summer camp for swimming for beginners at the school premises from July 1 to 21.

Italian Open champion Zverev had won all three of his previous finals this season, but was blown away by a vintage performance from the 18-time major champion in only 53 minutes.

"I played great, I fed good from the start," said Federer.

"It was by far my best match of the week. After my long break, I'm feeling excellent and it's a pleasure to be back and I'm fit for Wimbledon."

The 35-year-old, who skipped the entire clay-court season, has only lost two matches this year en route to four titles, including the Australian

Open in January. "My goal was to keep myself 100 per cent for the grass season," he added.

"I now hope that I'll stay healthy in this second part of the season and we'll see what happens."

Federer raced twice out of the blocks and broke serve twice to reel off the first four games of the match. The home crowd tried their best to get behind the World No. 12 Zverev, and even though he got on the board in game five, Federer broke again to wrap up the opening set in just 23 minutes.

Zverev, 20, battled hard to stay with his illustrious opponent at the start of the second set, but failed to make any inroads into the Federer serve.

— AFP

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