

NEWS CAPSULE

AASU demo

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: The AASU today staged a demonstration outside the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited office in Dibrugarh district demanding immediate setting up of the fourth unit of the plant. – PTI

OBG ceiling

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: The 'creamy layer' ceiling for OBC reservations has been raised to Rs 4 lakh from the existing Rs 6 lakh per year, according to an official order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) today. – PTI

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

PLANET YOUNG

September 14, 2017

■ Toxic food
by Prapti Das

■ I, Me, Myself:
Ananya Nandy

■ My memorable
Hanoi trip
by Chandrabhagav
Kashyap

■ Know your world:
First-aid
Neelotpal Deka

■ Book Nook, Picture
Crossword, Quiz.

■ Plus Poems, My
Viewpoint, Little Hearts,
Comics and other
features.

Chakmas, Hajongs to get limited citizenship

SPL CORRESPONDENT

stan almost five decades ago and currently living in camps in the state, are set to get Indian citizenship.

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: In what could spark trouble in the Northeast, the Centre has decided to grant limited citizenship to nearly one lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees living in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Chakma-Hajong refugee issue was discussed at a high-level meeting here today. The meeting convened by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh was attended by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, among others.

According to the Centre, over a lakh of Chakma and Hajong refugees, who came from the erstwhile East Paki-

Despite opposition from the Arunachal Pradesh government, the Centre's hands were tied by a 2015 order of the Supreme Court when it directed the Central government to grant citizenship to the Chakma and Hajong refugees.

"The Supreme Court order

(See page 4)

on Chakmas and Hajongs was discussed in the meeting. We need to implement the order as early as possible," an official said.

The Centre is trying to find a workable solution to the issue by proposing that Chakma and Hajong refugees will not be given rights, including ownership of land, enjoyed by scheduled tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, the official said.

However, the refugees may be given the Inner Line permits, which are required for non-locals in Arunachal Pradesh, allowing them to travel and work, sources said.

Several organisations and civil society in Arunachal Pradesh have been opposing citizenship to the refugees

(See page 4)

(See page 4)

India ranks 103 on Global Human Index

NEW YORK, Sept 13: India has been placed at a low 103 rank, the lowest among BRICS economies, on the WEF's Global Human Capital Index, which has been topped by Norway.

India also ranks "among the lowest in the world" when it comes to the employment gender gap, but has fared well when it comes to development of skills needed for the future with a rank of 65 out of total 130 countries surveyed.

The list compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) takes into account "the knowledge and skills people possess that enable them to create value in the global economic system" to measure the "human capital" rank of a country.

India was ranked 105th on this list last year, while Finland was at the top which was pushed by Norway to second place this year.

(See page 4)

SITUATION VACANT

CNS: Academy for training, Certified Course, Job Placement, within 3 months. Classes starts from 15th September 2017. Opportunity for: BE/B.Tech. Diploma graduates to become a Telecom Engineer urgent requirement in various companies. Your job, our pride. (100% job guaranteed). Contact us: Byline No. 1, Bishnu Raib Path, Bellota, Guwahati-781026, Phone: 8011014357, 9706059002, SV/P/170193

Established, Guwahati based International Call Center is recruiting CCE for its Canadian Mortgage Process. Good salary package with incentives (Limited Seats). Contact: +91970669426. Interview Timing: 7.00 pm onwards. SV/P/KP472/14

Homebased job Handwriting & Datotyping Earn 15,000/- minimum Registration (TRC) 970654101/970657229.

SV/P/PA769

Required Housewife, Govt Retired person for leadership role full time/part time. 887624008. SV/P/A045/8

A reputed school at Naangi is looking for PGT teacher for Chemistry with M.Sc., B.Ed and minimum 5 years of experience. Contact No: 8876674642. Email id: - newjob@interview26@gmail.com

SV/P/PA34/1

Urgently required Mathematics/ Physics faculty (H.S./Entrance) for Coaching Institute at Moriaon. Lodging will be provided. M.Sc./B.Tech can apply. Salary negotiable. Interview on 18.9.17. Cal/ watsapp: 703527167. SV/P/KP33/4

NORTH EASTERN INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA & HOMEOPATHY

(An Autonomous Institute of AYUSH, Govt. of India) Mawdiangding Shillong, Meghalaya- 793018

Advt. No. NEIAH/ADVT/2017/03

Dated: 12.09.2017
North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homeopathy (NEIAH), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India) Mawdiangding Shillong, Meghalaya- 793018
Required Fees, Govt. Register Company requires 75 (M.F) below 28. Earning AM-12000, BM - 30,000 and other post - 5000/-10,000. Free Lodging + Fooding + Bonus. Contact: Christianbasti. 8876126442, 8812023893, SV/P/205/2

No Registration Fees, Govt.

Register Company requires 75 (M.F) below 28. Earning AM-12000, BM - 30,000 and other post - 5000/-10,000. Free Lodging + Fooding + Bonus. Contact: Christianbasti. 8876126442, 8812023893, SV/P/16783/8

100% job opportunity for Medical Representative after a short Training. Graduates below 5 years. Address : "Successday", Opp. Volvo Point, Usheri, Guwahati-7. Contact : 9583-66976, 75789, 98587/0.

SV/P/A336/10

Wanted Sales Executive for Caps International Pvt. Ltd. for marketing at Guwahati. Attractive salary & commission with PF & ESIC. Qualification : HSLC/H.S. Contact : 70042-5298, 970662649, SV/P/KP16/3

100% job guaranteed Medical Representative for training for Graduate below 25 years 'Careers' Silpkuri, Ph. 980507111, 91014-57100, SV/P/16383/10

Required Electrical Design Engineer-3 (Salary net bar), Accountant (Sr.Jr.), isd-11, 8822818792, 970463074.

SV/P/1694/2

Required Home Tutors in Guwahati. Qualification: M.Sc. & MA & M.Tech & M.Com, Scientia Education, Ph. 98460-14444, SV/P/1407/2

URGENTLY REQUIRED PGT HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND MATHEMATICS FOR SANDIPANI ACADEMY AN ENGLISH MEDIUM CO

E D U C A T I O N A L INSTITUTE, HARMOTI, LAKHIMPUR, ASSAM.

INTERESTED CANDIDATE MAY SEND THEIR RESUME VIA EMAIL AT

boishnab.konch@yahoo.com

Ph: 9613857778, 99574-

12747, SV/P/KP83/1

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A Walk-in-Interview will be held on 19.09.2017 from 2 to 4 pm In the Office-Cum-Library of the Gauhati High Court Bar Association for the Post of Commisary Assistant and Law Firm of P.R. Debnath & Son. Candidates having B.Com. (Accountancy) & Diploma in Computer including Tally may appear with his/her original educational documents with Bio-data.

(Banashree Gogoi)
Secretary General
GHCBA

CD/SV/2803/1

Required Energetic people for a leading company in India. Age 30-65, part time (F): 09, Team Manager, 07, 984322104, 8638967198, SV/P/KP84/37

Urgently required Chemistry & Political Science for a Junior College at Jaliukbari. Ph: 9854360716, SV/P/A4212/8

Wanted experienced Physics (PGT) for Itanagar. Qualification: M.Sc., handsome salary plus accommodation. Contact: 9436291291/ 9436046767. Interested candidates may submit resume at nimbustutorial@gmail.com, SV/P/A4214/5

Walk in interview

Position : ACCOUNTANT for leading Electronics Showroom in Guwahati.

Qualification : COM with 5 years of experience in Accounts, Taxation, Stock Management.

Contact : HR DATAMATION
2nd Floor, Ganapati Enclave G.S. Road, Guwahati
hr@datamationservices.com
CD/SV/2795/2

Front Office Co-ordinator in a coaching Institute at G.S. Road, Guwahati. Salary 10,00/- per month. Working hours 10 am to 8 pm (Mon-Sat) & Sunday (10 am to 2 pm). Contact: 9864061138, email-namit@yahoomail.com, SV/P/205/2

Required Boiler Operator (min. 1 year exp.) for Chayagon Plastic Factory. Salary negotiable. Cont. 9953153347, SV/P/KP878/1

Required Electrical Engg/Civil Engg/Accountant/Back Office Exec. for construction Company in Ghy & Tinsukia (min. 2 yrs exp. required). Cont. 9705311859, SV/P/KP879/1

Interview Backoffice/Front Executive/Accountant/Showroom/Civil/Supervisor, S10-30,000/-, Edu/2058734 (M), Jonai, Bishnupur, H. No.-2, SV/P/A4221/1

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CBI questions TMC leader in Narada scam

KOLKATA, Sept 13: The CBI today interrogated Trinamool Congress leader and former West Bengal minister Madan Mitra in connection with the Narada tapes scam.

Mitra, who was earlier named in the Saradha ponzi scam and spent several months in judicial custody, was probed to ascertain his involvement in the Narada tapes scam, CBI sources said.

Besides Mitra, names of several other Trinamool Congress leaders had figured in the Narada tapes scam.

The Narada tapes scam purportedly showed the Narada News CEO Matthew Samuels posing as a business man and allegedly offering money to several TMC leaders.

The CBI had earlier arrested Mitra in the Saradha ponzi scam where he was among the list of beneficiaries. He later got bail from the court.

Mitra had served the first Trinamool Congress government of Mamata Banerjee in the capacity of Sports and Transport Ministers.

Both the CBI and the ED are concurrently probing the Narada tapes scam. — PTI

Amit Shah has lunch at BJP worker's house

KOLKATA, Sept 13: BJP president Amit Shah today had lunch at the house of a BJP worker in north Kolkata's Cossipore area.

Shah was given a warm welcome by residents of Lockgate area who blew conch shells, showered petals and performed 'aarti' as he negotiated a narrow lane to reach the house.

He enquired about their wellbeing and the problems being faced by them.

Shah sat on the floor of Manas Sen's house and had rice, moong dal, potato fry, bitter gourd fry, cauliflower curry, shukto (mixed veg stew) salad, sweets and 'papad', served on a plate made of clay with a banana leaf on it.

Shah was accompanied by BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargya and State party chief Dilip Ghosh, party national secretary Rahul Singh and party leader Suresh Pujari.

Sen, who works at a departmental store, said it was an honour for him to host Shah and this would be one of the most memorable days in his life.

Some local residents regretted that they could not meet the BJP president due to the large number of bystanders.

After having lunch, Shah who had arrived here on Monday for a three-day visit, left for the airport. — PTI

No ransom paid for release of priest: India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Sept 13: India today said no ransom was paid for the release of Kerala priest Father Tom Uzhunnalil from the captivity of Islamic State militants in Yemen and that "extremely complicated" diplomatic efforts were undertaken to secure his freedom.

The Catholic priest from Kerala was rescued in Yemen yesterday, over 18 months after he was abducted by Islamic State terrorists on March 6, 2016 during a deadly attack on a care home in the port city of Aden in the war-ravaged country. At least 15 people in the old-age home were killed in the attack.

Referring to the release of the priest, Union Minister VK Singh said that the Ministry of External Affairs "works quietly without noise, but ultimately gets the work done."

"Release of Father Uzhunnalil yesterday underlines one thing that the Ministry of External Affairs works quietly and without noise, but ultimately gets the work done," said Singh, the Minister of State for External Affairs.

The minister said "no" when



Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest & Climate Change Harsh Vardhan launching the campaign - 'Wood is Good' at the inauguration of the conference on 'Sustainable Landscapes and Forest Ecosystems: Theory to Practice', in New Delhi on Tuesday. — UNI

Gurgaon schoolboy murder

SIT, CBSE teams inspect Ryan school

GURGAON, Sept 13: Five days after the gruesome murder of a seven-year-old Gurgaon schoolboy, SIT teams today searched the Ryan International School here for clues to the crime while a CBSE panel also inspected the premises to examine loopholes in security arrangements.

The Gurugram Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the crime also took samples of fingerprints and shoes at the crime scene, including the toilet, a day after recreating the sequence of events there.

The SIT clicked photos and shot videos of the suspected places to examine the nature of the crime again.

"The SIT does not want to spare a single piece of evidence which can be important and work as a key breakthrough for us to solve this case. With three days left for

the submission of charge sheet in court, we have got possible positive leads against the accused school bus conductor Ashok Kumar," a senior SIT officer told PTI.

The five-member CBSE team headed by D Arun Kumar, a Deputy Director, Board of Secondary Education (SIT) also conducted legal examinations at the crime scene, including the toilet, a day after recreating the sequence of events there.

The SIT clicked photos and shot videos of the suspected places to examine the nature of the crime again.

"The team, which reached the school at around 10 am, however ignored the media glare.

Sources said the CBSE team will submit its report to the human resource development ministry (HRD) ministry on Class 2 student Pradhuman Thakur's murder inside the school toilet on September 8.

"We have sent Kumar's blood samples, his clothes and garment samples for DNA test and forensic examination

cials, or staff members, is being conducted, he added.

"Some more arrests are likely to be made," he said.

Meanwhile, Pradhuman's classmate, who was told by a schoolteacher to clean the victim's blood-soaked bag and bottle, remains traumatised.

The Class 2 student is still in trauma and does not want to go to school, says "I do not wish to go to school as someone murdered Pradhuman. I used to play with him in school. Someone will also slit my throat, now I am afraid".

School gardener Harpal Singh is also a key eyewitness in the incident.

He said he was working on the flowers when he heard a commotion as two children who went to change their track-wear dress in the toilet, found the mortally wounded Pradhuman lying in a pool of blood, and raised an alarm. — PTI

SIT takes samples of fingerprints, shoes from crime scene

Karnal. His potency test was also conducted for legal reasons," the SIT officer said.

Two students whose statements were recorded as eye-witnesses before a Duty Magistrate in the Sohna court, have been given police protection outside their homes, he said.

Besides this, parallel questioning of all suspects who are on the police radar whether it is the suspended school principal, senior management officials

NCPCC flags lack of system for teachers' orientation in private schools

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: The lack of institutional system for orientation of teachers and other staff in private schools on critical issues like safety and security often leads to lapses, says a member of NCPCC, the apex body for protection of child rights in India.

Also, private schools have exploited policy loopholes and shortcomings to deny the parents of their students any say in important aspects of infrastructure development and safety in schools, says Pravink Kanoojiya, member, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCC).

He made the remarks in the context of the killing of a sev-

en-year-old boy in Gurgaon's Ryan International School on September 8. The class 2 student was found dead inside the washroom of his school with his throat slit allegedly for resisting a sodomy bid.

The NCPCC, which has prima facie found negligence on part of the school in this case, has already sought reports from district authorities, Haryana's education department and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in the case.

Kanoojiya said there are around 7.5 crore students in private schools, school management and teachers are not aware about security measures because they don't have any institutional system for orientation of teachers," he said.

He was scathing in his assessment towards private schools' failure to establish such an institutional mechanism.

"Unlike government schools, private schools never developed such institutional system and just opened their shops (schools) without bothering about having necessary mechanisms," he said PTI.

Kanoojiya said another "shortcoming" that has come to the fore is that when the Right to Education (RTE) Act was implemented, it talked about having a "school management committee" in which the parents of students were also to be involved. — PTI

Rahul seems to have decided to say good bye to Amethi: Raza

AMETHI (UP), Sept 13: Uttar Pradesh minister Mohsin Raza attacked Rahul Gandhi over what he termed as his "long absence" from Amethi and said that it seemed the Congress vice president had decided to say "goodbye" to his Lok Sabha constituency.

"I have been coming here for the past six months, but the local MP Rahul was not seen anywhere. It seems he has made up his mind to say goodbye to this constituency," Raza said.

The minister claimed that the people of the constituency also had made up their mind to show the door to the Congress leader and elect Union minister Smriti Irani as their next MP "I think Rahul has also understood this," he said.

Calling the BJP a party of all religions and sects, Raza said the Opposition used to say that it had not given ticket to any Muslim during the Assembly polls. "I want to tell them that I have not only been made a minister but also an MLC by the same party," Raza, the sole Muslim face in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Council of Ministers, said. — PTI

asked at the news conference in Thiruvananthapuram whether any ransom was paid for the release of the priest.

"We know the type of criticism that had come couple of times when Father Uzhunnalil disappeared in Yemen. We are very happy that he has come back safely and I'm sure people will appreciate that we were able to get him out safe and sound."

On the role played by Oman, Singh said various methods were adopted to tackle the problem. "If a direct method failed to yield results, indirect methods were adopted and the aim is to get the problem solved," he said.

Asked whether Uzhunnalil contacted any Indian officials to thank the government following his release, Singh said, "I'm quite sure that he will do it after he gets back from the Vatican."

Union minister Alphons Kannanthanam, who hails from Kerala, said hectic diplomatic efforts were taken at various levels, including at the level of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, to bring the priest back to safety. — PTI

Gorakhpur hospital's ex-chief pharmacist surrenders

GORAHPUR, Sept 13:

Former chief pharmacist of the BRD Medical College today surrendered in a city court in connection with the child deaths in the state-run hospital here last month and was remanded in judicial custody.

With this, seven of the nine accused named in the FIR have been held.

"Gajanan Jaiswal, former chief pharmacist of BRD Medical College, today surrendered in the anti-corruption court. The court sent him to 14-day judicial custody," Circle Officer of Cantonment Police Station

area Abhishek Singh said.

The remaining two against whom non-bailable warrants have been issued are oxygen gas suppliers Uday Pratap Singh and Manish Bhandari.

The Uttar Pradesh Police had yesterday arrested clerk Sanjay Tripathi of the BRD Medical College. Tripathi was also sent to a 14-day judicial custody. Another clerk Sudhir Pandey was arrested last week.

Earlier, Dr Satish, the former head of the Anaesthesia Department of Cantonment Police Station

anti-corruption court here.

On September 2, ex-chief of the encephalitis wing in the hospital Dr Kafeel Khan was arrested, while the Special Task Force of UP Police had arrested ex-principal Rajiv Mishra and his wife Purnima Shukla on August 29. — PTI

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'Most Chinese unfamiliar with nation's strategic positioning'

BEIJING, Sept 13: The settlement of the border row between India and China was "the best result possible", a Chinese military strategist has said.

"The reason why so many Chinese people paid attention to the China-India border stand-off in the Doklam area is that they are unfamiliar with China's strategic positioning," said Qiao Liang, a Major General in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and a military strategist.

"If they had a clear understanding of China's strategic positioning, they would know that the settlement of the Doklam stand-off was one of the best results possible."

"China and India are both neighbours and competitors, but not all competitors must be treated in the toughest way," he said.

Indian and Chinese troops were locked in a tense border stand-off

for over two months on the Doklam border, seriously straining their relations.

Amid repeated PLA threats to oust the Indian soldiers from Doklam, claimed by both Bhutan and China, New Delhi and Beijing withdrew their troops late last month following diplomatic negotiations.

Indian troops entered Doklam area to stop Chinese soldiers from building a road which New Delhi said

would affect its strategic interests.

"Many people would say that the road construction in China's territory was none of India's business. Is this belief right?" the author wrote in State-run *Global Times* late on Tuesday.

"It is reasonable to some extent because road construction in this area is not a matter of right or wrong, but we need to understand that it is not always right to do something

right at any time. Only doing the right thing at the right time is correct."

"So, with this principle in mind, one can understand that the Doklam confrontation was solved in the way it should have been. And the most important thing is that when you understand China's strategic positioning and you cannot bring the entire world under your domination, you are willing to leave well enough alone." — IANS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Singapore gets its first woman President

SINGAPORE, Sept 13: Halimah Yacob became on Wednesday the first woman President of Singapore, being the only candidate who met the requirements for the presidential elections.

However, Yacob's selection was overshadowed by criticism that it was undemocratic to give her the top post without a vote. Yacob, a 63-year-old Muslim of Malay descent, will take her oath of office on Thursday in a ceremony due to be held in Istana, the presidential residence and office, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's office said.

Yacob was the only presidential hopeful among three potential candidates to qualify. This year's election was reserved for Malay candidates. Two other contenders, businessmen Mohamed Salleh Marican and Farid Khan, did not meet one of the minimum requirements to run, Channel NewsAsia reported. — IANS

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Rukhsana Sheikh, D/o Abdul Rahim I do hereby declare that my name was wrongly written as Rukhsana in my School Certificates. As per my Birth Certificate, Bank Passbook, and PAN Card my name should be Rukhsana Sheikh instead of Rukhsana. I hereby declared before the Notary Public Nagaon (M) at Guwahati, dated 13.09.2017. PNP/KPK869/1

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Online applications are invited for the following posts as shown below under the establishment of the Superintendent, Guahati Medical College Hospital, Guwahati-32 which will be available at the official website of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in) from 19.09.2017 to 07.10.2017 till midnight.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Minimum educational qualification	Scale of Pay	Total No. of Vacant post	Category Reservation
1	Laboratory Technician	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Diploma/ Certificate in Medical Laboratory Technician from any medical colleges of Assam Govt. recognized institute.	14,000-49,000 + GP 6,200	4	UR-1 STP-1 SC-1 OBC-1
2	Radiographer	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Certificate in Radiography/ Diploma in Radiography and Imaging Technology Course from a Govt. recognized institute.	14,000-49,000 + GP 6,200	4	UR-1 STP-1 SC-1 OBC-1
3	Scientific Assistant	Degree in Science with Physics, Chemistry and Biology from recognized institutes.	14,000-49,000 + GP 7,400	1	UR
4	Anesthetic Technician	Higher Secondary (Science) with Diploma in Anesthesia Technician Course) (or equivalent from Govt. recognized institute	14,000-49,000 + GP 6,200	1	UR

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Fees: The application fee of Rs.250/- (Rupees Two hundred fifty) only for General Category Candidates and Rs.150/- (Rupees One hundred fifty) only for OBC/MBC, SC, STP & STH category candidates which will have to be paid through net banking/credit card mode while submitting the online application form. No fee is required for BPL candidate and they are required to upload their BPL certificate from the competent authority for such exemption of along with the application.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Interested candidates shall have to fill up the online Application Forms available at the official web site of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in).

2. The following documents in original will have to be produced at the time of document verification and photocopies of all certificates etc. are to be submitted:

(a) 2 (two) Copies of recent passport size colour photograph duly self attested.
(b) HSLC admit card or birth certificate for age prod.

(c) All marks sheets and pass certificate.

(d) Caste certificate (Where applicable)

(e) Permanent residence certificate

(f) Employment Exchange Registration Certificate. Certificate of training experience Extra Curricular etc.

3. Detailed list of eligible candidates for each post along with the details of written test shall be notified in due course of the time and shall be displayed in the website www.dmeassam.gov.in. The date of uploading in the website shall be published in the local newspaper for information of the eligible candidates.

Sd/- Superintendent
Guahati Medical College Hospital,
Guwahati-32

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The Royal Navy helicopter carrier HMS Ocean is seen docked while the crew embark supplies before crossing the Atlantic to provide humanitarian assistance and vital aid to British Overseas Territories and Commonwealth partners affected by Hurricane Irma, at the naval base in the British overseas territory of Gibraltar, historically claimed by Spain. — UNI

Man Booker Prize 2017 shortlist: Arundhati Roy misses out

LONDON, Sept 13: Authors

from the UK and the US dominated the 2017 Man Booker Prize shortlist announced today, as the long-listed Indian writer, Arundhati Roy, failed to make the cut.

Roy, who won the literary award worth 50,000 pounds for her debut book *The God of Small Things* in 1997, had featured on the long-list for her latest novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*.

The book was described as "a rich and vital book" that "comes from the bowels of

India" by the judges.

The short-list includes

American authors Paul Auster

for *4321*, Emily Fridlund

for *History of Wolves*, and George

Saunders for *Linchin in the*

Bardo. The British authors in-

clude Pakistan-born Mohsin

Hamid for *Exit West*, Fiona

Mozley for *Elmet* and Ali

Smith for *Autumn*.

The final six will now battle

for the coveted award to be

announced on October 17 at

Guindalhere.

The shortlist, which fea-

tured three women and three

men, covers a wide range of

subjects, from the struggle of

a family trying to retain its

self-sufficiency in rural Eng-

land to an amorous tale of two

refugees seeking to flee an

unnamed city in the throes

of civil war.

Two first-time female writ-

ers — Fridlund and Mozley —

are joined by two previously

shortlisted authors, Hamid,

who had been short-listed in

the country's 18th typhoon this

year, moves rapidly towards

the south coast.

The provincial meteorolog-

ical department of Fujian fore-

casted that Taimen would intensify

into a super typhoon with a

speed of 180 to 200 km per

hour within the next two days.

China's national weather ob-

server said today forecast that

Taimen would either move

northwest and make landfall in

Zhejiang from tomorrow night

to Friday morning, or move

north into waters near Zhejiang

on Friday and then turn north-

east, state-run Xinhua news

agency reported.

More than 120 lakh people

have been moved to safe

places, 20,000 fishing ves-

sel shelter in Fujian, and

nearly 2,000 scenic spots and

construction sites shut down.

— PTI

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— PTI

Over 2 lakh people evacuated in China as typhoon Talim approaches

BEIJING, Sept 13: Over 2 lakh people have been evacuated from China's Fujian and Zhejiang provinces as Typhoon Talim, the region's 18th typhoon this year, moves rapidly towards the country's south coast.

The provincial meteorological department of Fujian forecasted that Talim would intensify into a super typhoon with a speed of 180 to 200 km per hour within the next two days.

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— PTI

(Contd from page 1)

saying it would change the demography of the state.

Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan who left their homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam in the 1960s.

The Chakmas, who are Buddhists, and the Hajongs, who are Hindus, also allegedly faced religious persecution when they entered India through the then Lushai Hills district of Assam (now Mizoram).

The Central moved the majority of them to the then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), now Arunachal Pradesh.

According to officials, the number of these refugees has increased from about 5,000 in 1964-69 to 1,00,000, currently, they do not possess citizenship and land rights, but are provided basic amenities by the state government.

In 2015, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to confer citizenship to these refugees.

The Arunachal Pradesh government approached the Supreme Court to review its order. After the apex court's rejection, both the Central and Arunachal Pradesh governments have started consultation to find a solution to the issue.

In contrast, the Central has taken a tough stand against the Rohingya refugees, who stand to be deported. He had already

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

— ANNE FRANK

The Assam Tribune

Brink of crisis

Never has the world been on the brink of a crisis of this magnitude since World War II. Though millions had been killed during that war, it had not portended the end of human civilization through a nuclear war, as it threatens to do now. The individual at the heart of this crisis is North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong Un, who continues to defy the wishes of the international community, including his only ally, China. His actions in the past few weeks, which not only included the launch of a missile over Japan's airspace, but also the testing of what he claims to be a hydrogen bomb, pose a grave threat to South-east Asian nations, as also the entire planet. This is because of the volatile and unpredictable nature of the man, as also the absolute power he commands over the people of his nation. The possibility is all too real that he will allow nothing to stop him from embarking on potentially disastrous courses of action, as he has repeatedly threatened to do, no matter what the consequence might be. But the biggest cause for worry is the impotence of the international community in countering the North Korean leader's belligerency. No doubt, through the UN, sanctions have been repeatedly imposed against his country, but these seem to only make him more bellicose and respond with actions causing greater concern!

China was thought to have had some influence over Pyongyang, but of late that nation too appears to have lost her clout. She has given her backing to the latest UN Security Council resolution, the 9th such since 2006, imposing 'tougher' sanctions against North Korea, but it is moot how effectively these additional measures would deter Kim Jong Un. North Korea's 'supreme leader' has hit back by warning that he would inflict "pain" on the US for inciting the UN into imposing the latest sanctions, which has ominous undertones. Fortunately, so far, the equally unpredictable Donald Trump has restricted himself to fiery rhetoric against his sworn enemy and refrained from provocative actions that might upset the delicately held status quo. The Korean Peninsula at this precise moment is like a tinder box that will explode at the least hint of a spark. The world will depend heavily on China to pull the planet from the brink of a crisis for, as is well known, there are no winners in the case of a nuclear war; only losers. One must note that it had been the China-Pakistan nexus which had been responsible for enabling transfer of nuclear and missile technology to a rogue nation like North Korea. While Pakistan is equally culpable for the grave crisis currently confronting humanity, it is her accomplice China who must play a more proactive role in taming Kim Jong Un.

Home for all

As has been the wont with successive State governments, implementation of various Centrally-sponsored development projects remains largely lopsided — marked by missed deadlines and compromise in quality. As per the Government's disclosure in the ongoing State Assembly session, of the targeted 2.60 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin during 2016-17 and 2017-18, a ridiculous 611 houses have been completed. This should leave no one in any doubt about the shocking lack of sincerity and efficiency on the part of the official machinery in matters concerning vital public interest. Housing shortage continues to be a serious concern across our rural as well as urban landscapes. The matter stands aggravated by the perennial problem of flood and erosion, causing hundreds of families to lose their hearths and homes. Also apparent has been the inadequacy of the interventions made at the government level in recent years. A perennially flood-ravaged State like Assam needs more allotments for housing but, as the poor implementation exposes, the State Government must prove itself to be capable of the task of executing the project within definite time frames, and with transparency and accountability. Past experiences show that execution of housing projects left a lot to be desired, with large-scale financial anomalies plaguing implementation. Besides, the poor quality in construction of houses has been another disturbing irritant as has been the anomaly-riddled selection process of beneficiaries, with undeserving people in large numbers managing to get themselves included in the list of beneficiaries. The open secret is that political affiliation of the beneficiaries invariably influences the selection, as the ruling political party bends over backwards in ensuring that the exercise boosts its electoral prospects. We have a change in government now and one hopes that the new government would desist from acting in a manner similar to that of its predecessor.

Another serious aspect that the Government needs to consider *vis-a-vis* the Prime Minister's rural housing scheme is to effect some modifications in the design and construction of houses in flood-prone areas. Even though it is a Centrally-sponsored project with its own guidelines, specific local situations warrant that it should be done with the necessary changes for addressing concerns peculiar to a local situation. A wiser option, therefore, would be to have elevated structures on concrete stilts, rather than going for the conventional ones. This would effectively ensure that the houses escape damages during flood-time. The State Government, in fact, would do well to reorient its housing policy as well to adapt to the situations in flood-affected areas. Government offices, schools, hospitals, etc., and residential quarters should be constructed in a manner that helps lessen the flood-induced damages. Such an exercise would also result in avoidance of unnecessary recurring expenditures over construction. Some tribal communities of Assam living near rivers have traditionally been living on elevated structures. It is time we learnt from this traditional wisdom and put it into practice.

Our unique development-deficit

PRIMARY MOTIFS

Monalisa Changkija

Nagaland's overall development-deficit is unique, as most things are here. The reasons are also unique. The simplest explanation for this deficit is, of course, corruption — but the corruption here is also unique. I always hesitate to invite people to Nagaland because even I don't want to travel on what has been passing off as our roads for almost over two decades. Yes, cosmetic repairs are done particularly before the famed Hornbill Festival but soon the rains and the heavy vehicles wipe away the cosmetics of our roads uncaringly. What exactly is the problem here since it doesn't rain only in Nagaland? You see, the same reasons pertain to almost all other sectors such as health, education, etc.

One of the primary reasons for such deplorable development-deficit here is the administrative and governance-deficit. But obviously this is not really an issue with our people because the same people are elected over and over again. If one looks at the sharp divisions in the ruling party, which has been in power for almost 15 years, it's the same old people. With a few exceptions, the same old people have been elected in the past three consecutive State Assembly elections — despite non-performance. How do we explain this phenomenon? It would be too simplistic again to cite factors such as tribe, clan, etc. While these factors are very real, I would also cite factors such as the low level of awareness and education of our people — never mind that we have one of the highest literacy rates in the

country. As a sub-category, I would cite the proclivity of our people to talk and believe all kinds of things without studying and analysing whether there is any grain of truth or logic in the talks, especially about politics. We live on the rich diet of rumours, suspicions, assumptions, presumptions, accusations and allegations, which are all taken as the Gospel truths. In this atmosphere, clearly persons with social standing by way of having been elected before or now, or serving/having served in government service, even a driver or peon, card-carrying members of political parties, NGOs, members of constitutionally-recognized traditional bodies, moneyed people, non-state players, etc., have the advantage of totally colonizing the minds of the people. Then, there is the sub-category of most of our people becoming politicians, political analysts and commentators, even political scientists, come elections. As history has proved, it is very persnickety not to be swayed by persuasive tongues, especially of those who hold office or have a high status at any level of society. But I'm not sure whether being simple is the same as being gullible.

Another factor is the complicity of voters in corruption. It is very difficult to anyone to say no to a politician or bureaucrat, who has helped get you or a member of your family in government service through the backdoor. In fact, backdoor appointments, a huge issue here in the last couple of years, are done with the sole objective of political returns. Nepotism inevitably transcends to the political domain. So, yes, it is often the refrain here that because we

sell our votes, our elected representatives are corrupt and get away with murder. While this is true, it doesn't explain why our politicians forget their oath on the Constitution. But being unique, who amongst voters remember and remind our elected representatives of the Indian Constitution?

The other factor is our skewed perceptions and perspectives of development. As far as we are concerned, as long as we get what we want in terms of education, jobs and

We have erased the line between right and wrong, true and false, good and bad — worse still, successfully defeating right with might, now we live by the axiom 'wrong is right'.

make enough money to better the Jones, we are not bothered about our neighbours, much less about our roads or the state of health and education. The very practice of proxy teachers and nurses and the increasingly growing private practice of doctors underscore self-prioritizing at the cost of the greater good of the greatest number of people. This is actually astounding considering that as a tribal community the Nagas had prioritized the collective over the individual — at least in our foreparents' days. What has made us so individualistic and self-absorbed? What has made us stop being our brothers' keepers? Is it the forced transition from a subsistence economy to an alien form of capitalism, and now liberalization and globalization? Or have these merely provided the latitude for us to be our natural selves

— individualistic, self-absorbed — now that capitalism, liberalization and globalization have contributed to weakening tribal bonds?

Nagaland is also perhaps the only State in India that is totally politics-and-government-centred. Without political and government patronage, nothing can happen here — not even a concert, a fashion show, a beauty contest, a student union's or a church programme. Politicians and bureaucrats have total financial control over all spheres of human ac-

tivities, which is one explanation for the almost non-existent private sector and non-flow of investment into the State and the non-existence of tourism, one of the most revenue-earning sectors in States like Meghalaya and Sikkim. True, these States don't have insur- gency issues or ILP etc.

But see how cleverly these issues are used and abused to justify Nagaland's overall development-deficit? Despite worst insurgency issues in Assam and Manipur, development activities to a certain extent have not stopped in these States. Manipur has an international airport, while we have just two flights a day. Nagaland is the only State in the North-east that has no direct flights to Guwahati. What of the East Act Policy then — how far can this policy be realized without smooth communications within the North-east?

One major factor for the development-deficit here that has been regurgitated endlessly over the decades is the insurgency issue. Our powers—that is repeatedly 'exhort' that peace is a precursor to development — the connotations

being once the Naga issue is honourably settled, development will inevitably ensue. This does not explain where funds from the Centre have disappeared, the emergence of crony capitalism, emergence of the small but very fabulously affluent and powerful class that indubitably controls the maximum wealth of Nagaland and the increasing impoverishment of the ordinary citizen. Our unique concept of democracy is another factor that must be addressed especially because evidently dissent of 'mainstream narratives' is still not tolerated.

Perhaps the most unique reason for Nagaland's development-deficit is the absence of a value-system in our society. We have erased the line between right and wrong, true and false, good and bad — worse still, successfully defeating right with might, now we live by the axiom 'wrong is right'. Surprising for a State that proclaims 'Nagaland for Christ' — but then as we no longer seek wisdom in the 'year of the Lord', development-deficit is inevitable. A value-system and wisdom are intrinsically linked — because we have abandoned both, we cite numerous political, economic, social, cultural, sociological factors and analyse them through the prism of local, regional, national and global trends at an intellectual level so while change is an favourite topic, it certainly isn't our favourite action. Salvation comes only with change — based on a value-system and informed by wisdom. Change comes only when we concede we are human — and our inability to be human like everyone else on this planet is another unique factor for our development-deficit.

(The author a journalist and poet, is the editor, Nagaland Page.)

Blue Whale challenge and our youngsters

■ Dr Dharmakanta Kumbhakar

Nowadays a few harmful and dangerous online games have become popular among the teenagers and young adults worldwide who are addicted to playing video gaming in mobiles and computers. The Blue Whale challenge (also known as the Blue Whale game) is one of such harmful and dangerous online games which is being linked to deaths by suicide of scores of teenagers and young adults around the world, including India.

The Blue Whale is reportedly a deadly online challenge game which requires it's psychologically-provoked players (called as challengers) to perform certain dangerous and self-destructive tasks given by the game 'administrators', such as etching a whale on one's arm, causing self harm, waking up at 4:20 am, climbing a crane, carving a specific character on the challenger's own hand or arm, doing secret tasks, poking a needle to the arm or leg, standing on a bridge and a roof, listening to music, and watching horror and psychic videos sent to the challengers by the administrators for 50 days before finally taking the 'winning' step of committing suicide.

The game attracts mostly teenagers and young adults who are more susceptible to online influences, and attempts to create an air of unwholesomeness and uselessness around

them. The game is specially designed to target teenagers who are depressed. It influences kids, teenagers and young adults who are looking for some fun and challenges, but ultimately end up with death. The victims may have got involved with the game out of curiosity, but find themselves being psychologically-manipulated into continuing with the tasks. Some reports claim that there is no revocation once the players get in touch with the participants after those interested turning out posts on social media asking for a 'curator'. The game takes 50 days to complete. On the 50th day, the challengers are supposed to commit suicide by jumping off the roof or by hanging. The administrators say that if the challengers commit suicide, they 'win' the game, and that if they don't, someone will come to help them. According to media reports, 22-year-old Russian Philipp Budenkin claims to have invented the game to cleanse the society by provoking people who think they are not worthy of being alive to commit suicide.

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The game attracts the attention of parents as well as authorities across the globe, as almost 20 countries have been affected by the same. The police and many parents of Assam have also expressed concern over this serious issue. It is up to the parents to create a positive environment for their children so they don't try such a fatal game.

Parents and teachers must be available to talk to children and students when they go through vulnerable times. Making children aware of the dangers of the game and media literacy can keep them away from this game. According to a report, the game has been linked to the suicides of around 130 teenagers across Russia alone. Recently cases of alleged Blue Whale suicide have also been reported in India. The first case was reported on July 30, 2017, when a 14-year-old school boy named Manpreet Singh Sahani jumped to death from the seventh floor of a building

in Mumbai as a part of this online killer game. On August 10 last, a Class VII student in Indore was pulled away before he could take the final leap. As per news, a Class X student of Guwahati inflicted injuries on himself playing the online game who was admitted to the GMCH recently with cut marks on his hand.

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The Assam Police have already issued an advisory to the parents and school teachers to monitor the social media activities of the children. It is important for the parents to monitor their children's internet usage, make note of what they are surfing and the kind of games they are playing, and follow whom they are speaking to. Some

of the early noticeable signs and symptoms of this game addiction are depression, isolation, self-harm, late night and early morning internet surfing, secret chatting, etc. If the children are seemingly lost, lonely and depressed, parents and school managements must provide emotional support and take immediate action to get them involved socially in the real world and divert their mind by providing activities or giving them something new to learn. The parents, guardians and school teachers need to spend more time with children and keep an eye on their routine.

Most teenagers of sound mind with a supportive network at home and at school are unlikely to stumble upon this game. The hysteria surrounding the Blue Whale 'suicide game' needs to be re-focused on issues of adolescent depression that invite it. Addressing the root causes of vulnerability of teenagers and young adults and talking to them about such harmful groups and what they contain is perhaps a better defence against the Blue Whale game. Teenagers, students and young adults need to know how to support each other and who to unconditionally turn for help when there is an issue.

APSC reforms only poll rhetoric?

Yet, the APSC shows no signs of declaring the result. This lackadaisical attitude has left us wondering if all of those poll promises of reformation of the APSC were only some hollow populist measures with no true intent, or perhaps, mere political rhetoric. Corruption and inefficiency are the two sides of the same coin, and so the authority should leave no stone unturned to bring some changes in the working style of the APSC and maintain a strict schedule for the examination calendar. Yours etc., SHARMISTHA CHAUDHURI, Uluberia, Guwahati.

Bank privatization

Sir — Perhaps the bank customers will get better service if the nationalised banks are privatized. Previously the banks were opened on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month; now those days are bank holidays and all bank transactions are closed on those days incurring loss to the country's economy.

Many office-goers for want time did their bank transactions on these two Saturdays of the month as the government offices remain

closed on these days. But now they are deprived of that advantage. Day by day bank strikes, hartsals, ceases work and other union activities are increasing. Bank employees are well paid compared to the employees of other government departments. As banks are commercially profitable establishments, it should follow the procedure of the Reserve Bank of India's 'No work, no salary' principle is followed. Yours etc., SASANKA KR DUTTA, Hatiagon, Guwahati.

Of glaring lapses

Sir — This refers to your editorial of August 30, 2017, captioned 'Glaring lapses'. Indeed this is a well-written piece which focuses on the inefficient management of the business enterprises right from hotel business to tea industry. Let us now take the case of the Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, with its prime location and wonderful infrastructure. We cannot blame the present Government alone for its present poor situation. The lapses are chronic and there is no doubt about it. If the Government is incapable of running a business

enterprise like the Hotel Brahmaputra, it should stop running all other businesses.

In case of running a few sick tea gardens, the Government is also a total failure in as much as dirty politics played a role so far as the management of the tea gardens are concerned, resulting in colossal loss of money from the public exchequer. In case of the Hotel Brahmaputra, everything is not lost. Let the Government engage a capable bureaucrat to manage its affairs but there should not be any political interference. Yours etc., RAMANI KANTA DEKA, New Guwahati.

Depriving journalists

Sir — Apropos the 'NE working journalists' body raises various issues with Sonowal' (AT September 5) relating mainly to journalists' pension, as a person who retired from a premier newspaper establishment of Assam after serving for more than four decades as a working journalist, I want to thank the Sarbananda Sonowal Government at the outset because of its

sincerity to introduce the journalists' pension scheme in Assam from the current financial year itself. As a first step, 20 retired journalists were selected for this year's pension. However, three to four senior-most journalists have been deprived of the journalists' pension on the plea that they are already availing the literary pension. There are ample instances of how many government officials are getting both the departmental pension and the literary pension simultaneously. Why then the discrimination with regard to the journalists only? Journalists don't earn any regular income after retirement. If somebody amongst them is availing literary pension, it should be considered to be an honour only, but the journalists' pension is his/her professional due. We request the Chief Minister and the authorities concerned to look into the matter. Yours etc., A RETIRED JOURNALIST, 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@assamtribune.com.

Anundoram Barooah award to 15,738 students

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ceremoniously presented the Anundoram Barooah award to 15,738 meritorious students of the State who secured 75 per cent or above marks in the High School Leaving Certificate, High Madrasa, Senior Madrasa, Sanskrit Praveshika and Pali Examination, 2017, at a programme held at Veteran College playground here today.

The award carries a laptop with free Internet connection for two years, course curriculum of five subjects of Arts, Science & Commerce streams in text, audio as well as video form and free high quality software containing preparatory material for MBBS and engineering examinations.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said the award would encourage the young students to take part in nation building and develop a life of dignity. Stating that the future of the nation depends on the young minds, Sonowal urged them to work with harmony, trans-

parency and integrity. He also urged the students not to get lost in the crowd and called upon them to consider the award as a stepping stone for future success in life.

Sonowal further said that in this age of globalisation, information technology has significantly altered many aspects of life and urged the young students to take maximum benefit of the digital medium in their academic life. He, however, also cautioned them about the dangers of cyber crime and advised them not to get trapped in it.

"You will have to take the lead in developing a new Assam. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for the North East the new engine of new India. This will come into reality only when you take the drivers' seat," the Chief Minister said, adding that in today's competitive world, students need to maintain a positive attitude to overcome all types of challenges.

Quoting Bhupen Hazarika's famous song, *Manike Manuh Babe*, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the bedrock of Assamese civilisation is unity and harmony. "There are certain forces which are trying to disrupt peace. We have to follow the ideals of the stalwarts who espoused the ideals of peace, harmony and brotherhood. You will have to stand against the divisive forces and promote these ideals," he said.

Underlining the importance of spiritual and moral learning, Sonowal said that society demands good people to ensure good governance. The academic institutions must take leadership in producing good people ingrained with ethical values, Sonowal added. He also called upon the students to show reverence to their parents and teachers for leading a successful and contented life.

Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while delivering his speech, urged the meritorious students to follow in the footsteps of Anundoram Barooah to make a successful and socially committed career. He said that Anundoram Barooah, through his works on Sanskrit literature, made an effort to establish the identity of

the 5000-year-old rich Indian heritage in the world arena and immensely contributed to the nation building exercise, which is an integral part of development of states as well.

Highlighting the government initiative for creating a level playing ground for students, Sarma said the State government would provide scooters to first 1,000 successful girl students of HS examination from this

year. He also said the State government is working to strengthen the elementary education system of the State and within one year has appointed around 31,000 TET-qualified teachers. He mentioned the opening of universities in the names of Mahadevbari, Bhattacharjee and Rabindra Nath Tagore in Lakhimpur; Barjapeta and Hajo districts as well as new medical and engineering colleges in the State.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Education Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma at the award ceremony. – At photo

Bid to create livelihood professionals among educated youths

STAFF REPORTER

was attended by a number of resource persons and noted personalities including Father VM Thomas, Dr Navanit Barua, Nandita Hazarika and Dr Arup Kumar Misra (Director, ASTEC).

From among the 30 participants at the workshop, the selected few will be joining in the existing facilities of the livelihood activities and practically learn selection of raw materials, production processes, value chain, supply chain, brand building and brand positioning along with marketing.

Simultaneously, the Jibika Bahini will build a prototype at Chandrapur High School in collaboration with ASTEC and incorporate school students and the rural school dropouts, unemployed and underemployed youths in the mission.

Atmanta Bhawan, Guwahati
Tender Reference No. :
TENDER/2017/11-12
Dibrugarh Airport invites e-tenders for granting the license for Airport Entry Ticket. For details please visit [https://tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in) Corrigendum Extension etc. will be published in the said portal.

Airport Director

Youth jumps off building, cops suspect Blue Whale dare
CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Sept 13: A 22-year-old youth, identified as Gaurav Sutradhar, a third semester student of Radha Madhav College, Silchar, allegedly jumped off a two-storey building on Wednesday.

Son of Sabita Sutradhar, Gaurav used to stay at his uncle's residence wherein the incident took place.

According to police, the prelude to the incident hint this to be a case of Blue Whale dare, the first incident reported in Silchar after the fatal online game gripped people across the world. Till this report was filed, the youth, who sustained grievous injuries, is undergoing treatment at Silchar Medical College Hospital.

Two apprehended
CORRESPONDENT

DIPUH, Sept 13: The Indian Army of Red Horn division operating from Hilkandi, Barak Valley, apprehended two alleged extortionists from a hideout located at a place under Baklia Police Station. One Tha-made .22 pistol and 10 bullets of AK series rifle have been recovered from them. The extortionists have been identified as Pawan Satnam and Kursa Nayak.

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Probe ordered after teacher alleges pressure to convert to Islam

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: The Assam Police will probe allegations by a teacher in the Morigaon district that she was being forced by two of her senior colleagues to eat beef and convert to Islam, an offici-

cial said on Wednesday.

Morigaon Deputy Commissioner Hamen Das said that two inquiries have been ordered into the allegations.

"We have asked the Inspector

of Schools to carry out an acci-

dental probe regarding the teacher whether she is regular or not.

We have also asked the Superintendent of Police to inquire into the allegations about forcing her to eat beef and for conversion.

We are taking the matter seri-

ously as the allegations are of

criminal nature," he said.

The teacher, a resident of Sonapur in Kamrup district, had written to Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Education Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma, saying her com-

plaints to the block education of-

ficer and to the Deputy Commis-

sioner failed to draw any action.

She said that she has

stopped going to the school for

quite some time now due to

fear and mental pressure she

had been undergoing.

"Initially I took it lightly as I

thought the situation will im-

prove. However, the situation

turned from bad to worse. A

senior colleague of mine con-

tinuously asked me to convert

to Islam and marry him. When

I complained to the head teach-

er, he also supported him. The

head teacher and his wife who

lives nearby also forced me to

eat beef," she alleged. – IANS



People taking out a cultural rally on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, in Tezpur on Wednesday. – UB Photos

Girl kidnapped

ANN Service

SONAR, Sept 13: A minor girl studying in Class-X of St Joseph High School here was allegedly kidnapped by Sikk Masum of BPC Road on Tuesday when the girl returning from her tuition. The father of the girl lodged an FIR at Sonari Police in this regard.

CORRIGENDUM

In partial modification of Press Notice Inviting Tender issued this office letter No. WKS/34/07-08/Pt/IV/487 DT/08/09/2017, out of 3 (three) nos. Packages, tender for I no. Package amounting to Rs. 48.00 lakhs will be

done through e-tendering process and may be seen in the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. The remaining 2 (two) nos. of packages amounting to Rs. 35.00 lakhs will continue in the same process as mention in the earlier Press Notice Inviting Tender.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD
Guwahati Road Division,
Guwahati-1

ADVERTISEMENT

In continuation to the earlier advertisement No.Janasanayog.8677/15, Dated 20.10.2015 and in partial modification, Online applications are invited for the following posts as shown below under the establishment of the Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College Hospital, Guwahati-32 which will be available at the official website of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in) from 19.09.2017 to 07.10.2017 till midnight.

However, the candidates who have already applied in pursuance to the above mentioned advertisement need not apply again.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Minimum Educational Qualification	Scale of Pay	Total No. of Vacant Post	Category Reservation
1	Medical Record Technician	HSSLC passed with Biology & Computer Knowledge. Preference will be given to candidate having training in Medical Record Technician Training in Govt. Hospital/Medical College	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	3	UR-1 SC-1 OBC-1
2	Assistant	Degree/ Diploma of Physiotherapy from Physiotherapist [Govt. recognized Institute]	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,800	2	UR-2

Reservation: Reservation of posts for woman candidate and physically handicapped candidates will be as per prevailing Govt. rules.

Age: Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not above 43 years as on 01.01.2017. The upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years for SC, STP, STH Candidates only.

Fees: The application fee of Rs. 250/- (Rupees two hundred fifty) only for General Category Candidates and Rs. 150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty) only for OBC/MOCB, SC, ST(P) & STH category candidates which will have to be paid through net banking/ credit card/ debit card while submitting the online application form. No fee is required for BPL candidate and they are required to upload their BPL certificate from the competent authority for such exemption of fee along with the application.

Terms & conditions:

- Interested candidates shall have to fill up the online Application Forms available at the official website of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in).
- The following documents in original will have to be produced at the time of document verification and photocopies of all certificates etc, are to be submitted.
 - (a) Two (2) copies of recent passport size colour photograph duly self attested.
 - (b) HSLC admit card or birth certificate for age proof.
 - (c) All marks sheets and pass certificate.
 - (d) Cast Certificate (where applicable)
 - (e) Permanent residence certificate
 - (f) Employment Exchange Registration Certificate, Certificate of training experience Extra Curricular etc
- Detailed list of eligible candidates for each post along with the details of written test shall be notified in due course of the time and shall be displayed in the website www.dmeassam.gov.in. The date of uploading in the website shall be published in the local newspaper for information of the eligible candidates.

Sd/- Superintendent
Gauhati Medical College Hospital,
Guwahati-32
Janasanayog/D/763/17

ADVERTISEMENT

Online applications are invited for the following posts as shown below under the establishment of the Superintendent, Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh which will be available at the official website of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in) from 19.09.2017 to 07.10.2017 till midnight.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Minimum Educational Qualification	Scale of Pay	Total No. of Vacant Post	Category Reservation
1	Laboratory Technician	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Diploma/ Certificate in Laboratory Technician from Govt. recognized Institute.	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	1	STP
2	Radiographer	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Radiographer Technician certificate or equivalent from any Medical Colleges of Assam/ recognized Institute of Govt. of Assam.	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	1	SC
3	Cobalt Technician	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with 2 years Radiation Therapy technology course from any institute recognized by AERC	14,000-49,000+ GP 5,000	1	OBC/MOCB
4	Rehabilitation Assistant	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent from recognized board with Diploma in Multi Rehabilitation works/HM Technican Course from recognized institute	14,000-49,000+ GP 5,600	1	UR
5	Dark Room Assistant	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with 1 year experience in Dark Room related X-Ray processing works	14,000-49,000+ GP 5,000	1	UR
6	Pharmacist	HSSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Diploma in Pharmacy from Govt. recognized Institute	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	1	SC

Reservation: Reservation of posts for woman candidate and physically handicapped candidates will be as per prevailing Govt. rules.

Age: Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not above 43 years as on 01.01.2017. The upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years for SC, STP, STH Candidates only.

Fees: The application fee of Rs. 250/- (Rupees two hundred fifty) only for General Category Candidates and Rs. 150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty) only for OBC/MOCB, SC, ST(P) & STH category candidates which will have to be paid through net banking/ credit card/ debit card while submitting the online application form. No fee is required for BPL candidate and they are required to upload their BPL certificate from the competent authority for such exemption of fee along with the application.

Terms & conditions:

- Interested candidates shall have to fill up the online Application Forms available at the official website of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in).
- The following documents in original will have to be produced at the time of document verification and photocopies of all certificates etc, are to be submitted.
 - (a) Two (2) copies of recent passport size colour photograph duly self attested.
 - (b) HSLC admit card or birth certificate for age proof.
 - (c) All marks sheets and pass certificate.
 - (d) Cast Certificate (where applicable)
 - (e) Permanent residence certificate
 - (f) Employment Exchange Registration Certificate, Certificate of training experience Extra Curricular etc
- Detailed list of eligible candidates for each post along with the details of written test shall be notified in due course of the time and shall be displayed in the website www.dmeassam.gov.in. The date of uploading in the website shall be published in the local newspaper for information of the eligible candidates.

Sd/- Superintendent
Assam Medical College Hospital,
Dibrugarh
Janasanayog/D/762/17


**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain and thunder showers very likely to occur at most places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura and at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.

Warning : Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on September 16 and 17.

	Max (C)	Min (C)
Dibrugarh	28.7	23.4
Tezpur	31.2	26.0
Gauhati	33.2	25.4
Dhubri	32.8	25.0
Jorhat	30.2	25.4
N Lakhimpur	28.0	22.5
Shillong	21.8	13.9
Mawlynnong	26.2	22.8
Itanagar	29.8	22.9
Aizawl	28.7	13.2
Agartala	33.0	25.5
Kohima	27.6	17.6
Paigahat	31.6	25.4
Cherrapunjee	22.7	17.4

Mizoram varsity students call off stir

AIZAWL, Sept 13: The indefinite boycott of academic and non-academic activities in Mizoram University started from September 6 by Mizoram University Students' Council (MZUSC) for appointment of a Vice Chancellor was called off today.

In a release, the MZUSC said that the decision to lift the boycott was made in a joint meeting with teaching and non-teaching staff associations of the university.

"As per a telephonic conservation between MZUSC leaders and Mizoram Lok Sabha MP CL Ruia, the latter had spoken to HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar.

The MP said the file for appointment of regular Vice Chancellor for Mizoram University is already with President and is likely to get back to HRD Minister within the next 15 days," the release said.

"Even though there is no written document, taking into account the MP's words, the joint meeting decided that the boycott be called off," it said.

However, agitation would continue in the form of wearing black badges for 15 days, from September 11. If no positive action towards appointment of the VC is seen by September 29, the MZUSC would decide a future course of action to continue the demand. – Correspondent

Ram Madhav urges people to build 'New India'

IMPHAL, Sept 13: Pointing at the prevailing corruption, blind beliefs and illiteracy in the country, BJP national secretary Ram Madhav has appealed to the people to "feel the pain of the present and work to reform the present".

Ram Madhav, who is also director of India Foundation, said that that people should become stakeholders to transform the country into a 'New India'.

The BJP leader was speaking at the 'Swami Chinmayananda Memorial Lecture' held at INA Memorial Hall, Moirang in south Manipur on Monday. The memorial lecture was organised by Chinmay Mission.

He mentioned that in the next five years, India would become poverty free and corruption free country.

Speaking on the occasion, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that people should think what we can contribute for the development and welfare of the nation. – Newmai News

Mizoram Guv worried over melting of Himalayan glaciers

RESPONDENT

AIZAWL, Sept 13: Mizoram Governor Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma (Retd) today expressed concern over the melting of Himalayan glacier.

"Himalayas are the largest body of snow in our planet after the Arctic and Antarctic, and sometimes is referred to as the Third Pole. While the melting of snow in the Arctic and Antarctic is frequently reported, that of Himalayan glaciers goes largely unreported even though more people are affected," Sharma said, while inaugurating a three-day media workshop on climate change here today.

The media workshop on climate change reporting on the Himalayas is being organised by Indian Himalayan Climate Adaptation Programme (IHICAP) of

various other issues pertaining to the Home department of the State. Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju also accompanied the CM during the meeting. Singh assured all possible help and support to the State Government.

Presently, the State is under the combined AGMUT cadre which is a joint cadre for Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Northeast Territories.

The Chief Minister further said that in the absence of a dedicated bureaucracy, the State has not been able to progress. Therefore, in the interest of development of the State, it is felt that a dedicated bureaucracy

will bring continuity in administration. Separation of Arunachal Pradesh from AGMUT is, therefore, a genuine issue", Khandu advocated.

He also advocated for a separate cadre for Arunachal Pradesh during his meeting with Minister of State for Personnel and Training, Jitendra Singh.

In the course of discussion with the DoNER Minister, Khandu referred to the matters pending with the Ministry of DoNER and requested him for early sanctioning of the projects. The MoS assured to look into the matter positively and promised to extend all possible assistance and support to Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu calling on Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba are also seen. – PTI

Khandu seeks separate IAS, IPS cadre for Arunachal

RESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Sept 13: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today urged Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to create a separate IAS/IPS/IFS cadre for the State.

He called on Union Home Minister in New Delhi to discuss

the border town of Moreh. The police are on the lookout for suspicious looking people without valid documents travelling to Moreh from the commercial town of Tamu across the border in Myanmar they said.

People from Tamu can visit Moreh with valid papers but have to return before 4 pm.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh had on Saturday issued an alert to strengthen security along the 364-km long porous Indo-Myanmar

border to prevent the influx of the Rohingya, the police said.

Biren had also directed the concerned superintendents of police and deputy commissioners to prevent any attempt by the Rohingya to sneak into Manipur.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine province have been fleeing the country since August 25 when a fresh wave of violence erupted there after the security forces launched a crackdown in the Rakhine State. – PTI

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Manipur on high alert to check possible influx of Rohingyas

IMPHAL, Sept 13: The police in the hill districts of Manipur, bordering Myanmar, are on high alert due to apprehension of Rohingyas crossing the border illegally.

Patrolling has been intensified in the last three days, the police said.

Till today, no illegal immigrant has been detected or intercepted for trying to cross over from the neighbouring country, they said.

High priority is being given to

the border to prevent the influx of the Rohingya, the police said.

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Thousands of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine province have been fleeing the country since August 25 when a fresh wave of violence erupted there after the security forces launched a crackdown in the Rakhine State. – PTI

Media houses need to register with GST

NEWMAY NEWS

IMPHAL, Sept 13: Media houses in Manipur have to register with Goods & Services Tax (GST) to avoid penalty. Under GST, a registered media firm has to file GST returns. If the media houses fail to do so, penalty can be imposed on them. This was stated by an official of Department of Taxes, Government of Manipur

to the media houses.

Directorate of Information & Public Relations with Editors' Guild Manipur including publishers from different media houses based in Manipur had an interaction on GST related with media at State Institute of Journalism, DIPR Complex here.

Speaking at the interaction programme, Superintendent, Department of Taxes, Manipur, Y Indrakumar

spoke on the impact of GST on the media, both print and electronic.

He said that with the implementation of GST on July 1, 2017, all news paper establishments and cable operators should register with GST.

If no, the department can impose penalty on them. He also explained on how to take benefits of Input Tax Credit (ITC). He further said under GST, a registered media firm has to file GST returns.

Similar kiosks have been installed

at the chief secretary's offices of all

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The first-ever motorable suspension bridge constructed over Rongkhai river at Kodaldhawa in South West Garo Hills of Meghalaya was inaugurated by State Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma on Tuesday. - UB

Satellite-based Information Kiosk inaugurated at NEC

SHILLONG, Sept 13: A Satellite-based Information Kiosk (SBIK) developed by North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) was inaugurated at North Eastern Council (NEC) headquarters here on Tuesday.

NEC secretary Ram Muivah inaugurated the kiosk, considered as one of the unique initiatives of NEC executed by NESAC in close collaboration with State Remote Sensing Applications Centres of North Eastern Region to showcase the capability of Space Technology inputs for developmental planning activity through single window system.

He said the kiosk was launched with an objective to strengthen the planning and monitoring mechanisms of the projects funded by NEC and other organisations of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and various Central Government departments in NE.

Similar kiosks have been installed at the chief secretary's offices of all

eight NE States and also at NEC office in Delhi, Muivah said.

He said the kiosk would contain information on land use land cover (LULC), wetlands, wastelands, forest working plan, land degradation map (LDM), roads, drainages and settlements, soil map on each of the States.

It will also have ground water prospect map, wetlands infrastructure, inputs for disaster management support programme, using space technology inputs for satellite data coupled with intense ground truth for different periods and scales.

It is installed in a Touch Screen Based System and allows users to get live weather updated from MODSAC site of ISRO and Bhuvan Satellite and Basa Data. It is also linked with the Geoportal – North Eastern District Resources Plan developed by NESAC, he said.

The kiosk has become one of the important tools for a large number of Line Departments of North Eastern Region.

Another complaint has been registered at North East Cell based in New Delhi on September 11, last family sources said.

However, Nodal Officer of NE Cell in Delhi said, the site where the incident happened was not within its jurisdiction, family sources said. – PTI

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According to Customs officials here the seizure was made possible after a tip off from intelligence agencies following which the joint team swung into action.

A joint team of Customs Headquarters Preventive Units of Shillong and Silchar assisted by BSF personnel seized the consignment," IR Kharkongor, Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Shillong, said.

Kharkongor added that the consignment was transported from South India and was meant for smuggling to Myanmar. The value of the seized logs is estimated at Rs 60.22 lakh.

Red Sandalwood has been declared as an endangered species under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and also listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

A case under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 has been registered. Further investigation of the case is on.

Left students win student council election in Tripura

AGARTALA, Sept 13: Two student wings of the ruling CPI-M have swept the student council election in 22 government colleges in Tripura, which goes to the polls next year.

Student Federation of India (SFI) and Tribal Student Union (TSU) together secured 751 seats out of the total 778 seats and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) secured only 27 seats.

Official sources said the candidates of SFI and TSU won 530 seats unopposed out of the total 778 seats and ABVP won 27 of the rest in 13 colleges, elections to which were held on Tuesday. NSUI, the student wing of the opposition Congress, could not win a single seat.

Police said during the announcement of the results at Mahajara Birbikram College premises, DIG Arindam Nath and SP of West district Abhijit Saptarshi received minor injuries in pelting of stones by supporters of SFI, TSU and ABVP. – PTI

Kuki body stages rally in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Sept 13: Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) today took out a rally here today in protest against non-fulfilment of their long pending demands.

The protesters also demanded settlement of vexed issues before finalisation of (Indo-Naga) framework agreement.

"Despite repeated pleas, our demands are yet to be fulfilled. The Manipur Government is not at all sincere about our problems," a KSO leader said.

In a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Kuki Inpi Manipur, an apex body of Kuki community of the State demanded immediate settlement of the Kuki families who were displaced in the riots.

The Kuki Inpi also threatened to launch a massive agitation if its demands are not met.

Dimapur auto union asked to follow rules

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Sept 13: Dimapur Deputy Commissioner Kesony Yhome has directed Dimapur District Auto Drivers' Union (DDADU) to adhere to the autorickshaw fares as revised by Regional Transport Authority (RTA).

In an order, the DC has also directed DDADU to strictly abide by the rules and regulations issued by the competent authority from time to time.

The DDADU had called an indefinite strike from September 11 in protest against the fare revision made by the district authorities. However, the band was called off the same day unconditionally.

The DC further notified that the fixation of rates is a prerogative of the State and fixed after due consideration.

The rates will be revised as and when felt necessary by the authority and not for the convenience and terms of the union, the order said.

Red sandalwood seized in Shillong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Sept 13 : A joint team of Customs Shillong Cell and BSF today seized 110 Red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus sandalinus*) logs weighing 2,409 kg at the Silchar-Mizoram National Highway.

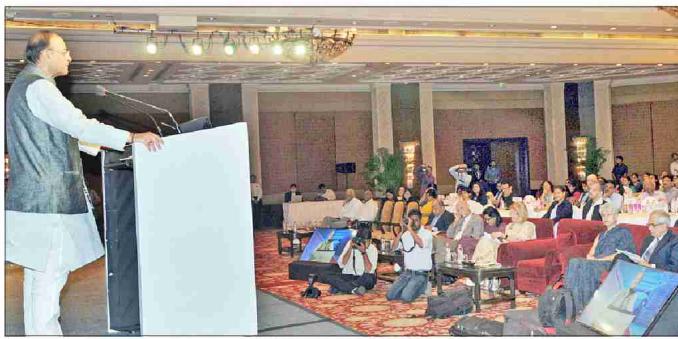
According to Customs officials here the seizure was made possible after a tip off from intelligence agencies following which the joint team swung into action.

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Kharkongor added that the consignment was transported from South India and was meant for smuggling to Myanmar. The value of the seized logs is estimated at Rs 60.22 lakh.

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A case under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 has been registered. Further investigation of the case is on.



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley delivering the keynote address at a Conclave on Financial Inclusion, organised by the United Nations in India, in New Delhi on Wednesday. - PIB

CAPSULE

Ola Partner World

BENGALURU, Sept 13: Cab aggregators Ola and Ola Auto announced the launch of Ola Partner World (OPW), a one-stop shop for all needs of driver partners registered on the platform. Ola Partner World will cater to their various professional and personal needs in a sprawling ambience with best-in-class facilities, the company said. Ola plans to extend such a facility to other cities in the country over the course of this year, the company said. - PTI

RBI director

MUMBAI, Sept 13: The government has nominated newly appointed Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar to the RBI board. He replaces Anujit Chib Duggal, who superannuated last month. The Government of India has nominated Rajiv Kumar as a director on the Central Board of RBI in place of Duggal, the Central bank said in a statement. - PTI

iPhone 8, X

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Apple enthusiasts in India will be able to buy the latest iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus and iPhone X, at a price starting from Rs 64,000 within days of availability of the smartphones in the US and other markets. The new line-up, announced late last week, is set to compete with flagships devices from the stables of Samsung, LG and other players in India. - PTI

Airtel deal

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel today announced a strategic partnership with South Korean telecom operator SK Telecom, known for using latest technologies, to build the most advanced telecom network in India. The two companies will also collaborate on an ongoing basis to evolve standards for 5G and other technologies like network function virtualisation, software-defined networking and Internet of Things. Bharti Airtel said in a statement. - PTI

Nestle Milkybar

MUMBAI (Guj), Sept 13: FMCG giant Nestle India today said it has reformulated its white chocolate brand Milkybar, to reduce the sugar content by 10 per cent. The sugar is replaced by higher quantity of milk and the percentage of milk in the new Milkybar has been increased by close to 8 per cent with the sugar reduced by about 10 per cent, on per 100 gm basis. - PTI

McDonald's appeal

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: McDonald's India has asked suppliers to stop dealing with CPMI its 50:50 venture with partner Vikram Bakshi, in a bid to enforce its cancellation of franchise licence. McDonald's India Pvt Ltd (MPL) had last month terminated franchise licence of 16 outlets operated by Connaught Plaza Restaurants Ltd (CPL) in north and east India. - PTI

Sonalika target

CHANDIGARH, Sept 13: Tractor major Sonalika International Tractors today said it is aiming to sell 1 lakh units in the current financial year. "We are targeting the sale of one lakh tractors in the current financial year," the firm's Deputy Country Head Vivek Godt told reporters here. He said the company sold 80,000 tractors, including 11,000 units in overseas markets, during last fiscal. - PTI

Govt sets up panel to receive complaints

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: A four-member standing committee, comprising tax officials of the Centre and States, has been set up to receive complaints of undue profiteering by any entity under the new GST regime.

The Standing Committee on anti-profiteering will act as a complaints processing machinery and will refer any cases it finds fit for investigation to the Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS).

The setting up of the panel, with two officials of the Central Board of Excise and Customs and one each from Delhi and Haryana tax department, sets in motion the anti-profiteering clause under the goods and services tax (GST).

CBEC officials Himanshu Gupta, Principal Commissioner, GST Delhi and OP Dadhich Principal, Commissioner Customs (Preven-

tive) Delhi, as also H Rajesh Prasad, Commissioner (Sales Tax), Delhi, and Ashima Brar, Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana, are members of the committee, according to an official order.

The anti-profiteering mechanism was proposed to enable the benefit of lower taxation in the benefit of lower taxation in the

Undue profiteering

GST with the subsuming of over a dozen Central and State taxes like excise duty, service tax and VAT, is passed on to consumers.

Businesses or entities not passing on the benefit can be referred to the committee.

The detailed procedure for approaching the committees will be announced soon, officials said.

Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia had last week said that the

government has notified the 'standing committee' comprising four officers – two each from the Centre and States – but the names of the officers were not in public domain.

As per the structure of the anti-profiteering mechanism in the GST regime, complaints which are of local nature would be first sent to the State-level 'screening committee', while those of national level would be sent to the 'standing committee'.

If the complaints have merit, then the respective committees

would refer the cases for further investigation to the Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS).

The DGS safeguards would generally take about three months to complete the investigation and send the report to the anti-profiteering authority. - PTI

Hindalco plans to prepay Rs 1,100-cr debt

MUMBAI, Sept 13: Hindalco Industries, an Aditya Birla group company, plans to prepay another Rs 1,100-crore debt this month to further deleverage its balance sheet.

"We have already repaid Rs 7,815 crore and plan to repay another Rs 1,100 crore in the current month, which will save interest cost of Rs 800 crore in the current fiscal," Hindalco Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla told share-holders at the company's annual

general meeting (AGM) here. "In line with our stated objective to deleverage the balance sheet, we have successfully raised \$500 million through a qualified institutional placement (QIP)."

"Along with the treasury balance, this amount was utilised to prepay the existing borrowings. Consequently, there is a substantial improvement in consolidated net debt to EBITDA," Birla said.

The company's overseas subsidiary Novelis also refinanced \$4.3 billion of its long-term debt. The annual cash interest expense stands reduced by \$79 million, he said.

In an environment of mixed economic signals, Hindalco's registered a record consolidated EBITDA at Rs 13,547 crore on a turnover of Rs 102,631 crore in FY 17.

Both aluminium and copper businesses in India and Novelis recorded robust operational performance. - PTI

Novelis also refinanced \$4.3 billion of its long-term debt. The annual cash interest expense stands reduced by \$79 million, he said.

"We have to create a thought leadership on what is this programme all about, what is the likely impact. Create a thought leadership when AI becomes a reality, what are the elements and sub-elements which need to be taken care of, how do we take care of that," he said.

When asked about the likely

Aadhaar can reduce cost to almost nil: NITI Aayog

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: The cost of digital transactions could be reduced to almost zero if payments are made through Aadhaar card, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said today.

"Mobile payment with Aadhaar, when it is linked with bank account... Aadhaar-to-Aadhaar transactions, like with BHIM app, the cost of transaction is zero," Kant said during a panel discussion at a conclave on financial inclusion organised here by the United Nations India Chapter.

Aadhaar payment could reduce the transaction cost greatly compared with card payments, the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog official said.

Transaction cost on payments made by credit cards stand at 3.5 per cent while payments through debit cards attract 1.25-1.50 per cent transaction charges.

Ashok Pal Singh, CEO, India Post Payments Bank, said that along with simplification of digital payment, the challenge was to make it affordable as well.

"The challenge is how do we make RS 10 digital payment viable. Aadhaar authentication cost is very reasonable. Payment transaction using Aadhaar was able to cost the same... almost zero," Singh said.

"India Post Payments Bank envisons the conversion of every Aadhar card into a payment account. It was established to ensure financial inclusion," he added.

Digital transactions

Talking on the issue of data security of Aadhaar cards, Sharma said mobile phones gave out much more private data to corporate firms.

"Mobile phone is more dangerous than Aadhaar. It emits so much meta data like location, etc., which is given out to companies and not the government. This data is huge. There are issues of data ownership in mobile phone sector. Security is important. Sooner this issue is tackled, the better it is," he said.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said that people should not fear threat to privacy as Aadhaar was a secure way of providing identification along with strong safeguards.

As many as 117 crore people were already enrolled for Aadhaar cards and four lakh people were being added each day, he said. - IANS

Amul fresh pouch milk makes Guwahati foray

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: The largest food products organisation and marketer of the iconic 'Amul' brand, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) today launched its Amul fresh pouch milk in Guwahati markets.

A Rs 27,000-crore organisation that sells 125 lakh litres per day of pouch milk across India with a 25 per cent market share in the category, GCMMF aims to reach out to 17 lakh Guwahati residents in with its latest offering. With this launch, Amul would now be selling its fresh products in the North-East along with Gujarat, Delhi & NCR, Uttarakhand, Punjab, UP, West Bengal, Maharashtra, MP, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, etc.

In the speech, Dr K Rithman, Managing Director, Amul Dairy, recalled how Amul from a humble beginning around 70 years back went on to gain the 13th position globally in milk processing business with a capacity of 80 lakh litres per day.

He further said, "Amul would be packed at its highly automated plant at Chandrapur, which is equipped to offer hygienic products with high-quality standards."

Speaking on the occasion, KM Jhala, Chief Operating Officer, GC-

MMF said, "We have identified Assam and the North-Eastern Region (NER) as an opportunity market for our fresh product offerings. Guwahati has a total milk consumption demand of about 3.20 lakh litres per day, out of which 50 per cent of the food product is sold in the loose form which doesn't ensure consistent quality throughout the year."

Giving out the portfolio here, he said, "Besides pouch milk, we would be selling packed dahi and packed lassi to the consumers of Guwahati who are quality conscious and are willing to associate themselves with the strong Amul brand."

He further said, "Amul would be packed at its highly automated plant at Chandrapur, which is equipped to offer hygienic products with high-quality standards."

At the Store WPP, said in the statement.

"As reflected in this year's ranking, the most agile Indian brands have recognised the complexity in the market, and achieved just the right balance between aspirational and affordable," he added.

There were seven newcomers to the ranking, the report said. Telecom provider Reliance Jio ranks at No 11, months after its launch. Other new entrants included DMart, appliances brand Whirlpool, in-

Anul would be marketing toned fresh milk 'Amul Taaza' at Rs 22 per 500 ml pouch, price point pack at Rs 10, standardised fresh milk 'Amul Shakti' at Rs 24 per 500 ml pouch, Jhala said, adding, these packs will be made available from tomorrow morning through a vast network of retail outlets across Guwahati.

Promising to keep Amul fresh pouch milk's morning date with Guwahati consumers, Jhala said that this latest Amul offering would be identified as a "morning milk" and added that within a fortnight house-to-house delivery service will be introduced in Guwahati in a phased manner.

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According to the survey, India's most valuable brands have increased their brand value by 21 per cent overall, to \$109.3 billion in the last year.

This compares with a 2 per cent decline in 2016, and is well ahead of the 8 per cent value increase of the BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands 2017.

The auto sector has grown 23 per cent in

value by meeting consumers' diverse, changing aspirations and budgets, the report noted.

The category includes tyres, lubricants, and motor fuels.

The FMCG category, which includes al-

cohol, food and dairy, personal care and soft drinks, was significantly affected by these challenges but still managed to grow by 6 per cent in value, the report said.

It can be noted that noodle brand Maggi – the overall second fastest riser in this category – aligned itself with the trend for nostalgia, which helped it bounce back after a couple of difficult years.

The financial services category increased its value by 26 per cent. And the fastest rising banks were Punjab National Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, the report said. - PTI

SONY BRAVIA OLED TV UNVEILED

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: Sony Bravia OLED TV was unveiled recently at the Next Electronics showroom here by noted Assamese actress Aimee Barua.

Showroom owner Abhishek Soni informed that the premium LED TV is being made available at affordable prices through finance scheme, adding that a playstation 4 worth Rs 39,990 will be offered as free gift with this OLED TV, a press release said.

Bhaskar Guha, Guwahati Branch Manager of Sony India Pvt Ltd, informed that Sony India has introduced the premium flagship line-up of OLED TVs with playstation 4 (1TB slim) worth Rs 32,990 as a free gift in its bid redefine the future of home entertainment.

With cutting-edge TV technology, the new A1 series delivers optimal brightness levels and stunning visual experience, he added.

HDFC Bank retains No 1 slot, Jio debuts at 11

MUMBAI, Sept 13: HDFC Bank retained its No 1 position in the BrandZ India Top 50, doubling its brand value since 2014 with a sustained focus on improving services.

The leading private sector lender improved its brand value from \$9.4 billion to \$18 billion since 2014, said research agency Kantar Millward Brown in a statement here.

The bank has retained the top slot for the fourth year in a row.

The BrandZ Top 50 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2017 was announced today by WPP and Kantar Millward Brown.

"Indian consumers seek authenticity and value for money, and the meaning of those things is being constantly redefined."

"As consumers become wealthier, they look beyond price to factors like extra features, innovation and a personalised experience," David Roth, CEO, EMEA and Asia

at The Store WPP, said in the statement.

"As reflected in this year's ranking, the most agile Indian brands have recognised the complexity in the market, and achieved just the right balance between aspirational and affordable," he added.

There were seven newcomers to the ranking, the report said. Telecom provider Reliance Jio ranks at No 11, months after its launch. Other new entrants included DMart, appliances brand Whirlpool, in-

Value by meeting consumers' diverse, changing aspirations and budgets, the report noted.

The category includes tyres, lubricants,

and motor fuels.

The FMCG category, which includes al-

cohol, food and dairy, personal care and soft

drinks, was significantly affected by these

challenges but still managed to grow by 6

per cent in value, the report said.

The financial services category in-

creased its value by 26 per cent. And the

fastest rising banks were Punjab Na-

tional Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, the re-

port said. - PTI

Darjeeling back to normalcy as shops open

DARJEELING, Sept 13: A large number of shops opened in Darjeeling today signaling normalcy that had eluded the hills for the past three months due to indefinite strike called by the GJM for a separate State of Gorkhaland.

The situation in the hills remained tense but incident-free despite threats and intimidation by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), which is spearheading the movement for a separate State of Gorkhaland.

The indefinite shutdown in the hills completed its 91st day today. For the fifth day in a row, the police along with the administration appealed to the locals via public address system to open shops and restore normalcy in the hills.

Peace rallies were taken out by the residents in Kurseong, Darjeeling and Mirik.

Expelled GJM leader Binay Tamang today asked GJM supremo Bimal Gurung to come back to the hills instead of issuing statements from a hideout. "He is a leader then he should come back to the hills rather than issuing statements from a secret location like a coward," Tamang said. — PTI

NSUI, AVBP share honours in DUSU polls

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Congress-backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI) today made a comeback in the Delhi University Students' Union, bagging two seats, that of the joint secretary and general treasurer of the president.

RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), which has a stronghold in DUSU, bagged two seats, that of the joint secretary and the mighty.

NSUI's Rocky Tushere won the president's post by a margin of 1,590 votes defeating Rajat Chaudhary, while the party's Kunal Srehat defeated ABVP candidate Parth Rana by 175 votes. ABVP's Mahamudha Nagesh defeated NSUI's Minakshi Meena by 2,624 votes to win the post of the secretary, while party's joint secretary candidate Uma Shanksi defeated NSUI's Avinash Yadav by 342 votes. — PTI

Case against Tej Pratap Yadav

PATNA, Sept 13: A BJP leader has filed a case against RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav in a court here alleging that he deliberately hid in his affidavit during the 2015 Assembly polls details of land owned by him.

The court has fixed September 22 for hearing the case.

The case was filed by BPL MLC Suraj Nandan Prasad yesterday in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Om Prakash. In his petition, Prasad alleged that Tej Pratap had "deliberately hid" in his affidavit the details of 45.24 decimal land owned by him in Aurangabad while fighting the Assembly polls from Mauhan in 2015.

A motor showroom now functions from the property in the name of Tej Pratap's family's company "LARA Distributors Pvt Ltd". — PTI

Modi, Abe hold road show amid display of bonhomie

AHMEDABAD, Sept 13: The streets of Ahmedabad today came alive with song and dance performances as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an 8-km road show with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe and his wife, the first such event by the Indian premier with a visiting head of government.

Modi held Abe in his characteristic bear hug as he, accompanied by wife Akie, landed at the Ahmedabad airport, reflecting the close bonding the two leaders have forged over several meetings.

In a gesture symbolising the growing ties between the two large Asiatic economies, Abe wore kurta-pajama and a royal blue Nehru jacket while his wife donned a red salwar-kameez ensemble as they accompanied Modi on the road from the airport to the Saharmati Ashram.

Saharmati Ashram was set



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie being received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ahmedabad airport in Gujarat on Wednesday. — PTI

up by apostle of peace Mahatma Gandhi who spent considerable time of his life there.

Song and dance performances were held by the roadside

as the cavalcade rolled on, guarded by gun-toting security personnel.

Crowds lining up the streets cheered lustily as Modi and

Abe waved at them. Akie, meanwhile, happily clicked photos with her mobile phone. People were seen waving Indian and Japanese national flags at several places.

The road show, designed to showcase India's cultural diversity, saw artists from several States performing on 28 stages

Yadav faction of JD(U) calls national council meet on Oct 8

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Rebel JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav has called his party's national council meet in the national capital on October 8, escalating his fight against party president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Yadav's announcement came a day after the Election Commission refused to take cognisance of his faction's claim over the party's symbol, citing lack of documents to support its stand.

At a press conference, the former JD(U) president put up a brave face, saying one does get hurt in a fight against the mighty.

He said that he would continue to fight for "truth and democracy" and insisted that he would prove in due course of time that the "real" JD(U)

was with him and he would strengthen the party more.

"My colleagues have called a national council meeting on October 8. I will also participate," he said.

Though an overwhelming number of popularly elected members of the party and its office-bearers have backed Kumar, Yadav's move is seen as an attempt by him to launch his next political journey with a bang.

His party has also urged Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to disqualify him and another rebel MP Ali Anwar from the Rajya Sabha for their "anti-party" activities, and he had been asked yesterday to file his response within a week.

He will file reply to the Ra-

ja Sabha notice after consultation with lawyers, Yadav told reporters.

He also parried queries on the EC's move, saying his lawyers were looking into the matter and would file an appropriate response. "I am fighting against a mountain, a wall. I am well aware that I will get hurt," he said.

Hitting out at Kumar, Yadav said it was unprecedented that a party joins hands with another it had fought against within 18 months of the election.

"It was a mockery of democracy that you won on the manifesto of maha-gathbandhan (grand alliance) and joined hands with the group (BJP) against whom you fought," he said. — PTI

Cong wonders why Abe is being hosted in Gujarat

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: The Congress today raised questions over Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's state visit to Ahmedabad and not the country's National Capital and hoped it would not be used for political purposes in view of the forthcoming Gujarat Assembly polls.

Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said it was

"quixotic" that Abe was not being hosted in Delhi.

"We do not want to transgress propriety by commenting on a state visit but it is rather quixotic that the Prime Minister of a country as important as Japan is strangely not even being hosted in Delhi," he said.

He hoped a state visit was not being used for "political purposes" in view of the elections in Gujarat slated for later this year. "With an election in Gujarat around the corner, it does raise a question that a state visit is actually being structured is rather awkward," he said. — PTI

Rishi Kapoor slams Rahul Gandhi on 'dynasty' comments

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor has taken exception to Rahul Gandhi's reference of Bollywood while talking about dynasty politics during his speech at Berkeley.

Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said it was

"noteworthy" that Abe was not being hosted in Delhi.

"Most parties in India have that problem... Mr Akhilesh Yadav is a dynast. Mr Stalin (son of KM Karunandhi) is a dynast... Even Abhishek Bachchan is a dynast. So that's how India runs. So don't get after me because that's how India is run. By the way, I recall, Mr Ambanis are running the business. That's also going on

in Infosys. So that's what happens in India," Rahul had said while listing several prominent Indians born into famous families.

Kapoor, however, posted a series of tweets as a reaction to Rahul's speech.

Rishi Kapoor. In the 100 years of Indian cinema, the Kapoors' contribution is 90 years. And each generation is chosen by merit," Kapoor tweeted.

"By God's grace we are in 4 generations. Pritiviraj Kapoor, Raj Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Ranbir Kapoor - Males. Besides all others.

"You see otherwise. So don't bull** people on dynasty. You have to earn people's respect and love through hard work not zardasthi (forgetfully) and gundagadi."

Kapoor had courted controversy last year too when he suggested that roads and buildings named by the Congress after the Gandhi family be changed. — PTI

Govt asks 1,222 NGOs to validate bank accounts

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: As many as 1,222 NGOs across the country have been directed by the home ministry to validate the bank accounts in which they receive foreign contribution, failure of which will invite punitive action.

Among others, the list includes Sri Ramakrishna Math, Remondishna Mission, Indore Cancer Foundation, Clean Club Trust, Coimbatore Christian Charitable Trust, Delhi School Of Social Work Society, Hindu Ashram and Madani Darut Tarbiyat.

In a circular, the ministry said all NGOs registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) should receive foreign donations in a single designated bank account.

However, it is seen that a number of such organisations have not validated their foreign contribution designated accounts, causing problems for the banks to comply with the FCRA provisions that they (banks) report to the Central government within 48 hours of such receipt or

utilisation of foreign contribution, the circular read.

These associations are required to validate their foreign designated accounts and also the utilisation amounts immediately, send the details, bank name, account number, IFSC code, account number, FCRA etc, through FC 6 form which is available on fcraonline.nic.in.

"Non-compliance may lead to penalties as per FCRA 2010," it said.

A few others NGOs named are Reliance E Alank Hospital Trust, Anantnag, Rotary Club of Mumbai MidWest, JK Trust, Bombay, Goonj, Madina Education and Charitable Society, Nagaland College, Indian Institute for Nature and Environmental Study.

The Modi government, which has tightened the rules for NGOs, has already conducted registration of more than 10,000 non-governmental organisations in the last three years for alleged non-filing of annual returns as mandated in the FCRA. — PTI

DCW sets up panel to check open sale of acid

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has set up an expert committee which will prepare a model programme to check the open sale of acid and rehabilitation acid attack survivors.

The 11-member panel will conduct a research on the compliance of various instructions issued by the Supreme Court and governments to prevent the sale of acid.

It will draft a legislation for banning the sale of acid and prepare a model programme for the rehabilitation of acid attack survivors and bringing them into the mainstream, said a DCW official.

The panel will study the best practices and policies in the country or abroad for their rehabilitation, the official said.

"The committee will have a tenure of three months. It will submit its report to the Commission, which will send its recommendations to the government," DCW Chairperson Swati Malwal said.

Besides Malwal, the committee includes senior Supreme Court lawyers Rebecca John and Aparna Bhatt. — PTI

Mughal rulers were not our ancestors but looters: UP Deputy CM

JAUNPUR (UP), Sept 13: Mughal emperors were not our ancestors but looters and the Uttar Pradesh government would change the syllabus accordingly to reflect this, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said today.

The minister, however, made an exception for the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar who he said was a "good ruler" as he had supported Mangal Pandey, the hero of India's first war of independence.

"Mughal rulers were not

our ancestors but looters. We consider Mughal rulers who did wrong acts as looters. Those who have done good work, we praise. Babar and Aurangzeb were looters. We do not oppose Bahadur Shah Zafar as he extended support to Mangal Pandey," Sharma told reporters here.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited his mausoleum in Yangon because he was a "good ruler".

The Deputy Chief Minister, who was on a

private visit to Jaunpur, added, "We honour all religions. Apart from worshipping gods and goddesses, I also visit mazara, gurdwaras and churches."

He said the government planned to bring "necessary changes" in the school syllabus.

"Akbar had done any good work, it will remain in pages of history. It will be historians who will decide what place Akbar gets," he said.

"A culture where a son

kills his father for the throne or the hands of Taj Mahal builder are chopped off cannot be our culture. Our culture honours artists and scientists. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam is credited for the successful nuclear test, and we honoured him."

Asked to comment on the murder of a child in a Gurgaon school, Sharma said, "The UP government is going to frame some rules. If any such unfortunate incident happens then the school management will be held responsible." — PTI

Haryana Police to question Dera chief

Vipassana Insan

CHANDIGARH, Sept 13: The Haryana Police will soon interrogate Dera Sacha Sauda chief Vipassana Insan in connection with the violence that had broken out in Panchkula and Sirsa following the sect head's rape conviction.

Vipassana is one of the likely successors of Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

"Sirsa police will soon ask Vipassana Insan to join the investigation," Haryana DGP BS Sandhu said here today.

The police said it was making efforts to nab Ram Rahim's confidant and adopted daughter, Honeypreet, and key Dera functionaries Aditya Insan who they believed were still in the country.

"We have sent police teams to Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to track them. We are presuming that they are hiding somewhere in the country," said Sandhu, adding that a lookout notice against them was also issued following apprehensions that they might try to 'escape the country'.

Efforts to trace Honeypreet were initiated after the questioning of Surinder Dhiman Insan, another sect functionary who was arrested on charges of instigating violence, in connection with an alleged conspiracy to facilitate the Dera chief's escape after he was convicted of raping two disciples.

The Haryana Police had earlier conducted raids at various places and police teams were sent to various locations, including Mumbai and the Nepal side. It was also in touch with the police of other States.

Three Punjab Police officers, who were deployed to provide security to the Dera chief, were also arrested last week for conspiring to free Ram Rahim after his conviction.

"Three Punjab cops have been taken into custody and we have issued notices to five other cops, asking them to join investigation," Sandhu said.

The DGP said that several vehicles that were part of the cavalcade of Dera chief on August 25 were impounded. "Notices have also been sent to the owners of remaining vehicles," he added. — PTI

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China, Russia won't allow NKorea regime change:Chinese expert

BEIJING, Sept 13: China and Russia will not allow the US to overthrow the regime of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un with crippling sanctions as it will affect their national interests and jeopardise the regional strategic balance, according to a Chinese expert.

The UN Security Council on Monday unanimously passed a US-drafted resolution that imposes strongest sanctions ever on North Korea, including

restricting its oil imports and banning textile exports, to curb the reclusive nation's nuclear programme.

"The US and its allies Japan and South Korea hope to suffocate North Korea and overturn its regime through economic and military pressure, but this will not work because China and Russia will not accept this, as it will affect their national interests and jeopardise the regional strategic balance," Lu Chao,

a Chinese expert on Korean studies at the LiaoNing Academy of Social Sciences, was quoted as saying by the State-run *Global Times*.

Reports from China-North Korean border said China has amassed troops to prepare for any eventualities and even held periodic exercises envisaging different scenarios.

Though critical of North Korea's nuclear tests, China regards it as a buffer state and closely.

"Oil exports to North

Korea will drop by nearly 40 per cent, a huge blow to its energy supply," Lu said, reacting to the new round of sanctions by the UN following North Korea's hydrogen bomb test.

An oil pipeline that supplies 90 per cent of North Korea's crude has been excluded from the latest UN sanctions against Pyongyang in part for one very practical reason: once China turns it off, it can't be easily turned back on again, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post said today.

The Dandong-Sinjuji pipeline connecting both the countries, delivers more than half a million tonnes of crude oil to North Korea a year. Yet the supplies were explicitly excluded from the resolution passed by the UN Security Council on Monday in response to Pyongyang's sixth nuclear test.

The exemption reflected Beijing's unwillingness to drive Pyongyang to even greater desperation, experts said. - PTI



The Proton-M booster blasts off with the Spanish Hispasat's Amazonas 5 communication satellite at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan on Tuesday. - UNI

Suu Kyi to miss UN trip amid Rohingya crisis

YANGON, Sept 13: Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi will not attend the United Nations General Assembly this week, her spokesman said today, as the Nobel laureate faces a barrage of criticism over her failure to speak up for Rohingya Muslims fleeing Rakhine state in huge numbers.

A crackdown by Myanmar's army, launched in response to Rohingya militant attacks on August 25, has sent some 379,000 Rohingya refugees scrambling across the border to Bangladesh in less than three weeks.

The violence has incubated a humanitarian crisis on both sides of the border and piled intense global pressure on Suu Kyi to condemn the army campaign, which the UN has described as having all the hallmarks of "ethnic cleansing".

Bangladesh is struggling to provide relief for exhausted and hungry refugees — some 60 percent of whom are children — while nearly 30,000 ethnic Rakhine Bud-

dhists as well as Hindus have been displaced inside Myanmar.

Nine thousand more refugees poured into Bangladesh today, as authorities clambered to build a new camp for tens of thousands of fleeing Rakhine state in huge numbers.

Suu Kyi, Myanmar's first civilian leader in decades, has no control over the powerful military, which ran the country for 50 years before allowing free elections in 2015.

There is also scant sympathy among Myanmar's Buddhist majority for the Rohingya, a stateless Muslim group branded "Bengalis" — shorthand for illegal immigrants.

But outside of her country Suu Kyi's reputation as a defender of the oppressed is in ruins over the Rohingya crisis.

Rights groups have pilloried the former democracy activist for failing to speak out against the army campaign, which has left hundreds dead. - AFP

UN asks international community to help Rohingya refugees

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 13: The UN has appealed to the international community to keep aside politics and support the ongoing humanitarian efforts to help Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar.

The Rohingyas are a Muslim minority that live in the Buddhist-majority state of Rakhine, and they have experienced decades-long persecution in Myanmar, which — since gaining independence in 1948 — has refused to recognise the

pictures all of us are seeing are heart-breaking to say the least."

"I think the entire international community should support the ongoing humanitarian efforts, regardless of politics. These are people in need. These are very vulnerable people who have crossed the border, who've, as we said, are hungry and are malnourished and deserve to be helped," he said.

The spokesperson was re-



group as citizens.

The latest calamity was spurred when Rohingya militants attacked dozens of police posts and a military base on August 25.

The state military responded with a counter-offensive, burning down villages and driving out civilians, whose population is estimated to be around 1.1 million.

The Rohingya crisis from Myanmar has caused more than 300,000 to flee Myanmar.

Expressing concern over the situation, Stephane Dujaric, spokesman to the UN Secretary-General said:

"That number has now definitely crossed that line. We are urgently appealing for more funds," he said. - PTI

sponding to a question on role of regional players in helping Rohingya refugees.

"Are you disappointed that major regional players, including India, in particular, have actually sort of made their stand about this Rohingya crisis very clear and actually not come out and supported when their support could have been quite crucial?" he was asked.

The United Nation's humanitarian wing, he said, has done emergency planning for about 300,000 Rohingya refugees.

"That number has now definitely crossed that line. We are urgently appealing for more funds," he said. - PTI

Trump appoints Indian-American to key White House position

WASHINGTON, Sept 13: Indian-American Raj Shah, a well known aide of Donald Trump, has been appointed to a key position by the US President in his communications team, the White House has said.

Shah, 32, was one of the few handful aides of Trump who landed in the White House within hours of the billionaire tycoon's swearing in as the 45th US President on January 20.

He formerly served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Communications Director. In April, Shah was identified as one of the three West Wing Power Play-

ers in the White House along with Hope Hicks and Eli Miller.

"Raj Shah will serve as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary," the White House said in a statement yesterday.

Trump also appointed his confidant Hope Hicks as his Communications Director.

Hicks previously served as Assistant to the President and Interim Communications Director.

Mercedes Schlapp, a Fox News contributor and columnist for The Washington Times, will serve as Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications.

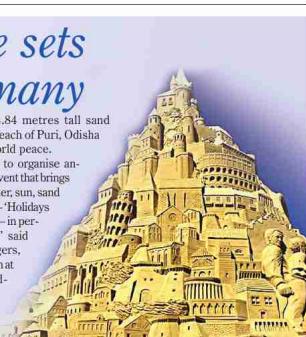
Trump also appointed Steven

Cheung as Director of Strategic Response.

Shah was head of the Opposition Research in the Republican National Committee before he moved to the White House. He had a team of experts to carry out research against Trump's presidential rival Hillary Clinton. He was behind all the anti-Clinton campaign during the presidential polls.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Shah's parents are from Gujarat and had migrated to the US in 1980s.

His father, an engineer by profession, moved to Mumbai at a young age while his mother hails from Bhujpur in Kutch. - PTI



World's tallest sandcastle sets Guinness record in Germany

BERLIN, Sept 13: A new Guinness World Record has been set in Germany for the tallest sandcastle, which measures a spectacular 16.68 metres and has broken the record held by celebrated Indian sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik.

The enormous sandcastle is intricately decorated with images of tourist attractions from around the world, including Athens' Acropolis and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Using approximately 3,500 tonnes of sand, it took a team of artists almost a month to complete.

An entire week was spent just collecting the sand in 168 trucks.

German travel agency Schauinsland-Reisen GmbH organised the attempt in Duisburg, Germany.

Official Guinness World Records adjudicator Jack Brockbank was on hand to verify the record in front of a crowd of onlookers.

After measuring the sand sculpture using laser technology, he announced that the team successfully broke the previous record.

On February 10 this year, Pattnaik

had built a 14.84 metres tall sand castle on the beach of Puri, Odisha to promote world peace.

"We wanted to organise another exciting event that brings together summer, sun and our slogan: 'Holidays in great hands' — in perfect harmony," said Andreas Rutgers, Head of Tourism at Schauinsland-Reisen. - PTI

had built a 14.84 metres tall sand castle on the beach of Puri, Odisha to promote world peace.

"We wanted to organise another exciting event that brings together summer, sun and our slogan: 'Holidays in great hands' — in perfect harmony," said Andreas Rutgers, Head of Tourism at Schauinsland-Reisen. - PTI

N Korea vows to boost weapons programmes after sanctions

SEOUL, Sept 13: North Korea vowed today to accelerate its weapons programmes in response to "evil" sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council following its latest and most powerful nuclear test.

The respected 38 North website in the US raised its estimate for the yield from the explosion, which Pyongyang says was a hydrogen bomb small enough to fit onto a missile, to around 250 kilotons — more than 16 times the size of the device that devastated Hiroshima in 1945.

The detonation, Pyongyang's sixth nuclear blast, prompted global condemnation and came after it carried out two intercontinental ballistic missile launches in July that appeared to bring much of the US into range.

The UN Security Council unanimously imposed an eighth set of sanctions on the North Monday, banning it from trading in textiles and restricting its oil imports, which US President Donald Trump said was a prelude to stronger measures.

The resolution passed after Washington toned down its original proposals to secure backing from China and Russia, came just one month after the council banned exports of coal, lead and seafood in response to the ICBM launch.

The North's foreign ministry condemned the new measures "in the strongest terms", calling them a "full-scale economic blockade" driven by the US and aimed at "suffocating" its state and people.

It was "another illegal and evil" resolution on sanctions piloted by the US", it said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency. - AFP

Germany resumes Afghan deportations

KABUL, Sept 13: Eight Afghans expelled from Germany arrived in Kabul today as Berlin resumed deportations of rejected asylum seekers from the war-torn country months after a huge truck bomb hit the Afghan capital.

Germany suspended the controversial expulsions after a seagoing tanker packed with explosives detonated near the German embassy in Kabul's diplomatic quarter on May 31, killing around 150 people and wounding hundreds more.

The latest group was the sixth wave of deportees of Afghans from Germany since December under a disputed Afghan-European Union deal aimed at curbing the influx of migrants.

After arriving at Kabul airport on a charter flight, the deportees were escorted by police to a car park where an official registered their names.

Some of the men carried small backpacks while others had no luggage at all.

"They told me that there is no problem in your country and you can live there so you can't stay here anymore," Mohammad Jamshidi told AFP before getting into a taxi.

Reza Rezaiy said he was deported after his wife accused him of beating her. - AFP

PRESS NOTICE

1) The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Guwahati Electrical Circle, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-I on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Bid from registered Class - II & Class I (A,B,C) Electrical Contractor under APWD for the year 2017-18 for the works mentioned in the table below :

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work	Bid Security	Cost of Bidding Document	Period of Completion	Eligibility for Submission of Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Providing 8 (Eight) Passengers Elevator (Lift) in the office building of Director of Health Service, Assam, Hengrabari.	Rs. 32,77,306.00	For General Category, Rs. 65,546.00 For, SC/SCB/SC/IMBC Category, Rs. 32,773.00	Rs. 3,000.00	90 (Ninety) Days	Class-I (A,B,C) & Class-II

Value of work is approximate only & Tender value may differ for which no claim will be entertained.
Application for issue of bidding documents should have to be submitted to the office of the undersigned on or before 16.09.2017 during office hour on payment of a non-refundable amount indicated in the table above in the form of Banker Cheque, Demand Draft of any Nationalized Bank Pledged in favour of "Assam State Road Board Maintenance (Roads) Fund" A/C 1056691479.

Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours from 16.09.2017 to 22.09.2017.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Guwahati Electrical Circle, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-I,
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In Continuation to the earlier advertisement published in the application No. Janasanayog/3118/1 dated 17.06.2016, No. Janasanayog/3145/14, Dated 24.02.2015, No. Janasanayog/3147/14 dated 27.10.2016, Online applications are invited for the following Posts as shown below under the establishment of the Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed Medical College & Hospital, Barpeta which will be available at the official web site of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in) from 19.09.2017 to 07.10.2017 till mid night.

However, the candidates who have already applied in pursuance to the above mentioned advertisement need not apply again.

Sl.	Name of Posts	Minimum educational qualification	Scale of Pay	Total No. of Vacant post	Category Reservation
1	Laboratory Technician	HSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Diploma/ Certificate in Laboratory Technician from Govt. recognized Institute.	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	18	LR-9 OBC/SC/BC-5 ST-2 STH-1 SC-1
2	Dental Technician	HSLC (Sc) or equivalent with 2 years Diploma in Dental Technician Course	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	4	LR-3 OBC/MOBC-1
3	Multi Rehabilitation Worker	HSLC (Sc) or equivalent from recognized board with Diploma in Multi Rehabilitation works/MR Technician Course from recognized Institute	14,000-49,000+ GP 5,600	4	LR-3 OBC/MOBC-1
4	Prosthetic/Orthotic Technicians	Bachelor Degree Diploma in Orthotic Technician Course from recognized institute.	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	2	UR-1 OBC/MOBC-1
5	OT Technician	HSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Diploma in OT Technician Course from Govt. recognized Institute	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	4	UR-3 OBC/MOBC-1
6	Technician (Radiotherapy)	HSLC (Sc) or equivalent with Diploma in Radiology Technician Course from a recognized institute. Persons having PG diploma shall be preferred	14,000-49,000- GP 6,200	2	UR-1 OBC/MOBC-1
7	Technician (Audiology)	Bachelor Degree in Audiology and speech pathology or equivalent as per N.P.C.C. guidelines	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,200	1	UR
8	Technician (Audio-Visual)	(IT) passed certificate/unreserved NCVT certificate in TV/Mechanic.	14,000-49,000+ GP 6,800	1	UR
9	Technician Animal Operation/ Lab Tech.	HSLC or equivalent with Diploma in Animal Operation or its equivalent from recognized institute.	14,000-49,000+ GP 5,600	1	UR

Reservation: Reservation of posts for woman candidate and physically handicapped candidates will be as per prevailing Govt. rules.

Age: Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not above 43 years as on 01.01.2017. The upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years for SC, ST, STH Candidates only.

Fees: The application fee of Rs.250/- (Rupees Two hundred fifty) only for General Category Candidates and Rs.150/- (Rupees One hundred fifty) only for OBC/MOBC/SC, ST/(P&ST) & STH category candidates which have to be paid through net banking/credit card/ debit card while submitting the online application form. No fee is required for BPL candidate and they are required to upload their BPL certificate from the competent authority for such exemption of fee along with the application.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Interested candidates shall have to fill up the online Application Form available at the official web site of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dmeassam.gov.in).

2. The following documents in original will have to be produced at the time of document verification and photocopies of all certificates etc. are to be submitted:

- (a) 2 (two) Copies of recent passport size colour photograph duly self attested.
- (b) HSLC admit card or birth certificate for age proof.
- (c) All marks sheets and pass certificate
- (d) caste certificate (where applicable)
- (e) Permanent residence certificate
- (f) Permanent Exchange Registration Certificate, Certificate of training experience Extra Curricular.

3. Detailed list of eligible candidates for each post along with the details of written test shall be notified in due course of the time and shall be displayed in the website www.dmeassam.gov.in. The date of uploading in the website shall be published in the local newspaper for information of the eligible candidates.

Sd/- Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent
Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed Medical College & Hospital, Barpeta

Janasanayog/D/7639/17

Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the UEFA Champions League Group D match against Juventus at the Camp Nou in Barcelona.



Messi double inspires Barca to Juventus revenge

BARCELONA, Sept 13: Barcelona defied an outgoing-off-field crisis as another Lionel Messi-inspired display exacted revenge on Juventus to open their Champions League campaign with a resounding 3-0 win.

Messi was involved in all three goals as he beat Gianluigi Buffon for the first time in his career to open the floodgates just before half-time late last night.

Ivan Rakitic added a second after Messi's run and cross opened up the Juventus' defence before the Argentine rounded off the scoring by chipping home his second of the evening 19 minutes from time.

Victory puts Barca on top of Group D alongside Sporting Lisbon, who

were 3-2 winners at Olympiakos.

Barca's start to the season has been dominated by calls for president Josep Maria Bartomeu to resign following Neymar's world record move to Paris Saint-Germain and the Catalan giants' bungled moves to replace the Brazilian.

However, Ousmane Dembele impressed on his full debut following a 105 million-euro move from Borussia Dortmund, as Barca proved as long as they have.

Juventus showed extra effort

upheaval since the sides last met in last season's quarterfinals with six changes from their trip to the Camp Nou just five months ago.

Dembélé was involved in the

move as Messi broke his personal duck against Buffon in the final minute of the first half.

Messi picked up the Frenchman's pass before exchanging a one-two with Suárez and firing with unerring accuracy just inside the far post.

Messi drove through the Juventus defence once more and, when his low cross was only partially cleared by Stefano Sturaro, Rakitic slotted home the rebound.

Buffon was helpless once more 21 minutes from time when Messi cut inside onto his left foot and buried the ball into the bottom corner for his eighth goal of the season already. - AFP

Dynamos sign Dutch winger Lumu for ISL new season

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Indian Super League side Delhi Dynamos has signed 22-year-old Dutch winger Jeroen Lumu from Turkish side Samsunspor for the upcoming season.

The Dutch winger, thus, became the seventh foreign signing for the club ahead of the new ISL season.

Lumu started his professional career with Dutch outfit Willem II, where he made his debut at the age of 16. The winger soon went on to become the youngest goal-scorer in the club's history in the Dutch Eredivisie when he found the back of the net later that year.

Lumu's impressive performances saw him earn a call-up from the Dutch national side for the UEFA U-17 European Championships in 2012, where he found the back of the net in Netherlands won to lift the title.

His exploits soon saw him become a subject of widespread interest as the likes of Arsenal, Manchester United, Manchester City, Juventus and Aston Villa were all eyeing his signature.

Hull City and Derby even took the highly-rated attacker on trial where he was involved in a few friendly matches. - PTI



Indoor courts will make it high-quality tie'

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: India's Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali is expecting high-quality tennis during the upcoming tie against Canada since external factors like the sun and the wind will have no chance to influence the contest on the indoor courts.

Zeeshan said Indian players are expected to do well in the World Group Play-off tie, starting September 15 in Edmonton.

"Playing indoors is something our players like, especially Yuki Bhambhani. He played top class tennis the last time we played indoors against New Zealand. I don't really see any disadvantages for us but it also doesn't give us any advantage over them," Zeeshan told PTI from Edmonton.

The conditions are perfect playing on indoor courts as there is no outside elements to worry about like wind and sun, the quality of tennis automatically goes up by about 20 per cent," he said.

Both Zeeshan and former captain SP Misra are of the view that India stand a better chance to make the World Group when compared to last three years when the team had to face formidable Serbia, Republic of Spain.

These three teams had won India with a formidable up but the biggest threat that the country face from Canada is rising star and World No. 51 Denis Shapovalov apart from leading doubles exponent Daniel Nestor. - PTI

Hamilton has his task cut out on streets of Singapore

SINGAPORE, Sept 13: Lewis Hamilton will aim to extend his three-point championship lead on the slow and twisty streets of Singapore circuit, which is likely to suit the Sebastian Vettel-led Ferrari more than the Mercedes on Sunday.

Hamilton produced a dominating show on the high-speed tracks of Spa and Monza to wrest the championship lead from Vettel but according to Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff, stopping the Ferraris and Red Bulls in the hot and humid Singapore will be not easy.

"So far this year, we have seen the pendulum swing according to circuit type. On the surface, Singapore is the kind of circuit that should favour both Ferrari and Red Bull," said Wolff ahead of the night race.

"Both have shown strong performance on low-speed circuits demanding maximum downforce, and we have found life more difficult at those places in 2017. We head

to Asia this time round with the challenge we have a big challenge ahead of us," he added, mindful of the experience in 2015 when Hamilton endured his first retirement of the season and Nico Rosberg came sixth.

The race is also an opportunity for Vettel to infuse fresh life into his title bid.

The German, who has won the street race a record four times since its inception in 2008, will be sniffing blood after the disappointment of the previous two races where he finished second and third respectively to concede the championship lead for the first time this season.

While the four-time World Champion finished fifth at the Marina Bay track in

2016, he had won the race for the first time with Ferrari the previous season.

Besides Ferrari, Red Bull is another team that should be strong

on the high downforce circuit. Last year, Nico Rosberg had done well to see off the challenge from Daniil Ricciardo, who crossed the chequered flag less than half a second behind the now retired German.

Ricciardo is known for making

the most of the slightest of opportunities and it won't be a surprise if he outsmarts his Ferrari and Mercedes rivals on Sunday. The Australian secured Red Bull's sole victory of the season at the action-packed Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

"I believe Singapore won't be our best chance but it is one of our best chances of win in the second half of the season," said Ricciardo.

"You have to build up speed a little slower in the practice sessions on a street circuit like Singapore. At some point you

have to start taking risks but to do that straight away doesn't make sense," he said.

The battle for the lead in the drivers' standings has been intense but Mercedes (435 points) have built up a healthy 62 point lead over Ferrari (373) with seven rounds remaining.

Red Bull is a comfortable third on 212 points and Force India are sitting pretty on 113 with Williams a distant fifth on 55. The fight for sixth and seventh appears to be getting a lot closer with just five points separating the sixth-placed

Rosberg and Haas F1.

Force India got their act together at Monza, scoring their tenth double points of the year following the fiasco at Spa where a costly contact between Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon forced the Silverstone outfit to announce that both drivers were no longer free to race. - PTI



PSG run riot at Celtic

GLASGOW, Sept 13: Neymar Kylian Mbappé and Edinson Cavani all scored as Paris Saint-Germain began their Champions League campaign with a 5-0 thrashing of Celtic here.

Brazilian Neymar continued to pay back his 222 million-euro world record transfer fee with his fifth goal in five games to put PSG in front before he set up Mbappé to make it 2-0 late last night.

Edinson Cavani then converted from the penalty spot five minutes before the break and things got worse for Celtic as Mbappé scored the first half.

Mikael Lustig's 83rd-minute own goal and Cavani's angled header two minutes later heaped more misery on the Scottish champions, who could yet find themselves in trouble with UEFA after a fan managed to make his way onto the pitch to aim a kick at Mbappé during the first half.

"The most difficult thing here is to cope with the rhythm and intensity they play with and, of course, with the support they have," PSG coach Unai Emery said.

"I think my team showed a lot of character. It was a real team effort and they showed a real controlled approach to the match, which I am really pleased with."

The emphatic win propels PSG to the top of Group B on goal difference from Bayern Munich, who beat Anderlecht 3-0 and who the French side host in a fortnight.

The nature of the victory was also a real statement of intent from this summer's big spenders who

are determined to make a bigger impression than ever before on Europe's elite club competition.

Following last season's collapse to Barcelona in the last 16 – a tie in which Neymar starred for the Catalan giants – this European campaign was always going to be about a test of PSG's mettle rather than their flair.

However, the French side's superstars – and in particular their front three, christened the 'MCN' in France – showed no signs of fear inside the intimidating atmosphere of Celtic Park as the gulf in class between the sides showed from the start.

PSG's pressure soon paid off but Neymar's opener wasn't without controversy.



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian striker Neymar (C) celebrates with Kylian Mbappé (L) and Edinson Cavani (R) after scoring the opening goal of the UEFA Champions League Group B match against Celtic at Celtic Park in Glasgow.

Celtic felt they should have had a free-kick in the PSG half after Scott Sinclair went down but the visitors took full advantage as Adrian Rabiot's quickly-played ball behind Anthony Ralston found the Brazilian who expertly lifted a shot over Craig Gordon. - AFP

Fellaini gets Man United off the mark

MANCHESTER, Sept 13: Substitute Marouane Fellaini provided an unlikely source of inspiration as Manchester United comfortably defeated Basel 3-0 on their return to the Champions League.

Fellaini, a replacement for the injured Paul Pogba, gave United a 35th-minute lead at a drizzly Old Trafford yesterday and team up with Romelu Lukaku had struck early in the second period.

It was United's first Champions League game since December 2015, with Jose Mourinho's side having engineered a return to the competition by winning the Europa League last season.

Basel had previously proved a thorn in United's side, eliminating them from the Champions League in 2011-12, and they inflicted a surprise defeat upon Mourinho in the first European game of his second ChelSEA stint in 2013.

While Raphael Wicky's side were pushed aside without too much fuss in this Group A opener, Pogba's premature exit with an apparent hamstring injury meant

Mayo Renzo Caramaschi said the ban was prompted by an email he had received from the boy's parents about the cricket ball having hit his son.

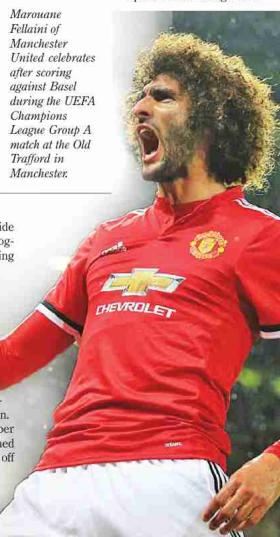
Italy's small Afghan and Pakistani migrant communities are keen on cricket, but very few Indians play it.

"We will soon make an assessment with representatives of the Pakistani community," Caramaschi was quoted as saying.

Italy's *Corriere della Sera* daily reported that Brescia, another northern Italian city, banned cricket in public spaces in 2009. - PTI

smothered by goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik. Luca Zuffi gave the hosts a scare when he sliced wide in front of the Stretford End after Chris Smalling failed to deal with a high ball, but two minutes later United opened the scoring. - AFP

Marouane Fellaini of Manchester United celebrates after scoring against Basel during the UEFA Champions League Group A match at the Old Trafford in Manchester.



SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

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

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. It consists of nine squares in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.



Paris, Los Angeles prepare to celebrate Olympic award

LIMA, Sept 13: The International Olympic Committee will confirm Paris and Los Angeles as hosts for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics here today, crowning two cities at the same time in a historic first for the embattled sports body.

After a week that has seen the IOC forced onto the defensive over mounting corruption allegations, the Olympic movement will bask in a welcome jolt of good news as the two cities celebrate their respective awards.

Both will go through the formalities of ousting their bids in 25-minute presentations to the IOC members starting at 12pm (1700 GMT) local time at the Convention Centre.

At 1pm (1800 GMT) the IOC will vote to ratify the deal, bringing to an end a mostly amicable campaign that has been stripped of the usual drama and intrigue ever since Paris and Los Angeles agreed to split 2024 and 2028 in July.

"It's a big win and we are here to really enjoy it," said Paris 2024 bid chief Tony Estanguet, reflecting the

triumphant mood among the 60-strong French delegation in the Peruvian capital.

Los Angeles officials meanwhile insist they are more than satisfied with the outcome, suggesting suggestions that their failure to win the 2024 Games represented a defeat.

The California metropolis will receive roughly USD 100 million more than Paris 2024 in IOC funding for 2028, and will also benefit from a USD 180 million interest-free advance which means the city can begin to create a sporting legacy well before the Games take place in 11 years' time.

"We think the result is extraordinary," Los Angeles 2028 bid chief Casey Wasserman told AFP. "We'll be celebrating on Wednesday night."

IOC President Thomas Bach, driving force behind the double award, described the candidates as a "golden opportunity".

For the IOC it would have been a huge mistake not to seize this golden opportunity," said Bach.

Paris and Los Angeles emerged from the initial bidding race for the 2024 Games after a number of cities which withdrew citing waning public support and concerns over budget.

Hamburg, Rome, Budapest and Boston all fell by the wayside during the competition, reflecting the political difficulties in persuading voters that staging the Olympics is worth the multi-billion-dollar price tag.

It mirrored a similar trend in the bidding for the 2022 Winter Olympics, when only two cities – Beijing and Almaty – threw their hats into the ring. Eight years earlier, seven cities had bid.

Each first signed publicly that the double-award of an Olympics could be on the agenda in December last year, lamenting that the bidding process produced "too many losers".

As the tussle for 2024 unfolded, and as the field thinned to leave just Los Angeles and Paris, the IOC's determination to secure two high-quality bids for the next two summer games became apparent. – AFP

West Indies to tour Pakistan for T20 series in November: PCB

KARACHI, Sept 13: Pakistan is set to host the West Indies in a short three-match Twenty20 series in Lahore at the end of November this year, a top Cricket Board (PCB) official said.

"The agreement with the West Indies Cricket Board has been finalised and once we have confirmed they will come to Lahore in November to play three T20 In-

ternationals," PCB chairman Najam Sethi said. Speaking on a television channel last night, Sethi said the itinerary for the matches against West Indies would be announced soon. He informed that Sri Lanka has also confirmed to play a lone T20 international on October 29 in Lahore.

"I am still trying to convince Sri Lanka to play at least two matches in the coming series in Lahore," Sethi said. If both the tours materialise, it would be the first time since the militant attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore in

March 2009 that Pakistan would witness a proper international season at home, starting with the ongoing tour by the World XI.

No top Test playing nation has visited Pakistan due to security concerns since the deadly attack on the Sri Lankan team in which at least six Pakistani policemen were killed.

Although the PCB did manage to bring Zimbabwe to Lahore for a short limited over series

in May 2015, those matches were not approved by the International Cricket Council.

Sethi said the tour by the West Indies is an important milestone as it would be a proper bilateral series in Pakistan and it would open the windows for the PCB to negotiate with other cricket playing nations. Sethi said with five South African players in the World XI side presently in Lahore, the PCB would talk with Cricket South Africa to consider sending the full South African team for a short bilateral series sometime next year. – PTI

Indian eves off to fine start in Ahmed Comert Int'l Boxing

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Indian women pugilists Shashi Chopra and G Niharika began their Ahmed Comert International Boxing Championship on a promising note, posting comprehensive victories to progress to next round.

Shashi beat Olga Vozniak of Ukraine in 57kg category, while Niharika went past Laura Mamedkulieva of Russia in 75kg weight division.

However, it did not go as per the plan for Deepa Kumari, as she went down fighting to Zhansaya Aboraimova of Kazakhstan in 51kg.

The tournament, which is an ideal ground for the boxers to get some valuable training ahead of the AIBA World Youth Boxing Championship in Guwahati, is an invitational event, organised by the Turkish Boxing Federation every year that attracts all the top boxing nations.

A total of 90 women boxers from 11 countries – Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Mongolia, Thailand, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Australia and India – are participating in the tournament. – PTI

◆

Right now we are compelled to play only in Lahore but obviously with time we will schedule matches at other Test venues like Karachi, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Multan.

Speaking on a television channel last night, Sethi said the itinerary for the matches against West Indies would be announced soon. He informed that Sri Lanka has also confirmed to play a lone T20 international on October 29 in Lahore.

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Assam girls clinch gold in C'wealth powerlifting

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: Assam girls won four gold medals in the ongoing Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship in South Africa.

On the third day of the championship yesterday, all the four girls from Assam performed creditably to clinch the yellow metals.

Mina Gogoi (47kg), Minati Dihingia (52kg), Arannance Gogoi (63kg) and Mousumi Bora (above 84kg) were the champions in the international event, stated a release of Assam Powerlifting Association.

Tarun Dutta football

TIHU, Sept 13: Goreswar outfit GATS made it to the last-four stage of the Tarun Dutta Memorial Football Championship with a 2-1 victory against Udangshree Sports Club in the second quarterfinal match at the Makhiba High School playground today.

Maharana Athletic Club of Guwahati will take on 1st ASRF of Barpeta tomorrow.



Assam players pose for photograph with the best team trophy in the National Armwrestling Championship held recently in Guwahati.

WADA clears 95 Russian athletes of doping charges

WASHINGTON, Sept 13: The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is set to clear 95 Russian athletes investigated over involvement in the country's alleged mammoth doping programme in November 2015 and its track and field Paralympics squad and entire Paralympics team were barred from Rio 2016.

A leaked internal WADA report published by the newspaper yesterday said the agency found it could not gather enough evidence against 95 of 96 Russian athletes who it had been probing.

"The available evidence was insufficient to support the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation against these 95 athletes," WADA Director General Olivier Niggli wrote in the document. The report did not name any of the athletes under investigation.

A string of WADA reports has previously uncovered teams of evidence that the Russian authorities ran a large-scale programme to help competitors cheat international doping tests.

Russia's Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) was declared "non-compliant" with international sport's anti-doping code in November 2015 and its track and field Paralympics squad and entire Paralympics team were banned from Rio 2016.

An independent investigation for the agency by professor Richard McLaren in 2016 implicated some 1,000 athletes in the doping system. Moscow has furiously denied that it ran a state-sponsored scheme to cheat at international sporting events and insists it is doing its best to crack down on dopers.

And Russian officials said WADA's decision only served to shed doubt on the revelations in McLaren's report.

"In general the information of the McLaren report appears to be incomplete and moreover in many cases unreliable," R-Sport agency quoted Stanislav Poznyakov, the deputy chief of Russia's Olympic Committee, as saying.

"For the moment none of Russia's 1,000 athletes mentioned in the McLaren report has been found guilty or banned on the basis of his information. Meanwhile, a year has already passed (since the report was issued)."

While this latest report may help bolster the Kremlin's claims, Niggli suggested to the *New York Times* that an absence of evidence did not necessarily prove Russia's innocence. – AFP

5K free passes for students every day in FIFA U-17 WC

KOLKATA, Sept 13: The West Bengal government is making elaborate arrangements to help school and college goers watch the ongoing FIFA U-17 World Cup matches scheduled at the Salt Lake Stadium in the city from next month.

According to a statement of the West Bengal education department, arrangements have been made to provide free tickets to around 5,000 school and college students, both boys and girls, to watch each of the 10 matches of the championship, including the final, scheduled to be played in the city from October 8.

"Free passes will be provided to students of different schools and colleges of the State to watch the U-17 World Cup matches scheduled at the Salt Lake Stadium from October 8. Each day, around 5,000 students will be given the free passes to watch the match," the official told PTI.

However, it has been learnt that only students who play soccer or are involved in different sporting activities will be provided with the free passes. Of the 5,000 passes to be allotted daily, 2,000 each would be given to students of schools and colleges, while 500 each would be given to students of Madrasas and polytechnic colleges. A separate box and specific seating arrangements at the Salt Lake Stadium have already been earmarked for the students, he said.

"School authorities will be shortlisting the names of the students which will be forwarded to the education department," the officer said, adding, the directives in connection with the matter have already been circulated to the schools. The West Bengal Sports Council, which is supervising the process, would also be forwarding lists of students it has prepared on its own. The lists will have names of students who have excelled in sports. – PTI

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- JAGRIBA: RD Motors, Ph 9864833344; ● BOKA KHAT: Anamika Motors, Ph 7086950190; ● SWASIGARH: Anamika Motors, Ph 9057288704; ● DIBRU GARH: Jay-Bee Auto, Ph 8811098595; ● DULAIJAR: Jay-Bee Auto, Ph 8011051484; ● TINSUKIA: Vishal Car World, Ph 9435983992; ● MARGHERITA: Vishal Car World, Ph 9435983992; ● PRABUDHARA: Padmini Car, Ph 9435983992;

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Najam Sethi



Speaking on a television channel last night, Sethi said the itinerary for the matches against West Indies would be announced soon. He informed that Sri Lanka has also confirmed to play a lone T20 international on October 29 in Lahore.

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Dear Ishani Aunty,
I broke a beautiful ceramic bowl
that belonged to my grandmother.
What should I do?
— Rimi

Dear Rimi,
You could write a note to her,
apologising for what you did,
and promise not to do so again. You
ought to be careful with things,
especially those that do not belong
to you.

Dear Ishani Aunty,
My younger brother is always but-
leed by most of his classmates at
school. I want to teach those bullies
a lesson. Should I?

Dear Vivek,
Don't even think about it. You will
not always be around to protect
your brother, so be careful about
what you do. Request your parents
to talk to the Principal and class
teacher. They will find a way to
stop these bullies.

Dear Ishani Aunty,
I joined a singing contest and found
myself last. All my friends were
laughing at me. I am so ashamed.
— Sonali

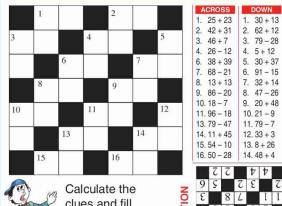
Dear Sonali,
You took part and that's what
matters. True friends don't laugh
at anything one does. Your talent
obviously lies elsewhere. Forget
all this and try to discover your
talent.

Ananya Kalita, Class-X,
South Point School, Guwahati.



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clues and fill
in the grids with
the answers.

ANSWERS

1) Sir Donal Campbell broke the land speed record in 1964. Was the name of his car Bluebird, Blue Boy or Blue Streak?

2) Does the Olympic Torch relay always begin in Turkey, Italy or Greece?



3) Did Napoleon attempt to invade Russia in 1810, 1812 or 1815?



PicSPEAK

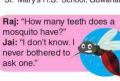
NEXT WEEK'S PICTURE



Please collect your certificates from our office.
[Send your entries to planet.young@assamtribune.com]

JOKES

Kushmunda Deka, Class-VI,
St. Mary's H.S. School, Guwahati.



Raj: "How many teeth does a mosquito have?"
Jai: "I don't know. I never bothered to ask one."



Teacher: "Rina, can you name two pronouns?"
Rina: "Who? Me?"
Teacher: "Good. Now have a seat."



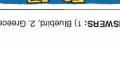
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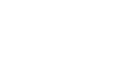
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Wordwatch

1 Comity a) Beauty b) Courtesy c) Wisdom d) Suspicion	4 Niggling a) Squirming b) Stringy c) Petty d) Snagging
2 Courier a) Messenger b) Favour-seeker c) Wigout d) Forward-thinking observer	5 Sedition a) Withdrawal b) Insurrection c) Calming of agitation d) Insidious statement
3 Vigil a) High-maintenance b) Lighter on the c) Circuit of careful watching	6 Squalid a) (1pt) (1pt) squalid b) (2pt) (2pt) squalid c) (3pt) (3pt) squalid



ACROSS: 5. Spineless 6. Kneebone 9. Chit-chat, 10. Embroid. 12. Palm tree, 14. Labyrinth, 15. Division, 11. Dwindle, 13. Shrub. DOWN: 1. Dumb, 2. Lurker, 3. Aspidic, 4. Tarn, 6. Xylophone, 7. Sheeps, 8. Knob, 9. Chit-chat, 10. Embroid.

BOOK NOOK

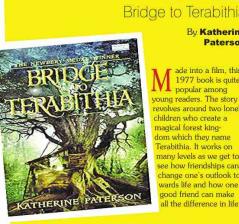
Big Red Lollipop
By Rukhsana Khan



Know your masterpieces
Beatrix Potter

Helen Beatrix Potter was an English author, illustrator, natural scientist and environmentalist, best known for her children's books featuring animals. She remains the best-selling children's author of all time. Potter's books are chock full of great vocabulary, and the illustrations are charming and funny. Great characters too. And beautiful illustrations!

Some of her Tales:
 ▲ The Tale of Peter Rabbit.
 ▲ The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck.
 ▲ The Tale of Benjamin Bunny.
 ▲ The Story of Miss Moppet.
 ▲ The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle.



Bridge to Terabithia
By Katherine Paterson

Made into a film, this 1977 book is quite popular among young readers. The story revolves around two lonely children, Jess and Leslie, and their magical forest kingdom which they name Terabithia. They explore many levels as we get to see how friendships can change our perspectives towards life and how one good friend can make all the difference in life.

My memorable Hanoi trip

Chandrabhagy Kashyap, Class X,
Mara's Public School, Guwahati.

On June 25 last, a team of 14 students, including me, along with two teachers and our beloved school trustee, Mr. Debadatta Bhattacharya, headed towards Hanoi to take part in the 10th Global Round of World Scholar's Cup (WSC), 2017, scheduled to be held from June 26.

The WSC is an international team academic programme with students participating from over 50 countries. The WSC aims to bring the global community of future scholars and leaders, and it allows participants to 'discover strengths and talents you never knew you had'. It also brings together students from different cultures together to discuss issues and ideas relevant to today and the future.

We reached the hotel in Hanoi at around 9:30 a.m. (local time) on June 26, after travelling from Gauhati to Kohima and then to Bangalore. On our WSC registration was scheduled for the same day, we reached the Vietnam National Convention Centre at 4:30 p.m. and completed the ceremony.

On June 27, the opening ceremony



PAGE 3 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE,
GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

PLANET YOUNG

down for the Scholar's Talent Show, where we could witness some eerie performances by a number of talented students from all over the world.

The next day, the WSC arranged for a local tour of the Hanoi City. We firstly visited the Ho Chi Minh Tomb, which hosts the Imperial Academy, Vietnam's first national university. We then visited a museum which exhibits Vietnamese history. In fact, the students were making patterned designs on plates and bowls, the Professor of Vietnamese and the students of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is the final resting place of the Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh. He read the Declaration of Independence on September 2, 1945, establishing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

And ended his life in Hanoi and is buried in the Convention Centre to join the Scholar's Ball. It was a Dali night where we danced our hearts out. The award-giving ceremony was held on July 1, 2017, at the WSC. All the successful scholars were awarded with medals. Our school won seven gold medals, 12 silver medals in all, including one gold in me.

On July 2, around noon, we checked out from our hotel and started on our journey back towards Gauhati. We reached Gauhati airport the next morning.

IDIOM OF THE WEEK

Nest egg



Nest egg refers to a sum of money that has been saved or kept for a special purpose.

Nest egg refers to money or investments earmarked for some future purpose. The term most commonly refers to retirement savings. In other words, a nest egg is an artificial egg in a nest that is used to trigger the hen's instincts (particularly, to lay eggs there). Instead of someone saving up a nest egg, it is more likely that a sum of money is being saved for a young person to use when they have it.

According to figures from the World Bank,

the Anglo-Saxon countries – the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia – are some of the world's worst savers. In these countries, personal savings rates have steadily declined over the past two decades.

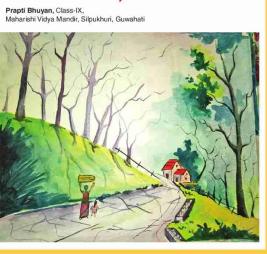
A door opening

Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

Don't waste your time in regrets. Life doesn't always turn out to be the way we want it to. We must be resilient enough to weather all the storms that come our way. Often, when one door closes, another opens. But we are so full of regret about the closed door that we fail to see an opportunity coming our way. So, cheer up and always be positive.

With love, as always,

Sketch of the week



Prapti Bhuyan, Class-IX,
Maharshi Vidy Mandir, Sipukhuri, Guwahati



Dakshayani Sarma, Class-VI,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, NFT, Silchar

Saving the rhino

Born in Assam, I am very fond of the rhino. In the North-east region of India, the rhino's habitat found here fascinates me. I love going for those Jeep Safari rides in our national parks, to enjoy our beautiful flora and fauna.

One such thing that never fails to attract me is the rhino. I have heard that the pride of Assam. I have visited all the major rhino-bearing areas of Assam, such as Kaziranga National Park, the Manas National Park, and the Pobitora National Park. Recently, I visited the Pobitora National Park. On my visit at that time, I noticed something very minute. There were cranes (located in Assam) perched on the rhinos' backs. Curiously, it raised my curiosity and I was happy to learn from the forest guard that this process is called 'rhino poaching'. Now, both the rhino and the crane are under mutual understanding, where the cranes feed on the insects on the rhino's back. And, in return, it also frees the rhino from itching and irritation from the pests. There are many more rhino sightings in the future.

In assistance, I think a poacher should be severely punished because he is a criminal and also, the forest department must be very alert in this matter. Therefore, I would like to request the people to be more aware and conserve this pride of Assam so that we Indians and thousands of foreign tourists can also enjoy many more rhino sightings in the future.

Anurita Das, Class-VI
Dibrugarh School, Gauhati



Prkriti Protim Sarma, Class-III,
Maharshi Vidy Mandir, Sipukhuri, Guwahati

Our environment

What does the environment say?
Let us hear.
The creoles of the environment!
How beautiful the environment is!
The environment was even more beautiful earlier
Due to less pollution.

We share the same Nature.
Environment, environment, environment,
Please keep yourself as you were before!

Gagan Gharat Pathak, Class-V,
Gurukul Grammer Sr. Sec. School, Gauhati.



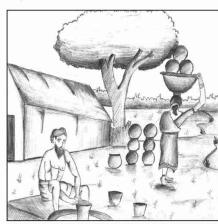
Roshan Saha, Class-V,
St. Mary's High School, Barpeta

My pet dog

I have a little pet dog.
He loves to sit on a wet bag.
When I go to school,
He follows me.
When I come back,
He lies down.
And chews my socks.
I love to play with him.
He loves to play with me, too.

He loves me, too.

Muskan Agrawal, Class-VI,
Mother's Pride School, Dhemaji



Arupama Choudhury, Class-VI,
Modern High School, Gauhati

Poem of the Week

Durabhiyati Gogoi, Class-XL
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Golaghat.

Silent night

Everything in my room is dark and black.
And I can only hear the tick-tock
Of the large wall clock.
The stars are singing some songs to me,
And these echoes not everyone can hear.
When everyone is in deep sleep,
From my room I can see outside,
I tip-toe towards the balcony,
And watch the city lights shining bright.
The world is sleeping now,
And everything is so silent now,
No bases, no cars, and not a single soul.
It is like a dream, a dream come true,
I can feel the moon glistening dim.
And the spooky stars staring at me
From the sky, the stars seem pale
In the city's dazzling.

This city is so unjust, I feel.

Some of the people are thieves,

While some on the footpath have to sleep.

Some in the five-star hotels throw a party,

With lots of noise, while others are in distress.

Maybe, one day, I will have a magic wand,

Then I will change everything with just a twist of my wrist,

But until then, I will do what I can,

I will fulfill all their wishes and remove all their pain,

Yes, I will, I promise.

So I will do good, leave,

Leaving me name.

As if urging me to go further,

But I don't want to go,

When the city is sleeping, I like to be awake.

And keep on dreaming...

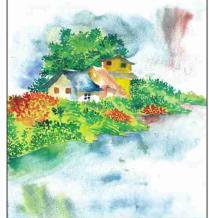
Beauty

"Beauty..." the word was always heard,
But no one understood what it meant.
So a girl asked everyone,
What is beauty?" I don't know,"
Parents said, "Keep her quiet!"
Friends said, "Keep her quiet!"
"Friends said, "Keep her quiet!"
She asked everyone, got different answers,
But still couldn't understand what beauty meant...

Joyashree Chakraborty, Class-X,
Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Dapor, Guwahati.

Guwahati, Thursday, September 14, 2017

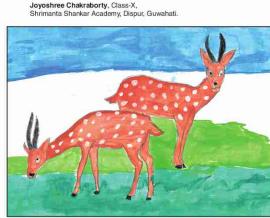
Rejini Das, Class-VII,
Sacred Heart School, Tezpur



Anabil Akash Deba, Class-VI,
Maria's Public School, Guwahati



Rudra Shrivam, Class-VI,
Holy Child Public School, Mangaldoi



Shaheen A. Rahman, Class-V,
Modern High School, Gauhati



Zinat Afreen, Class-VI,
Maharshi Vidy Mandir, Chandmari, Guwahati