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NEWS CAPSULE

Fuel prices cut

New Delhi, June 15: Petrol price was today cut by Rs. 1.12 per litre and diesel by Rs. 1.24 per litre – the last of the fortnightly revisions after which daily correction in rates step with cost will be implemented. – PTI

6 linkmen held

RANGIA, June 15: A joint team of police and Army nabbed six linkmen of NDF(B) here today. They are – Bijoy Boro, Garam Boro, Ansura Basumatary, Pradip Narzary, Dhamik Boro and Subarna Boro. – Correspondent

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

Christian-majority NE States BJP allies oppose cattle trade rules

KOHIMA/AIZAWL, June 15: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) allies in three Christian-majority states of Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya have opposed the Central Government's new cattle trade and slaughter rules.

The ruling Naga People's Front (NPP) in Nagaland asked the Narendra Modi-led NDA government to desist from imposing restrictions on the dietary habits of the people.

The NPP's Central Executive Council also directed the

government.

In Mizoram, the opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), which is one of the constituents of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance, has also opposed the Central government notification under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules 2017.

"We will not accept Central government's new rules. The people of Mizoram are cent-per-cent beef and pork eaters. They may implement that law in other states but the Mizos will continue to slaughter and eat beef or pork, as it is part of our staple diets," MNF president Pu Zoramthanga told IANS.

However, the two-time Mizoram Chief Minister said that

(See page 4)

government.

Sonowal convened an urgent meeting and directed the authority concerned to take the remedial steps so that construction activities do not face any bottlenecks because of such shortage.

Sonowal also directed to expedite the repairing works of roads and said he would review the progress on a regular basis.

Environment and Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahmananda said his family had done nothing wrong and lashed out at "some unseen elements" for plotting against his democratically-elected government, as he became Pakistan's first sitting premier to be grilled by a graft probe panel.

"Today, I have just presented my stance before the JIT." Sharif told reporters after nearly three hours of questioning by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing his family's alleged corruption as was reported by the Panama Papers leaks.

On April 20, the Supreme Court (See page 4)

Construction materials CM calls for steps to remove shortage

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 15: Taking a serious view of the scarcity of construction materials mainly chips, sand, etc, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has asked the Forest Department to make the materials available within 10 days.

Chairing a meeting of PWD and Forest Departments at the conference room of Chief Minister's Office in Janata Bhawan this evening, Sonowal constituted a high-powered committee with Additional Chief Secretary, PWD Alak Kumar and four other officers to assess the causes leading to the scarcity of the building materials.

It may be noted that following several complaints from different circles regarding shortfall of building materials, Sonowal convened an urgent meeting and directed the authority concerned to take the remedial steps so that construction activities do not face any bottlenecks because of such shortage.

Sonowal also directed to expedite the repairing works of roads and said he would review the progress on a regular basis.

Environment and Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahmananda said his family had done nothing wrong and lashed out at "some unseen elements" for plotting against his democratically-elected government, as he became Pakistan's first sitting premier to be grilled by a graft probe panel.

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On April 20, the Supreme Court (See page 4)

SDRF for city-centric advance warning system

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, June 15: With incessant rains leading to flood and landslides in and around Guwahati, the State Disaster Response

Force (SDRF) moots a Guwahati-specific advance warning system to help in pre-stationing of rescue teams in vulnerable areas.

The SDRF will pursue the matter with the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) so that a Guwahati-specific early warning system can be developed and resources mobilised be-

fore any damage is done.

The Director General of SDRF, AP Rout, told this reporter that damage can be minimised if we can anticipate the gravity of the situation well ahead of time and respond by way of pre-positioning rescue teams in vulnerable locations, which are more or less known."

A specific warning system should be developed for Guwahati with the help of the Weather Department as the general weather report hardly provides any pinpointed

(See page 4)

System to help in pre-stationing of rescue teams in vulnerable areas

JAYANTA KUMAR DAS

KALAIGAON, June 15: The nexus between human trafficking and insurgency has emerged as a new social threat in the BTAD districts of Udaguri, Baksa, Chirang and Kokrajhar, with the recent escape of three Assamese school dropouts from such a transit camp located in Bangladesh and their subsequent arrest along the India-Bangla border in Tripura sending alarm bells ringing in both the civil administration as well as the Army.

Taking advantage of their

poverty, a number of school

dropouts boys and girls have been lured by human traffickers with the promise of offering them jobs, not only in big Indian cities but also in countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal. An uncountable number of youths go missing every year from various parts of Assam as well as the rest of the Northeast. The youths who go missing usually include school dropouts, unemployed youths and others from the poorer sections of society, who are lured by unscrupulous agents on the pretext of offering them jobs and money in big

(See page 4)

Trafficking-militancy nexus a new threat in BTAD

JAYANTA KUMAR DAS

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(See page 4)

India through to CT final



Rohit Sharma smashes one through the off side during his unbeaten knock of 123 against Bangladesh in the Champions Trophy semifinal in Birmingham on Thursday.

BIRMINGHAM, June 15: India cantered to a nine-wicket win over Bangladesh in a lopsided second semi-final of the ICC Champions Trophy at the Edgbaston Stadium here on Thursday, setting up a clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in the final.

Chasing 265 to win after electing to field first, the defending champions did not flinch for one moment as Rohit Sharma scored his 11th career ton (123 not out) and captain Virat Kohli notched up his 42nd fifty

(Details on page-16)

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ACHIEVEMENT



Abdul Wakil Ali has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Jodhpur National University for his thesis entitled "The Socio-economic Condition of Deshi Muslims with Special Reference to Goalpara District of Assam, India: An Analytical Study" under the supervision of Dr. Abdul Haque Ahmed, Associate Professor and HoD, Deptt. of Economics, Bikali College, Diphuphuri. He is the son of Abdul Kader and Rokeya Khatun of VII-Mammapur Pt-L, Dalgoma, Goalpara. He is working as an Assistant Professor (Contractual), Deptt. of Economics, Habraghat Mahavidyalaya, Krishnagar, Achive/P/A1680/1

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PUBLIC NOTICE
1. Sudip Bhownick, have corrected my name from Sudip Kr. Bhownick/Sudeep Bhownick to Sudip Bhownick via an Affidavit before the Notary Public, Kamrup Metropolitan, Guwahati on 03/06/2016. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sudip Bhownick in all purposes. PNP/P/12032/1

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INTERNATIONAL

Trump being probed for possible obstruction of justice: Report

WASHINGTON, June 15: US President Donald Trump is being investigated for possible obstruction of justice by the special counsel appointed to probe alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential elections, according to a media report.

The probe by special counsel Robert Mueller, a former FBI chief, "marks a major turning point in the nearly year-old FBI investigation, which until recently focused on Russian meddling during the presiden-



tial campaign and on whether there was any coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin," the Washington Post reported.

Investigators have also been looking for any evidence of possible financial crimes by Trump associates, the Daily said, quoting unnamed US officials.

According to the paper, Daniel Coats, the current Director of National Intelligence, Mike Rogers, head of the National Security Agency, and Rogers' recently departed

deputy Richard Ledgett agreed to be interviewed by Mueller's investigators as early as this week. The New York Times also reported that Mueller was seeking interviews with three officials.

"The investigation has been cloaked in secrecy, and it is unclear how many others have been questioned by the FBI," it said.

The White House has been directing all questions related to this to Trump's personal attorney Marc Kasowitz. – PTI

Firefighters douse blaze, 17 killed

LONDON, June 15: The death toll in a devastating fire that engulfed the 24-storey residential block in west London rose to 17 today, even as many people were still unaccounted for, with police saying there was little chance of finding any survivors from the smoldering building.

London Fire Brigade firefighters worked through the night to try and account for whole families that still missing in the huge fire at the Grenfell Tower on the Lancaster West Estate in Latimer Road.

The fire was reported at 01:16 am (local time) yesterday. About 600 people were believed to have been inside the tower's 120 flats, many of them asleep, when the blaze ripped through the building.

Police confirmed 17 deaths among the 600 residents thought to have lived in the tower

but expect that toll to rise significantly as the building is searched.

Scotland Yard said the death toll of 17 is expected to rise further as the emergency services have lost hope of rescuing any more people alive from the building.

Nearly 78 people were injured, and 34 remain in hospitals across London – 18 of them in critical condition.

"There is going to be a long and complex recovery operation. I do anticipate the number of fatalities will sadly increase," said Metropolitan Police Commander Stuan Mundy.

Responding to a question, he said there was "nothing to suggest the fire had anything to do with terrorism".

London Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton said it was not safe for fire crews to go all the way out to the edges of the building. – PTI

Trafficking-militancy nexus ...

(Contd from page 1)

Indian cities and abroad. The agents then exploit and abuse the innocent youths and make them fall victim to organ trafficking, prostitution and forced recruitment in insurgent groups.

Mansa Jyoti Deeka (22) of Purnuda village under Tangla PS, Poda Deba (24) of Hatibandha village under Tangla PS and Gauhati Roy (23) of Kalagonia in Chirang district were apprehended by Tripura Police on May 23 last on the India-Bangladesh border near Dholai. Suspecting them of being members of KLO, they were handed over to BSF and finally to the Assam Police on May 25. The boys had a sad story to tell. When a group of mediapersons of Udaguri District Journalists' Union met them on June 14 on their way back from the Sessions Court campus to the Udaguri jail, what the boys narrated raised everyone's eyebrows.

According to them, two persons, namely Thakur and Tomba, had come to meet them at separate locations of Udaguri and Chirang dis-

tricts in January 2016, promising them jobs and money in Bangladesh. They told their parents that they were going outside Assam, without specifically mentioning Bangladesh. The agents later handed them over to another agent after crossing the Bangladesh border near Dhubri. After three days of continuous walking, they finally landed in an undisclosed location inside Bangladesh territory. Then began their saga of untold miseries and it was too late before the boys realised that they had been handed over to an insurgent camp.

It has been 17 months since they had left home without keeping any contact with their families. The trio was in the camp for more than a year doing manual work like cooking and cleaning. They revealed that there were six other boys from Assam who were still trapped in the clutch of insurgents. Mansa said, "Life was getting miserable for us day by day. I was terribly missing my parents and wanted to escape from their clutches, by hook or by crook."

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Civic problems discussed

GUWAHATI, June 15: The Barsapara Development Society yesterday discussed various civic problems of Barsapara area, said a press release today. Dwelling upon various civic issues of the area, including the dilapidated condition of Barsapara Main Road, the RGBS Main Road, bylanes etc, the committee urged the Govt of Assam and the GMC to construct/repair the roads and drains.

The meeting flayed the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) authorities for not restoring the irreparable damage caused to the Barsapara Main Road by its pipeline laying teams.

Cheques to kin of deceased in city flood

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 15: The Kamrup (M) district administration today handed over cheques of Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of the people who lost their lives during Tuesday's flash flood in Guwahati.

Bilas Kalita, father of Pushan Kalita, who died due to electrocution near the State Zoo was given the cheque by district administration officials. Priti Rakjhora, wife of Anwar Hussain of Gondhabasti, who died in the same incident, and Charu Prabha Devi Nath, wife of Deven Chandra Nath who died after

falling into the Silsako Beel, were also given cheques.

The district administration has also arranged for sending the cheque to the family of Pintu Das of Dibrugarh, who lost his life in Tuesday's deluge here.

The administration has also advised people to walk in the middle of the roads and avoid walking on footpaths, drive slowly and be fully aware of any drains, pits etc., before walking on the waterlogged roads. People can call the control room of DC Kamrup (M) at 1077 and 0361-2733052, police at 100 and fire service at 108 for help in the wake of any disaster.

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 15: Regional Science Centre, Guwahati, a constituent unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Union Ministry of Culture, has a specially-designed mobile science exhibition (MSE) bus that will travel to the rural areas for communicating science to the population who are unable to visit the Centre.

The MSE bus – equipped with 20 new exhibits on human biology and performance – will be flagged off for travelling to the rural areas by noted scientist Dr Dinesh Ch. Goswami at 11 am tomorrow.

"The design of the exhibition

Science on wheels

is unique where people can have knowledge how various parts of our body perform, how our limb joints and movements help in designing of machinery and equipment," an RSC statement said.

The travelling programme

was carried out in India on November 17, 1965 at Ramakrishna Mission School, Narendrapur, Kolkata by the NCSM unit with a motto: 'If the people do not visit the museum, let the museum visit the people at their doorstep', the statement added.



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Achievement

GUWAHATI, June 15: Rinku Sarmah a student of Savikash Junior College secured eighth position in the entrance examination to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

He secured 99.94 in biology, 100 in chemistry, 99.98 in physics and 99.8 in GK with an overall percentage of 99.98. - Staff Reporter

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

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— SOCRATES

The Assam Tribune

Beyond comprehension

The ordinary individual on the street, hard-pressed to make both ends meet, cannot comprehend how a small segment of society has been able to acquire loans worth lakhs of crores of rupees from the banking sector without paying these back. When ordinary individuals approach banks for even paltry amounts for house construction or family wedding, they have to furnish a number of documents intimating their intention of not defaulting on repayment. They too have to furnish collaterals against loans as well as a guarantor who can be held responsible if the loan is not paid back. How then can major entities in the corporate sector get away with vast amounts which banks later write off as non-performing assets (NPAs)? Currently, the gross NPAs of the Indian banking system in the form of bad loans stand at a staggering Rs 8 lakh crore and the common individual cannot understand how such an unacceptable state of things has been allowed to be arrived at without initiation of punitive measures. A salutary example of the manner the rich and the powerful can siphon off bank finances in the form of loans which they have no intention of repaying is Vijay Mallya. Despite the system being aware that the liquor baron's business empire was crumbling under the weight of contradictions, Mallya continued to get loans from Indian banks till his debts mounted to Rs 9000 crore!

Rather than being in prison, he is now living luxuriously in Britain, having been assisted to flee India despite arrest warrants being issued against him. All this hints at a nexus among the corporate sector Moguls, high ranking officials, bureaucrats and politicians which none so far has dared to take on. Thus the ordinary individual is sceptic regarding the current 'attempt' by the Reserve Bank of India to stem the growth of NPAs by bringing to account defaulting companies. Initially, the RBI has identified 12 entities who owe banks Rs 2 lakh crore, or 25% of gross NPAs, and without naming them, has issued directions to banks to file insolvency proceedings. The National Company Law Tribunal, the adjudicating authority in insolvency cases, will give the offenders six months to liquidate the companies or, if revival is offered, another three months. Those parties who have defaulted but are not covered under the announced criteria will face proceedings instituted by banks under the insolvency code unless they can provide viable resolution of the debt issue. While declaring insolvency or liquidation are very well, the core objective of recovery of loan from the defaulters would remain unrealized. In most cases of insolvency, the assets which can be disposed of by a bankrupt company rarely cover the loan availed of. The RBI essay might serve to stem further rise of NPAs, but surely it would do little towards bad loan recovery.

Blood donation

The blood donation movement is yet to take root in our country even though the scenario is somewhat similar in the metros compared to other areas. As for Assam, the situation continues to be pathetic with few people showing inclination towards voluntary donation despite comparatively better awareness on the front in recent years. Of the total blood units collected last year, only about half came from voluntary donors. This is indeed a poor reflection on our collective psyche *vis-a-vis* a humanitarian cause like blood donation. Blood donation has been a success story in the developed world where most blood donors are unpaid volunteers who donate blood for a community supply. In developing countries, established supplies are limited and donors usually give blood when family or friends need a transfusion (directed donation). In India, the blood donation movement has gained grounds in a few States and in the metros but getting blood—especially in emergency situations—is still a difficult proposition in many parts of the country. Lack of awareness and prevalence of misconceptions often make people disinclined towards donating blood whereas the medical fact is that donating blood at a regular interval such as once a year is actually beneficial for the donor.

In Assam, despite the committed efforts of a few volunteer bodies, the blood donation movement continues to be at a nascent stage. This needs to change. We also celebrate the Voluntary Blood Donor Day every year to highlight the significance of blood donation. But there is a need for enhanced dissemination of information on blood donation and transform it into a mass movement. Voluntary bodies, the Health Department and the media can play a big role in effecting the desired changes in this regard. This will happen when the message that safe blood donation saves many lives of all ages and from all walks of life every year percolates down to the grassroots. States like Tripura, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra are considered to be the national-level voluntary blood donors. That Tripura has consistently been topping the list of voluntary blood donation should be a feat to emulate for the rest of the north-eastern States. A concerted and sustained effort from all stakeholders is necessary to do away with the prevailing ignorance, fear and misconceptions of the general public towards voluntary blood donation. The campaign should particularly target the youth/students and colleges, institutions, clubs, NGOs, etc. Then, in order to prevent transmission of diseases through blood transfusion, a thorough testing of the donor's blood is highly imperative. Potential donors need to be evaluated for anything that might make their blood unsafe to use. Recently, there have been quite a few disturbing cases of healthy people acquiring the HIV virus following blood transfusions at hospitals. The obvious inference is that the blood collected and stored in the hospital blood banks does not go through the mandatory tests. This is a serious matter and the Government needs to put in place the necessary mechanism to make blood transfusion a foolproof exercise.

Addressing aviation industry vulnerabilities

■ Dr Kawal Deep Kour

Air traffic all over the world has increased at an unprecedented pace. India is now the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic, unseating Japan. The emergence of low-cost carriers had changed the profile of the aviation industry in India which is now set to soar new heights. Under the Regional Air Connectivity Scheme (RCS) of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016, 45 new airports connecting 72 regional routes are expected to be added to the functional 73 airports. UDAAN (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik*) is a cheap airfare scheme which is aimed at ensuring better connectivity and development of infrastructure. Five airlines have been awarded licences for operating on 128 routes across Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. A revolution in the sky, certainly, but challenges galore. The viability of the RCS scheme is foremost. Though the NCAP has considered this aspect in-depth and provided a host of incentives, it remains to be seen if competitiveness and market dynamics including passenger load can remain favourable for the airlines to continue operations on the exclusive routes.

Another major factor linked to the infrastructure for conducting flight operations. Is the AAI (Airports Authority of India) equipped with requisite technical expertise and manpower to handle

a project of such gigantic proportions? Infrastructure maintenance and upgrade are crucial to ensuring airport operability and safety. The AAI's plan of privatizing four airports at Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur and Ahmedabad had run into rough weather following union-related issues over privatization. A CAG report had cited the unprofessional attitude of the AAI which resulted in a loss of Rs 70 crore. It remains to be seen as to how far AAI can support the vision and mission of the UDAAN scheme. While the existing low-cost carriers have already saturated the operational capacity of airports with increasing number of flights, addition of new routes, etc., there are several issues that need to be addressed to make flying a safe and pleasant experience.

As goes a saying, "Flying is

tough if you do something stupid... You fly an airplane with your head, not your hands and feet." With technological innovations, upgrades of safety controls and installation of infrastructure including clockwork precision, air travel is as yet the safest mode of transportation; nevertheless, the human factor cannot be overlooked. This implies mental alertness or rather sustained alertness, which is the sine qua non of all flying. A pilot gradually gets accustomed to the odd schedules – leaving home midnight, before dawn and returning

this is inconvenience; for an aviator, it's chilling. Not that the modern advancement in aircraft technology has not exacerbated flying safety, yet it is the human factors that have the potential of exposing the latest technology to the level of a safety hazard.

Disrupting the circadian rhythm creates a potential risk environment. Can a pilot tired in body and mind meet up the challenges thrown by escalating duty hours, volatile weather patterns or gearing up response in case of emergency? Fatigue impairs decision making and judgement. There exists a plethora of evidence to suggest

that fatigue-induced depression and anxiety about duty hours are increasing among commercial pilots with often disastrous consequences. A series of leaked documents from the vault of a Gulf airline last year revealed just how anxiously pilots voiced their concerns about dangerous fatigue issues. Pilots were even found reporting concerns about passenger safety while flying when unwell or tired. The issue has reached such disturbing proportions that last year 96% members of a budget airliner in Britain voted for calling a strike over fatigue issues.

Back home, such issues have been reported but not given the attention it deserves. The 2016 Goa incident, the 2010 Mangalore disaster and the 2008 Mumbai fiasco, just to name a few of the major ones, are reminders of how long duty periods

and circadian disruptions have interfered with the physiological and psychological framework of the pilots to induce sleep deficit which triggers fatigue. Many do make flying news and make flying feel certainly scary. In all likelihood, the airlines (the service providers) are cognizant to the emerging challenges that aviator fatigue poses to a safety-critical industry. Airlines claim that they encourage pilots to report safety-linked fatigue issues. The mental and physical well-being of an operating crew is paramount – as all of them brag about their commitment to the existence of a 'comprehensive operational sys-

tem' for ensuring safety of the operating staff. Yet, as an LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) study of European pilots revealed, although 79% of the pilots reported positive environment for voicing concerns over safety, 38% of them, most of them with low-cost carriers and cargo pilots, expressed apprehension and did not place a 'high degree of trust in management with regard to safety issues'. Most of them feared "unjust treatment" on voicing safety concerns. The regulatory authority in India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been taking a serious view of Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) violations in the recent past involving a major low-cost airliner of the country. Yet, it is far too less considering the risks involved.

Low cost equal to low safety culture. Punctuality should be a creed but while vying for OTP rankings, safety either of operating crew or the passengers should at no point of time be compromised.

Carbon credit and India's position

■ Dr Polakshi Bhattacharyya Baruah

The increasing level of carbon emission from various sources in the name of economic development has become the biggest challenge for all the nations. A lot of effort was put in by the NGOs and other institutions to bring the attention of the world towards the problem of global warming. But nothing much was done in this regard. Thus it was realized that the only way to get the attention of the world towards these problems was by attaching some financial incentive to it. As a result, the concept of carbon credits was introduced. Carbon credits are a component of national and international attempts to mitigate the growth in concentrations of greenhouse gases. It is defined as a "permit that allows the holder to emit one ton of carbon dioxide", which can be traded in the international market at their current market price.

The objective behind this initiative of trading carbon as a commodity is to drive industrial and commercial processes in the direction of low emissions or less carbon intensive approaches than those used when there is no cost to emit-

ting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon credits create a market for reducing greenhouse emissions by giving a monetary value to the cost of polluting the air. Emissions become an internal cost of doing business and are visible on the balance sheet alongside raw materials and other liabilities

There are also many companies that sell carbon credits to commercial and individual customers who are interested in lowering their carbon footprint on a voluntary basis. These carbon off-setters purchase the credits from an investment fund or a carbon development company that has aggregated the credits from individual projects. Buyers and sellers can also use an exchange platform to trade, which is like a stock exchange for carbon credits. The quality of the credits depends on the validation process and sophistication of the fund or development company that sponsors the carbon project which get reflected in their price. Generally the voluntary units have less value than the units sold through the rigorously validated Clean Development Mechanism.

India's position in the carbon market is termed as one of the most preferred location for carbon credit buyers. It is expected that India will gain at least \$5 billion to \$10 billion from carbon trading (Rs 22,500 crore to Rs 45,000 crore) over a period of time. India is also one of the largest beneficiaries of the world carbon trade through the Clean Development Mechanism claiming about 31% CDM.

India's carbon market is one of the fastest growing markets in the world and has already generated approximately 30 million carbon credits, the second highest transacted volumes in the world. The carbon trading market in India is growing faster than even the IT, biotechnology and BPO sectors. Nearly 850 projects with an investment of Rs 650,000 million are in the pipeline. In India carbon credit are traded on the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange (NCDEX) by a notification and with due approval from Forward Market Commission (FMC). The FMC launched carbon credit future contract with the aim to provide transparency to markets and help the producers to earn remuneration out of the environmental projects. Carbon is also now being traded on India's Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Jindal Vijayanagar Steel has recently declared that by the next 10 years, it will be ready to sell \$225 million worth of saved carbon. This was made possible since their steel plant uses the Corex furnace technology which prevents 15 million tons of carbon from being discharged into the atmosphere. The village concerned in Andhra Pradesh was selling 147 tons equivalent of saved carbon dioxide credits. The company has made a claim of having saved 147 MT of CO₂. This was done by extracting bio-diesel from 4,500 Pongamia trees in their village. In Madhya Pradesh, it is estimated that 95 very poor rural villages would jointly earn at least \$300,000 every year from carbon payments by restoring 10,000 hectares of degraded community forests.

The north-eastern region of India is known for its greenery in the country, but unfortunately its role in carbon credit is not focused. The governments of the region should take initiatives to take the opportunity in the carbon credit and make the North-east region as one of the desired destinations for investment in environmental project with the active participation of the local people.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir – Recently, there has been a controversy regarding the recruitment process for the post of teachers for model schools run by RMSA in Assam. The authority concerned of RMSA issued an advertisement inviting application for the TET and categorized it as follows:

obviously will be students from Assam where English comes as the second or third language for these students. The RMSA officials should reconsider the decision of making English medium as a must criterion for appointment of teachers. Yours etc., SANGITA DEVI, Hatigarh, Guwahati.

(II)

Sir – We would like to draw the attention of the Education Minister of Assam to the fact that the educational qualification required apropos the recent TET advertisement is graduate with BE/B.T with English-medium background. We the final year students of the BE/B.T course would like to know if we are also eligible to apply for the posts as our final exam will be held in July. We request the Department concerned to allow us to apply for the posts. Yours etc., SOME STUDENTS.

(III)

Sir – The latest advertisement of the State Secondary Education Department is a bolt from the blue for the unemployed graduates of Assam. It says that only English-medium background candidates can sit in the upcoming TET examination. I don't understand why the Education Department needs only English-medium

background candidates to teach in the model schools though they are CISCE affiliated. It is unjustifiable that the State Government has divided the merit of the graduates on the basis of their medium. There is no such recruitment in the central schools. They recruit teachers only on merit basis. Even our college teachers are recruited on merit basis. This is really a matter of concern. Yours etc., SANJIB CHOWDHURY, Boksa.

Bio-toilets

Sir – The Ministry of Railways has taken many initiatives towards cleanliness and one of them is the bio-toilets, which are zero discharge and eco-friendly. It's a very good step for the initial change and will surely bring in cleanliness to the railway stations. We are happy to know that at present, a total number of 2,990 toilets have been fitted to many of the coaches and the Ministry is planning to install the same in each and every train coach by 2019-20. Moreover, the 81-km Chaparmukh-Silghat Town section is planned to be converted into a discharge-free green corridor this year by June 17. A mobile app named 'Coach Mitra' has also been introduced for receiving immediate complaints from passengers on

cleanliness, watering, amenity, electrical problems, etc. These are very effective steps for the development of the railways. Yours etc., ROUSHENI SHAIKH, Gauhati University.

Farmers' stir

Sir – The ongoing agitation by the aggravated farmers is a matter of deep concern. It explicitly implies that the last good monsoon could not bring good fortune to the rural folks. The main demand of the farmers is to waive farming loans. The States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, etc., are literally burning over the issue. It has been reported in the media that there is a deflationary trend in the prices of pulses, cereals, eggs, oil, milk and vegetables in the recent times.

In the much-hyped GST era, farmers should be enabled to sell their products in well-orchestrated supply chains which should be immune to the local trade conditions. Farmers should get the sustainable prices of their crops. All our government policies must adhere to that. Yours etc., RANJAN DAS, Mirza.

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

State literary and cultural pensions

TET controversy

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ASSAM ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)
Industrial Estate, Bamunildam, Guwahati - 781201
RE TENDER NOTICE
Due to non receipt of sufficient bids of Tender No: AEDC/IT/Forest/VHF/Tender/2017-8/46201 dated 5 May 2017 has been tendered as Tender No: AEDC/IT/Forest/VHF/Tender/2017-18/46203 dated 13 June, 2017. Details may be seen at <http://assamtenders.gov.in>.
Last date of submission of bids : 17 June, 2017.
Sd/- Managing Director
Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.

ASSAM POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD.**2ND NIT EXTENSION NOTICE**

NIT Ref: APGCL/GCM (G)/Law Cell/2013/41 Dtd: 06-06-2017

The due date of e-Tender for the work to "RENDER ALL LEGAL SERVICES ON APGCL'S BEHALF" is hereby extended as given below:

Last date and time for submission of Bid : up to 14:00 hrs of 28-06-2017

Date and time of Bid opening : 15:00 hrs of 28-06-2017

For details bidders may visit APGCL's website www.apgcl.org and <http://apgcl.tender.in>Sd/- Chief General Manager (Gen.)
APGCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltanbar, Guwahati-1
CAS/2017/47**Board of Secondary Education, Assam**

Bamunildam, Guwahati-21

NOTIFICATION NO SEBA/EX/TENDER/22/2017/56

DATED: GUWAHATI

It is to inform all of Head of the institution that after online filled-in-application of HSLCA/HM (Compartmental) Examination 2017, there will be a common statement of candidates, the hard copy of the statement shall have to be down loaded for submission it to the Officer-in-charge of the concerned centre.

The Officer-in-charge of concerned centre will send (Two) sets of statement also duly countersigned by him alongwith SEBA's copy of challan to the Inspector of Schools concerned on or before 20-06-2017.

Sd/- Secretary
Board of Secondary Education, Assam
Guwahati-781021**BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED**

(A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

Notice Inviting E-tenders

Tender Notice No: 07/NIT/BSNL/CD-T2P/2017-2018 & 08/NIT/BSNL/CD-T2P/2017-2018 Dated: 15-06-2017

The Executive Engineer, BSNL Civil Division, Oil D.T.O. Building, Near HPO, Tezpur-784001. (Phone No. 0372-222959) invites on behalf of BSNL, online item rate tenders on two bid system for the works of (i) "Construction of 40M (4 legged) Light Weight Narrow Base Tower Foundation including Earthwork, Excavation, Rounding, Anchorage, etc., at the BSNL BTS site at Lachitpur, Dibrugarh District, Assam" and from eligible contractors.

(ii) "Construction of 40M (4 legged) Light Weight Narrow Base Tower Foundation including Earthwork, Excavation, Rounding, Anchorage, etc., at the BSNL BTS site at Utkulchuri of District Karbianglong, Assam". Estimated cost put to tender: ₹7.57,216.00. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹15,144.00. (iii) "Construction of 40M (4 legged) Light Weight Narrow Base Tower Foundation including Earthwork, Excavation, Rounding, Anchorage, etc., at the BSNL BTS site at Lachitpur, Dibrugarh District, Assam" and from eligible contractors.

Estimated cost put to tender: ₹9.91,902.00. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹19,838.00. Period of completion: 3 (Three) months for each work. Last time and date of uploading of Technical bid: 18.00 hrs. on 24.06.2017. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderizer.com/BSNL. The Press Notice is also available on www.assambsnl.co.in**L.G.B. REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH**

(Govt. of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)

Website : <http://lgrimbh.org>

Post Box No. 1: Fax No.: 0362-236623 Dated: 15th June, 2017

E-TENDER NOTICEOnline e-tenders i.e. two bid systems (Technical and commercial) are invited through the e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/cippb> by the Director, LGRIMBH from primary drug manufacturers or their authorized dealers or distributors for supply of psychotropic medicines to LGRIMBH for one year from the date of Award of Contract (AOC)

CRITICAL DATE SHEET				
Milestones	Start Date	Start Time	Last Date	Last Time
Tender Publishing	15.06.17	3:30 pm	29.06.17	3:00 pm
Tender Download	15.06.17	3:30 pm	29.06.17	3:00 pm
Bid Submission	15.06.17	3:30 pm	29.06.17	3:00 pm
Technical Bid Opening	30.06.17	3:00 pm		

Director
LGRIMBH

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4- Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

NHIDCL invites online bids for the following project:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Bid Document Publishing Date	Bid Submission Date
1	Consultancy Services for Authority's Engineer for Supervision of (i) Rehabilitation and upgradation of Tura-Manekchhar Road from Hailakandi Junction (000 km) to Khula camp (14370 km) and Dornikut (000 km) to Bagh Tinal (3/100 km) two lane carriage way in the State of Assam, (ii) Rehabilitation and upgradation of Dornikut Road from Hailakandi Junction (000 km) to Khula camp (14370 km) and Dornikut (000 km) To Bagh Tinal (3/100 km) two lane carriage way in the State of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, (iii) Rehabilitation and upgradation of Wokha-Merapani Road from Wokha Junction (000 km) To (28/000 km) in the State of Nagaland, (iv) Rehabilitation and upgradation of Wokha-Merapani Road from (26/000 km) To (48/000 km) in the State of Nagaland, (v) Rehabilitation and upgradation of Wokha-Merapani Road from (48/000 km) To Merapani (60/585 km) in the State of Nagaland and Assam	15.06.2017	31.07.2017 (Upto 1100 Hrs)

For further details, please visit - www.nhidcl.com & <http://eprocure.gov.in>. NHIDCL invites online bids for the following project:

NOTE: Any change or amendment to this notice will be posted on above websites only.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

How safe is the common man when deluge hits Guwahati?**City's pitiable preparedness for flash floods exposed yet again****STAFF REPORTER**

ist Ajoy Dutta said.

The authorities, however, are planning a massive campaign to make people aware of the do's and don'ts during such inundation. "Loss of life is unfortunate. But this could have been avoided with some precautions.

We are planning a massive campaign on safety and other mechanisms, besides gearing up our machinery further," Kamrup Metro DC Dr M Angamuthu told *The Assam Tribune*.

He however appealed for support of the people in adhering to the safety norms like fixing low voltage electricity connection or hanging or live wire inside private properties.

People, however, were enraged over lack of action by the administration during the crucial hours, when the citizens, mainly elderly people, school children, patients and others were stuck up in the deluge.

As their preparedness fell flat, the authorities should have at least come to the rescue of those trapped in knee-deep water in the middle of the city. "I watched my belongings, including the schoolbag of my child floating away in the floodwater. I could only think of keep-

ing my feet firmly on the road and taking my child to safety amid the gushing waves created by passing vehicles," a flood victim in Ambari area stated.

When contacted, NDRF authorities informed that a team of 40 personnel with six rubber boats and one fast rescue craft had been stationed at Kaliaghata. "We operate after instructions from the district administration to help in rescue work. We have definitely bounded into action, had the administration felt such a need," NDRF sources said.

As another bout of downpour on Thursday afternoon hit the city, the situation deteriorated further. The floodwater that had receded from most of the affected areas, except the localities by the Mora Bhanali stretch, till Thursday morning, once again inundated many of the city areas.

After the flood, the GMC is busy removing the silt that flowed down from the hills with the storm runoff and clogged the drains. "Extra workforce has been engaged to clean the drains and make them workable in all six divisions of the Corporation. With existing water bodies unable to bear the

load of floodwater, cleaning the outlets is the only solution at present," GMC Mayor Migen Sarma said.

Though the authorities claimed doing everything possible to restore normalcy, the citizens complained about the administration focusing on a few areas that grab media attention most of the time.

"Rescue and rehabilitation is concentrated around Auni Nagar and Nabin Nagar, whereas people of several other areas as like Panbari, Haigaon, Kailihipara, Ambari, Panjabari and Loktak also reek under waterlogging with equal intensity," Monoram Das, a resident of Panbari area said.

The General Manager (CSR) invites e-Tender invites for supply of Thermal Paper Rolls for IER flight Strip Printers at various Airport/Offices of AAJ. Estimated Cost : ₹ 5,09,27,872/- Last Date & Time of submission 12.07.2017 10:00 hrs. For eligibility Criteria and further details visit the portal of NIC CPFP website : <http://nic-cppf.nic.in>. Kindly monitor the above site for any corrigendum and addendum in respect of this NIT.

N-50/2017-18

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of India Undertaking) CIN-U48901WB7999G111702

Notice Inviting E-Tender-CPPF-IRCTC-2017/02

GGM / LCS invites (E-Tender) vendor/system integrator/s for the operation and Management of Food and Fast Food Units at Indian Railway Stations.

S.M.D. Group Sale of 194 units Start From 1st July 2017 Date & Time of Document (Station wise)

1 "A" 19-6-2017 Mentioned in Tender Document (Station wise)

2 "B" 27-7-2017 Mentioned in Tender Document (Station wise)

Tender document download & participation can be done on website: www.tenderizer.com/RICCTIn case of any corrigendum/ addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on the site www.RICCT.comFor more information, visit www.irctcindia.comIn case of any corrigendum/ addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on the site www.RICCT.comFor more information, visit www.irctcindia.comIn case of any corrigendum/ addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on the site www.RICCT.comFor more information, visit www.irctcindia.comIn case of any corrigendum/ addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on the site www.RICCT.comFor more information, visit www.irctcindia.comIn case of any corrigendum/ addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on the site www.RICCT.comFor more information, visit www.irctcindia.comIn case of any corrigendum/ addendum issued on the above 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KMSS activists staging a protest demonstration in front of the DC Court over their various demands, in Dibrugarh on Thursday - UB Photos

Anganwadi workers on warpath

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA, June 15: Under the direction of the central committee of Sadou Ason Anganwadi Karmi, Helpers Santha, its Tinsukia district unit staged a dharna in front of the office of the District Social Welfare here today demanding fulfilment of its long due charter of demands.

The Santha has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister citing their demands that include to consider them as regular employees, to increase their remuneration from the State exchequer, to stop retirement at the age of 60 years till their services are regularised as State employees and to solve all the problems of the Anganwadi workers and helpers of Karbi Anglong district. Santha urged the Chief Minister to solve all its problems with mutual discussions.

OBITUARY

Reena Bora

GUWAHATI, June 15: Distinguished social worker, Reena Bora, passed away on the June 12 at her residence at Debbarati Path, Dispur at 11:45 pm. She was 80.

Born in Golaghat, she graduated from D R College and completed her masters from Dibrugarh University. She was the General Secretary of the Indian Council for Child Welfare, Assam and member of the National ICCW. She was keenly involved with the Association of Social Health of India (ASHI), Assam Chapter. Moreover, she was actively associated with the Kasturba Gandhi Ashram at Saranya, Prohibition Council of Assam, District Consumer Forum and Prajapati Brahmo Kumaris, among others. She was recognised and awarded for her tireless effort.

She leaves behind two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Sudhendra Kr Deb: a tribute

The unfortunate demise of Sudhendra Kumar Deb, popularly known as 'Deb Sir', has shocked me immensely. He was an ardent and excellent soul who always tried to encourage his students. During my school days, I came in contact with a number of good teachers and he was undoubtedly one of them. The students of Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Digboi, had a very good relationship with him. He taught us Geography and helped us to learn various important but

Protest prog by Sonitpur District Mahila Congress

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, June 15: In protest against the alleged failure of the BJP-led State government in maintaining the law and order situation, the Sonitpur District Mahila Congress staged a protest programme here recently.

The protest rally saw participation of over 100 members of SDMC led by the President of Sonitpur district, Dipali Hazarika. The rally was taken out from the Rajiv Bhawan here and it passed through the main thoroughfares of the town. It demanded the government to provide security to women.

Citing the recent Jamuna

mukh incident of rape and

murder of a headmistress of a school, she added that during last year of BJP government's rule, besides rape and murder, several other crimes have been reported.

Pointing out incidents of criminal cases against women that took place in the State, Dipali Hazarika slammed the government's failure to the people of the State. Hazarika said that the BJP that came to power at Dispur with a commitment to bring a change in the society, has totally failed to deliver its promises made to the common people of the State.

Citing the recent Jamuna

mukh incident of rape and

Emergency management exercise held at Doomdooma

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, June 15: Along with the rest of the gaon panchayats in the State, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) along with Tinsukia District Disaster Management Authority (TDDMA) and Surjyadip, an NGO organised gaon panchayat-level 'Emergency Management Exercises' across 35 gaon panchayats under Hapjan, Kakoopathor and Saikhowa Development Blocks of Doomdooma Revenue Circle.

(SDRF) in association with Assam State Fire and Emergency Services' personnel and the volunteers of Civil Defence and Surjyadip conducted mock drills in selected schools in each gaon panchayat. Drawing and quiz competitions on disaster management were also organised among the students.

An awareness meeting was also organised as a part of this programme in each gaon panchayat. The panchayat presidents, members, gaonbauras, VLCCM members, students, teachers and several others were present in these meetings.

Assistant Commissioner of Tinsukia district, Manashyoti Nath, BDOs of Hapjan, Kakoopathor and Saikhowa Development Blocks, Tikendrajit Moreang, Deepshikha Phukan and J N Hazarika respectively and the Field Officer of ASDMA for Doomdooma Revenue Circle Nabottama Sharma addressed the meetings. The prizes of the drawing and the quiz competitions were also distributed among the winners.

ADC, Tinsukia district who is also in charge of the Circle Officer of Doomdooma Revenue Circle, Pranab Kumar Borah claimed this to be a first of its kind initiative which aims to create mass awareness on local issues, including environment and natural calamities.

PMAY (Urban) gets massive response in Dhubri

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, June 15: The scheme that promises the urban poor with housing accommodation is already getting a positive response from the slum-dwellers and people from the lower income groups in Dhurbi district towns.

The survey of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) was started by the urban local bodies in the district on June 1, with the help of ward com-

missioners, individuals and NGOs. Till June 7, the mission has collected as many as 7451 forms from the urban poor, who need new and proper accommodation. Under Dhurbi Municipal Board, 3459 forms were collected while from Gauripur, Bilaspura, Saptagram and Chaper town committee areas 470, 382, 578 and 2562 forms were collected respectively.

Meanwhile, with the motive that no genuine beneficiary was

left out from the survey, the mission has extended its last date of submission of forms to June 14. "The response of the mission is really good in the urban areas of the district. With this scheme a lot of urban poor in the district will get benefited," said Mahmood Hassan, District Development Commissioner, who also added that their initiative to extend the time of submission of forms would help them to include more people under the scheme.

Workshop on transboundary Brahmaputra river organised

GUWAHATI, June 15: The Brahmaputra river basin in South Asia is home to 130 million people and is one of the most critical transboundary river systems. However, the absence of integrated management of water resources and lack of coordination among the riparian States pose a considerable threat to the future development plans within the basin. The basin houses and involve different stakeholders including communities, governments, NGOs, research academicians, media and many more. Building communication and knowledge across these stakeholders can help in promoting effective governance in the basin.

To bridge the existing knowledge gaps, build information linkages and skills, a workshop on

While NGOs and communities' concerned play a vital role, there is a distinct gap in communication among the stakeholders, along with a keen knowledge asymmetry. Generating new knowledge as well as dissemination of existing knowledge play a vital role in building capacity for effective transboundary water management. While knowledge is the key, there is also a need to enhance skills for effective negotiation, advocacy and communication to address the language and form in which issues are shared across government and non-governmental arenas.

To bridge the existing knowl-

Efforts on to rejuvenate river Kolong

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, June 15: The main source of water of the Kolong river was blocked in 1964 and, as a result, Kolong lost its glory. But now at the initiative of some people like retired principal Mukul Saikia, retired engineer Lalit Ch Dutta, Ranjit Kumar Tamul Phukan, Gupeswar Bora and other like-minded people, the effort to rejuvenate river Kolong has gained momentum. In fact, State Water Resources minister Keshab Mahanta has also joined the initiative.

The State government has formed an expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr Chandan Mahanta, which visited different parts of Nagaon district to interact with people.

In this connection, on June 14, a meeting was held at Khaagen Mahanta Auditorium which was chaired by one of the members of the expert committee, AK Mitra.

A number of conscious people like Rupak Sarma, MLA, Nagagon, Mukul Saikia, Ranjit Kumar Tamul Phukan, Gupeswar Bora and others took part. The team also met the public at Puranigaudam and Raha during their two-day field visit.

The participants observed that pollution of river water has been caused by throwing of garbage or connecting the sewage pipes directly to Kolong river, encroachments not only on the banks but on the shallow river bed also. Nagaon DC Samsher Sing

assured to take action on these problems.

On June 13, the team visited Kalabbar, where the team exchanged views with the local people. In the meeting held at Kalabbar, former minister Guman Hazarika was at the chair,

where prominent persons like Kusum Bora, Sarita Mitra, Hiru Mahanta, Hari Prasad Hazarika, Pradip Laskar, Arabinda Borguhane, Pradip Borooah and others took part. The team also met the public at Puranigaudam and Raha during their two-day field visit.

Karmachari Parisad meet:

A representative meeting of State Karmachari Parisad held here recently expressed its dissatisfaction over the proposal of the 7th Pay Commission.

In some cases, State employees are getting less pay compared to their previous pay scales, the house rent formula has also created chaos among the employees, it observed.

The Karmachari Parisad has demanded payment of the revised scale from January 1, 2016, free medical facilities, fixed TA etc. Parisad has also demanded enhanced pay for home guards, muster role and casual employees, life-long pension for unmarried daughters of employees, increased pension etc.

The Parisad also observed the death anniversary of its founder president Kamakhya Charan Choudhury, where president Basab Kalita, secretary Nagen Das and others paid tributes.

Sabka Saath Sabka Vikash Sanmilan held

CORRESPONDENTS

NALBARI, June 15: The Nalbari district administration in collaboration with Oil India Limited (OIL), a public sector undertaking organised the Sabka Saath Sabka Vikash Sanmilan at Gurdon HS School premises on June 14 on completion of three years of BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

In the Sanmilan, about 2000 beneficiaries under different Central government schemes participated. Speaking in the meeting, the MP of Manganlak Lok Sabha constituency, Ramen Loka emphasised on the need

for skill development among the new generation so that youths can come forward for self employment through skill development.

Addressing the meeting, Chandra Mohan Patowary, State Minister of Commerce and Industry said that lack of government and has become a hurdle in the growth of industry.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Ashok Kumar Sarma, MLA of Nalbari LAC, MD Gupta, general manager of OIL, Nadira Zesmine, district development commissioner, Nalbari.

TINSUKIA: As part of the nation-wide awareness programme, titled Sabka Saath Sabka Vikash, a programme was held at the Industrial Training Institute field here on Wednesday under the aegis of the Cool India Ltd. The programme, aimed to create awareness about the welfare schemes that have been undertaken by the Union Government.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Lakheswar Moran, Tinsukia District President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

A documentary produced on the progress of about 19 welfare schemes imple-

DTO services in Goalpara hit by dysfunctional system

CORRESPONDENT

GOALPARA, June 15: At a time when the government is contemplating of facilitating efficient and smooth public services to its citizens, the District Transport Office (DTO), Goalpara has not been able to render its basic services and

ditional system where applicants have to wait patiently for hours at the DTO to get things done.

Official sources pointed out that the officials have not been able to work efficiently because the entire system has become online, where all the delays in the office are caused due to the lack of sufficient power supply to feed the server and the computers, which are present running on a single phase instead of a three-phase line along with a 20 kVA transformer.

The source also revealed that there has been a short-

age of vehicles and drivers in the department, which is severely hampering the effective implementation of road traffic rules by the enforcement officials. At present, only one vehicle, that too a trekker in a dilapidated condition without any driver, has been allotted to the office, the source added.

Moreover, the RTA doesn't have an approved weight bridge on the NH 37 for checking and monitoring the overloading of trucks and public buses, which are violating

the Motor Vehicle Act, causing revenue loss as well as endangering the lives of innocent people on the roads.

Besides, the DTO requires urgent repair works as leakages through the roofs are visible in most of the office rooms after a heavy shower. Security personnel are also required to guard the cash counter and the office.

The source further added that the office is functioning without a permanent District Transport Officer since February 16, 2016.



Activists of AJYCP Jorhat district committee staging a symbolic protest against government's inaction to tackle waterlogging and various other civic problems, in Jorhat on Wednesday - UB Photos

around 25 participants from CSOs

and community leaders (with the emphasis on women) from both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The training involved interactive session on technical aspects including river flows, biodiversity and watershed management of Brahmaputra by experts such as Prof Abani K Bhagabati (Gauhati University), Dr Sanchita Boruah (Dibrugarh University), Dr Arup Kr Sarma (IIT-Guwahati). Understanding dialogue processes and its capacity for building perspectives for collaborative action on rivers was shared by Dr Anamika Barua (IIT-Guwahati), Panchali Saikia (IWM), Drushyanti Sushmita Mondal (International Water Association).

This was stated in a press release.

Plantation at Cachar DC office

SILCHAR, June 15: Giving a thrust to the ideal of 'think green and act green', saplings were planted on the premises of the office of the Cachar Deputy Commissioner here today.

Deputy Commissioner S Vishwanathan, along with ADC Rajib Roy, District Forest Officer N Anand and other officials of the district administration, took part in the plantation drive.

It may be mentioned here that two saplings were planted at the Deputy Commissioner's office complex and 10 saplings were planted in the Manoram clock tower garden at Rongpur.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Vishwanathan urged the people to plant saplings in order to keep the environment and surroundings clean and green. He said that the plantation drive was a part of the completion of 150 years of the office of the Cachar Deputy Commissioner. — Correspondent



NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No.NHNM/C-CWICHC/Serfangani/Mokra/Jan/2392/14/23

Dated Guwahati, 14th June/2017

ENCLOSURE NOTICE

The Bid process for the reconstruction of Community Health Centre [Model-Hospital] including residential quarters at Serfangani in Kokrajhar District under NRHM-C-CWICHC/Serfangani/Kokrajhar/2392/14/4471 dt 18/ May 2017 and No.NHNM/C-CWICHC/Serfangani/Kokrajhar/2392/14/27 dt.7th June 2017 is further extended as follows:-

- (i) Submission of Bid: 19/06/2017 (end date) at 14:00 hrs. (end time)
- (ii) Opening of Bid: 20/06/2017 at 15:30 hrs.
- (iii) The bids submitted earlier, will be considered in the above bid process

(iv) All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Sd/-
Mission Director NHM, Assam

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, June 15: The people of Hailakandi district and a part of the neighbouring State of Mizoram have expressed serious concern over the dilapidated condition of the inter-State National Highway-154 from Dhaleswar in Assam to Baima in Mizoram via Hailakandi town. In some parts of the highway, particularly at Manipur, Grantham, Jamira, Ghamura and Ramnathpur, the highway is in a pathetic state. In the Grantham area, slush and potholes have severely affected the movement of vehicles.

The NH is being looked after by the NH division of the State Public Works Department, but no repair works have been undertaken so far. The president of the Dhaleswar-Bairabi National Highway Demand Committee, Manash Kant Das, alleged that the local MLAs and MP are keeping mum on the issue and maintained that they should ask the Government to immediately repair the highway.

Das further alleged that the Government is reluctant towards the development of this important inter-State national highway. He said that the plying of vehicles has become impossible on the road due to the innumerable potholes and slushy terrain.

Two years back, the Barak Development Parishad, an NGO, raised questions on the quality of works on the Dhaleswar-Bairabi (Mizoram) section of the NH-154 via Hailakandi and demanded thorough inspection.

The road was declared a national highway in 2002 after a prolonged movement by the people of Hailakandi. Das said that he had contacted the Chief Engineer of the NH division of the PWD in Guwahati and added that there were no representations from the MLAs and MP for repair works on the highway.

The condition of the highway from Katlichera to Ramnathpur has deteriorated to a great extent and commuters travelling along this stretch have to risk life and limb on a regular basis. It is often noticed that goods-laden vehicles are unable to cross the highway at Grantham village in Manipur area.

Das said that when they started the movement for a national highway in Hailakandi their main demand was to hand over the execution work to the Border Road Task Force (BRTF). But the State Government decided to control the national highway itself.

In Ghamura area, the road has not been constructed even after 15 years of the declaration as a highway. Local traders are facing a lot of inconvenience as they cannot transport their goods due to the bad shape of the road.

Mock drill on disaster management

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 15: The Golghar subdivisional administrative organisation in Biswanath district organised a mock drill programme on disaster management at Chaidar College, Gopur, on Wednesday in association with Golghar and Gopur Revenue Circles, State Fire Service and National Disaster Response Force.

The meeting was presided over by Ashish Dutta, president of Sivasagar ASAU unit. The welcome address was delivered by Samiran Phukan, secretary, Sivasagar ASAU. Among others, the meeting was attended by ASAU officers, teachers Surjya Barman, Jitu Neog, Himen Barman, Ju Khoumd, Mridul Hazarika, Nilofar Raham, Birin Saikia, Pradip Borogohain, Govind Phukan, Dipen Saikia and Manas Kalita.

Bhattacharya and others gave away felicitation plaques and awards to about 100 meritorious students who achieved distinction in both the HSLC and HSSLC examinations this year.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Guwahati-781039, Assam

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CREDIT CARD SERVICES

IIT Guwahati invites Expression of Interest from Scheduled Banks of India (having branches in Guwahati) in the public as well as in Private sector for providing services of Credit Cards to IIT Guwahati (For the Principal Investigators of Externally funded research Projects). For details please visit www.iitg.ac.in/home/fender19

AR (R&D)



BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

O/o The General Manager Telecom District
Dibrugarh - 786001

No. MM-659/GMTD-PROSPECTUS/ING/TRANSPORTATION &
INSTALLATION 2016-17/TENDER/RESPONDENT Date of DR 16.06.2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tenders are invited on behalf of BSNL by the GMTD Dibrugarh for Dismantling Transportation & Installation of BTS/other equipments from registered firms/contractors having experience in BSNL/other equipments installation work in BSNL.

1. Designation and address of the authority inviting tender : **GMTD, BSNL, DIBRUGARH**

2. Minimum Validity of Tender offer : 150 days from the date of Opening.

3. Duration of contract : 1(One) Year and extend up to completion of work.

4. Estimated Cost : ₹13,80,800/-

5. Cost of Tender Fee : ₹1,150/-

6. Last date of submission of duly filled tender forms : 16/06/2017 from 11:00 Hrs to 16:30 Hrs.

7. Last date of submission of duly filled tender forms : 01/07/2017 up to 14:30 hrs.

8. Mode of payment : E-Tender document could be purchased online by DD/banker cheque drawn in favour of A O (Cash) BSNL O/o GM Telecom, Dist-Dibrugarh.

9. The tender is invited through e-tendering process, hence physical copy of tender will not be available for sale.

10. For any technical help regarding filing up of e-tender, call 9765019133.

Tender can be downloaded from website : <http://tenderwizard.com/BSNL> and can be viewed in our website www.assam.bsnl.co.in.

Sd/-, Asst. General Manager (Pig)
O/o the GMTD, BSNL, Dibrugarh

STATE NH-154 between Dhaleswar, Bairabi lying in poor shape

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, June 15: The people of Hailakandi district and a part of the neighbouring State of Mizoram have expressed serious concern over the dilapidated condition of the inter-State National Highway-154 from Dhaleswar in Assam to Baima in Mizoram via Hailakandi town. In some parts of the highway, particularly at Manipur, Grantham, Jamira, Ghamura and Ramnathpur, the highway is in a pathetic state. In the Grantham area, slush and potholes have severely affected the movement of vehicles.

The NH is being looked after by the NH division of the State Public Works Department, but no repair works have been undertaken so far. The president of the Dhaleswar-Bairabi (Mizoram) section of the NH-154 via Hailakandi and demanded thorough inspection.

The road was declared a national highway in 2002 after a prolonged movement by the people of Hailakandi. Das said that he had contacted the Chief Engineer of the NH division of the PWD in Guwahati and added that there were no representations from the MLAs and MP for repair works on the highway.

Das further alleged that the Government is reluctant towards the development of this important inter-State national highway. He said that the plying of vehicles has become impossible on the road due to the innumerable potholes and slushy terrain.

Two years back, the Barak Development Parishad, an NGO, raised questions on the quality of works on the Dhaleswar-Bairabi (Mizoram) section of the NH-154 via Hailakandi and demanded thorough inspection.

Reform SEBA, AHSEC: AASU chief adviser

ANN SERVICE

the teachers now, he stressed and suggested that the teaching methodology and techniques of private schools should be adopted in government schools too.

The AASU adviser criticised the Education Department for the pathetic condition prevailing in government schools and citing an example, Bhattacharya said that the Sivasagar Government HS School, the second oldest in Assam which was set up in 1841, has been running without a permanent principal and vice principal for over a decade. Teachers in other subjects have also not been appointed.

He urged the rank holders and others achieving distinction to choose such careers in future through which they can work in the greater interest of the people of the State. All that the students need is to combine their will power with perseverance and dedication, his said.

AASU education secretary Samir Hazarika pointed out that 2,07,000 students who are appearing in the HSLC examination failed this year, which was a great loss. Only 18 out of the 65 position holders are from government schools, which reflects on the quality of the government schools that have been plagued by shortage of staff and textbooks, non-retention policy and other issues.

The meeting was presided over by Ashish Dutta, president of Sivasagar ASAU unit. The welcome address was delivered by Samiran Phukan, secretary, Sivasagar ASAU. Among others, the meeting was attended by ASAU officers, teachers Surjya Barman, Jitu Neog, Himen Barman, Ju Khoumd, Mridul Hazarika, Nilofar Raham, Birin Saikia, Pradip Borogohain, Govind Phukan, Dipen Saikia and Manas Kalita.

Bhattacharya and others gave away felicitation plaques and awards to about 100 meritorious students who achieved distinction in both the HSLC and HSSLC examinations this year.

The mock drill programme started with an awareness meet on disaster management at the college auditorium. Following this, a mock drill was conducted by the personnel of the NDRF team at the college campus. The NDRF team demonstrated various techniques for survival during natural and man-made disaster. Students of various schools of Golghar subdivision, along with Chaidar College students, actively participated in the programme. The mock drill was led by NDRF Commandant Sunita Kumar, while it was inaugurated by Dr Anjan Kumar Ozah, principal of Chaidar College. — Correspondent

Candidates should note that no hard copy of the admission certificate will be dispatched.

Sd/- Principal Controller of Examinations
Assam Public Service Commission
Khanapara, Guwahati-22,
Janasanayog/3656/17

NOTIFICATION

In continuation of this office Notifications dated 6th June/2017, 9th June/2017 & 12th June/2017 published all leading news papers of Assam uploaded in Commission's website, it is for information of all concerned in connection with C.C., (Pre) Exam 2016 to be held on 2nd July, 2017, that an additional list of select candidates and the e-Admission Certificate for the said examination are published and uploaded in the website www.apsc.nic.in. Candidates may now check the status of their applications before downloading the e-Admission Certificate.

Candidates should note that no hard copy of the admission certificate will be dispatched.

Stress on education to check child labour

CORRESPONDENT

that the engagement of a child below 14 years of age in any kind of work is an offence and urged the public to report to the department concerned if any such instance is detected. They reiterated the need of education among children to get rid of child labour. They urged all sections of people to ensure the provision of the Right to Education in both urban and rural areas.

The day was observed under the auspices of the Department of Labour and in collaboration with the district administration, Labour Department, Social Welfare Department, Child Protection Officer Narayan Debnath, Parvez Khasru, Social Welfare Officer H Laskar, Supervisor Malvika Deb, Amitra Singh and Madhumita Deb among others. The speakers pointed out

Nation has progressed rapidly in last 3 yrs'

BISWANATH CHARIALI, June 15: Wazing eloquent on the achievements of the BJP-led Government at the Centre, Parimal Sakhdanya, Minister for PWD, Excise and Fisheries, claimed that the name of India has shined abroad due to the chairman of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The country has developed rapidly during the last three years, he claimed here on Wednesday.

Sakhdanya was taking part as the chief guest in the 'Sabha Saitha, Sabka Vikas' meet held at Kamalakanta Kshetra on the occasion of the completion of three years of the Central Government. The meet was organised by the Biswanath district administration.

The minister revealed that the Bogibeel bridge over River Brahmaputra would be opened to public transport in December.

The welcome address was delivered by Biswanath Deputy Commissioner Anikashita Chakravarty, while the earthen lamp was lit by Parliamentarian RP Sharma. — Correspondent

KMSS demands land pattas for indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

bananda Sonowal for allotting several hectares of land to Bodo, Rabha and Deori tribes in Kamalakanta Kshetra on the occasion of the completion of three years of the Central Government. The meet was organised by the Biswanath district administration.

The speaker pointed out that the speakers stressed the need of education among children to get rid of child labour. They urged all sections of people to ensure the provision of the Right to Education in both urban and rural areas.

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KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUE STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Housefield Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-6

Time Table for Degree 2nd Semester Examination 2017

Time : 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM (full paper), 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (Half Paper), 10 AM onwards (Practical)

BA	16-06-2017	20-06-2017	22-06-2017	24-06-2017	25-06-2017	26-06-2017
Mathematics						
Physics						
Chemistry						
Botany						
Zoology						
Geography						
History						
Political Science						
Psychology						
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Psychology						
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Mathematics						
Physics						
Chemistry						

CAPSULE**Amul sales up**

MUMBAI, June 15: The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets the popular Amul brand of milk and dairy products, has clocked a turnover of Rs 27,043 crore in fiscal 2017, an increase of 17.5 per cent over the previous year. However, the growth rate in the reporting year is much lower than the previous year's, when it clipped at 67 per cent to Rs 23,004 crore over fiscal 2015. -PTI

BSNL scheme

NEW DELHI, June 15: State-run telecom firm BSNL today increased per day data offering to 4GB at 3G speeds under a new prepaid mobile scheme priced at Rs 444 with 90 days validity. "Bharti Sancher Nigam Limited (BSNL) has introduced BSNL Chakka" -444, a new STV for truly unlimited data for 90 days as special promotional offer under prepaid mobile services," the company said in a statement. -PTI

RuPay credit card

CHENNAI, June 15: The National Payments Corporation of India has forayed into the credit card business and would make the commercial launch of its RuPay credit card "in a month's time," a top official said today. "Maybe in a month's time we will be able to do the commercial launch (of RuPay credit card)," NPCI Chairman M Balachandran told reporters here. -PTI

HCL hiring plan

NAGPUR, June 15: Domestic IT major HCL Technologies today said it will hire up to 2,000 people at the global IT centre being set up here. Unlike its peers, HCL is focusing on small towns to open training centres and already has such centres in Madurai and Lucknow. -PTI

SpiceJet 'jackpot'

MUMBAI, June 15: No-frills carrier SpiceJet today presented a luxury Mercedes-Benz C200t0 Lakhani Khandal, a resident of Indore, at the airline's headquarters in Gurgaon. -PTI

ATMA call

CHENNAI, June 15: Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) representing the Rs 50,000-crore automotive tyre industry has sought policy-level changes for a "level playing field" and a "proper export policy," officials said today. "We welcome competition. But, what we want is suitable policies that will give us a level playing field. On exports... Give me a policy that will double my exports" ATMA Chairman Satish Sharma told reporters here. -PTI

Dena Bank

NEW DELHI, June 15: State-owned Dena Bank has cut interest rates on home loans above Rs 30 lakh and up to Rs 75 lakh by 5 basis points. The bank has revised its rates by 10 basis points for loans above Rs 75 lakh. The reduction in rates follows reduction in risk weight by the Reserve Bank. -PTI

Builders must pass on lower GST benefit to buyers: Finmin

NEW DELHI, June 15: The Government today asked builders to pass on the benefit of lower tax under the GST system to buyers by reducing prices and instalments, otherwise the action will be violative of the anti-proteeing clause.

"The builders are expected to pass on the benefit of lower tax burden under the goods and services tax (GST) system to buyers of property by way of reduced prices/installments. It is, therefore, advised to all builders/construction companies that for flats under construction, they should not ask customers to pay higher tax rate on installments to be received after GST

imposition," a Finance Ministry statement said here.

"Despite this clarity, if any builder resorts to such practice, the same can be deemed to be profiteering under Section 171 of the GST law," the statement said.

The clarification came as the Government said that the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and States have received several complaints that in view of the works contract service tax rate under GST at 12 per cent in respect of under-construction flats and complexes, people who have booked flats and made part payments are being asked to make the full payment before July 1 or face higher tax.

"This is against the GST law," the Government said.

The construction of flats, complexes, and buildings will have a lower GST as compared to a plot of land and Central and State indirect taxes under the GST law," the statement added.

Under the GST, the full input credit will be available for offsetting the headline rate of 12 per cent.

"The input taxes embedded in the flat will not form a part of the flat's cost. The input credit should take care of the headline rate of 12 per cent and it is for this reason that refund of overflow of input tax credits to the builder has been disallowed," the statement said.

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IOC move to ensure smooth daily revision of fuel prices

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 15: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is taking a number of initiatives for ensuring that the daily price revision exercise – an initiative for ensuring the best possible prices to the customers as well as improved transparency in the pricing mechanism – does not cause any inconvenience to the customers as well as the dealers.

"IOC, the nation's largest fuel retailer, has stepped up efforts to provide information on daily price revisions through various means including LED screens at petrol pumps, toll-free number, social media posts, and price revision alert on app as well SMS facility. Also, for the convenience of customers, every petrol pump will now have its dealer's code prominently displayed allowing consumers to verify prices through SMS," an IOC official said.

While petrol pumps will be displaying the daily prices, there are various other ways to check the daily prices. Customers can access IndianOil's mobile app Fuel@IOC to the rates. Alternatively, customers

can also check the prices in their cities by sending SMS RSP< SPACE > DEALER code to 92249-92249. The dealer code of each petrol pump would be prominently displayed at the dealer's end. The control room cell at 70 Divisional Offices will be manned

by Technical, Operations and Retail Sales officers, while at its 16 State Offices, the control room cell will be manned by Information Systems (IS), Engineering and Retail Sales officers. The apex cell at Marketing Head Office, Mumbai will comprise officers from IS, Pricing and Retail groups. These control rooms will operate round the clock till the system to establish an appropriate mechanism for daily price revision stabilises.

Tender Notice No. 01/MED/TSK**of 2017-18 Bid: 07-06-2017**

Open Tenders are invited by Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/N.F. Railway Lumping and on behalf of the President of India for the work as follows:

E-Tender No. & Date: SNT-09-LMG-2017-18 dated : 08-06-2017

Tender document can be obtained from N.F. Railway, Tinsukia

Address: 10, N.F. Railway, Tinsukia

Time & Date of closing of E-Tender : 19-07-2017 at 15.00 hrs.

For details visit : N.F. Railway website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

Note : (i) Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids online through IRPS portal.

(ii) The tender isare required to submit his/her tender through http://www.ireps.gov.in website.

(iii) Manual bidding is not allowed in the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The bidders

have to make payment towards the tender cost, earnest money only through payment mode available on IRPS portal like net banking, ATM, Debit/Credit Card, Internet Banking etc.

Tender documents will also be available on www.ireps.gov.in

ways.gov.in during the amention period and same can be downloaded and used as tender documents for submitting the tender.

Medical Superintendent : N.F. Railway, Tinsukia

Correspondence To : Stores

Stores Notice No. S/15/2017 dated 19-05-2017

Please read the Description & Specification as follows:

Emergency Autoclave, Lamp Unit, type: Autoclave 12/12, capacity:

Service Maintenance-Free Battery for SC AC and Non-AC Coaches conforming to the RDSO's

Spec. No. RDSO/SC/2016/April/

AC/0180-2016 Rev. 07, against the open tender No. 401960470/NOT/

LNG-2017 dated 19-05-2017 published on 19-05-2017.

Tender document can be obtained from N.F. Railway, Tinsukia

Address: 10, N.F. Railway, Tinsukia

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Naidu speaks to Pawar, TDP chief on Presidential election

NEW DELHI, June 15: Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu today spoke to NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who is part of the opposition bloc, and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, a BJP ally, over the presidential poll.

While Chandrababu said he would support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call on the presidential nominee, Pawar offered no assurance and said he would be in the National Capital in a few days for further talks on the matter.

The three-member committee, of which Naidu besides Rajnath Singh and Arun Jaitley are members, formed by BJP chief Amit Shah to consult political parties has so far reached

out to Congress, BSP, NCP, TDP, CPM and AIUC (NR).

Formal consultations begin tomorrow with Naidu and Singh scheduled to meet Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

A group of nine opposition parties, including the Congress, the Left and the NCP besides the likes of the SP, BSP, JD(U) and RJD, has maintained that they will finalise their stand after the BJP-led NDA discloses its candidate.

Many of them have made it clear that they will put up a joint candidate if the BJP nominee is seen as someone with strong Hindutva background. — PTI

DARJEELING, June 15: The Gorkha separatist campaign in the hills of Darjeeling spiralled deeper into violence today as protesters and riot police hurled stones at each other, while a series of raids uncovered weapons from premises connected to the movement's chief.

The demand by the GJM for a separate Gorkhaland State is fast turning into a major political crisis for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and is likely to cripple the tourist industry during the peak summer season.

"The present situation in the hills is created by the State government. They want to suppress us using huge police force," GJM general secretary Roshan Giri told PTI. He said the Centre and the State government should solve the "political problem".

In the fog-shrouded hilly

roads of Darjeeling, GJM activists with paramilitary personnel, hurling stones from a distance. The policemen responded by throwing stones back as a car burnt near. It was not clear if the car was that of a civilian or a tourist.

Earlier today, police re-

covered more than 300 weapons, including arrows and explosives in raids on Pattekas areas of Darjeeling. The developments came a day after Gurung said that his group's campaign will not stop until a separate Gorkhaland State is created. He has asked tourists to avoid Darjeeling Hills.

Policemen said some party ac-

ADVERTISEMENT

It is general information for the candidates who have applied for the posts of Assistant Professors in various subjects in Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Eraligool, Dist. Karimganj that due to shortage of time no individual call letters will be issued to them. However information regarding date, time, venue etc of interview for the eligible candidates will be uploaded in website i.e. www.karimganj.gov.in and also communicate through e-mail and SMS to the available nos. so they are hereby asked to visit the website for this purpose.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner,
Karimganj & President
PDUAMV, Eraligool, Karimganj

Janasanyog/3608/17

Centre dispatches 600 paramilitary personnel to assist the State govt Darjeeling Hills unrest: Protesters clash with police

Centre dispatches 600 paramilitary personnel to assist the State govt

Implement Swaminathan Commission, demands 'kisan mahapanchayat'

NEW DELHI, June 15: A "kisan mahapanchayat" organised by the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) at Jantar Mantar here today called for providing remunerative prices to farmers and the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission Report.

The government is treating farmers as "thugs" by denying them dues while extending massive waivers to industrialists in the country, senior CPI leader Atul Kumar Anjan said.

"Even if half of the recommendations

of the Swaminathan Commission are implemented, 70 per cent problems faced by the farmers will be solved," said Anjan, who was a member of the commission formed in 2004.

BKU president Naresh Tikait said the government not listening to farmers was the reason behind the "discontent and unrest" simmering among them in various States.

"We are not against the Government of India but we are against its anti-farmer policies. We cannot allow the

government to avoid listening to and addressing the problems faced by the farmers," Tikait said.

As a mark of protest, the BKU will organise yoga sessions on the highways in Uttar Pradesh on June 21, the International Yoga Day, over "inaction" on part of the government in solving the agrarian crisis.

The farmers' outfit also demanded a CBI inquiry into the death of farmers in police firing at Madhya Pradesh's Mandaur district. — PTI

MLAs 'payoff' row DMK, allies stage walkout

CHENNAI, June 15: The DMK today made a vain bid to raise the issue of alleged horse-trading of IAJADM MLAs and staged a walkout in Tamil Nadu Assembly along with its allies Congress and IJUL after Speaker P Dhanajam disallowed their plea for the second day.

A day after the matter rocked the Assembly leading to a mass eviction of DMK members, Leader of the Opposition MK Stalin tried to raise the issue "of some legislators being in the news" for the past three days.

However, the Speaker said he had already given his ruling that the matter yesterday that it could not be discussed on sub-judice ground. Also, it was based on media reports.

The matter related to ported claims by O Panneerselvam camp MLA SS Saravanan in a TV 'sting' operation

against DEE, Asaram, and Provisional Select List of Assistant Teacher, Science Teacher, Hindi Teacher, Arabic Teacher of UP Schools will be published against DEE, Asaram advertisement No. EAA/SIU/10/2017/25 Dated 30.03.2017 and Provisional Select List of Assistant Teacher, Science Teacher, Hindi Teacher, Arabic Teacher of UP Schools will be published against DEE, Asaram advertisement No. EAA/SIU/10/2017/25 Dated 30.03.2017 in respect of following districts in the month of the 16th June, 2017 in the website www.pupteachers.com:

1. Dhubri, 2. Lakhimpur, 3. Morigaon, 4. Nagaon

The candidates who have applied for the regular vacant post of teacher in LP and UP Schools are requested to go through the website for their result.

Any specific query in respect of the Provisional Select List shall only be submitted through the website www.pupteachers.com only within 2 days from the date of publication of the Provisional Select List. After this period no query will be accepted.

Under no circumstances offline query will be accepted in this regard.

Sd/- Director, Elementary Education, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Home Ministers' meet on internal security postponed

NEW DELHI, June 15: A meeting of State Home Ministers, called by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to discuss the internal security situation in the country, was today postponed for an indefinite period. The meeting, which was scheduled for July 3, has been postponed "indefinitely", a home ministry official said. No reason has been cited for the deferment of the meeting, nor a new date given. Sources said the reluctance of a few non-BJP ruled State governments to participate in the meeting could be the reason for the postponement. The prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, cross-border terrorism, Maoist violence and other issues were expected to be discussed at the meeting. — PTI

Verdict in second leg of Mumbai blast trial likely today

MUMBAI, June 15: A special TADA court here is likely to pronounce tomorrow its judgement in the second leg of the trial in 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case involving seven accused including extradieted gangster Abu Salem. The dastardly attacks had left 257 people dead, 713 seriously injured and destroyed properties worth Rs 27 crore. In the first leg of the trial that concluded in 2007, the TADA court had convicted 100 accused in the case, while 23 people were acquitted. — PTI

DU's first cut-off list for UG programmes on June 23

NEW DELHI, June 15: The Delhi University's first list of candidates for admission to its undergraduate programmes will be announced on the evening of June 23. Initially, the date fixed for release of first cut-off list was June 20. Although the university had announced that it would release six cut-off lists, dates of only five have been announced so far. More cut-off lists would be announced depending on the vacancy. After the first cut-off list is announced on June 23 evening, admissions would begin the next day, a release from the office of the Delhi University registrar said. The dates for release of subsequent cut-off lists are July 1, July 7, July 13 and July 18. — PTI

Decision on next AG at appropriate time: Prasad

NEW DELHI, June 15: The government will take a decision on appointing a new attorney general at an "appropriate time", Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said today. Incumbent Mukul Rohatgi recently conveyed to the government that he would like to be relieved from the post he has held for three years. "We have taken note of request of the AG not to continue due to personal reasons. We respect that Rohatgi has been a very distinguished AG. He has served with great distinction," the minister told reporters here. — PTI

Mumbai couple among 7 file papers for Prez poll

NEW DELHI, June 15: Seven persons have filed nominations for the presidential poll so far, including a couple from Mumbai who would like very much if one of them became President and the other Vice President.

While six persons filed their papers yesterday, when the nomination process started, only one person, Jeevan Kumar Mittal from the National Capital, did so today.

The nominations of all seven are liable to be rejected as none had the signatures of 50 proposers and as many seconder from the list of electors, essential for a valid nomination. — PTI

Returning Officer for Election to the Office of President of India, 2017

Anoop Mishra
Returning Officer for Election to the Office of President of India, 2017

Janasanyog/3562/17

মহাশয়/মহাশয়া
আপোনাক/আপোনাকের জন্মবলৈ পাই দুবী হৈছে যে কেকীয়া চৰকাৰৰ সফল তৃতীয় বৰ্ষগতি উপলক্ষে আহা ১৭
জৰা, ২০১৭ ইৰাবতী তাৰিখ মিনি ১১-০০ বৰ্ষত বাবুইয়া তিলা প্ৰশাসনৰ উদ্যোগত তথা অৰ্থাৎ ইউনিভার্সিটিৰ
সহযোগত বড়ভাইয়াও গাছী মহানন্দ 'স্বৰ্বকা সাথ-স্বৰ্বকা বিকাশ' শীৰ্ষক এৰনি সন্ধিলনীৰ আৰম্ভণেন কৰা হৈছে। উক্ত
অনুষ্ঠানত পোকাক্ষণ্ণ সমষ্টিৰ সন্ধানীয় বিধায়ক ঔষুণ্ডি অৰ্থনী বাসৰ সৰকাৰৰ দেৰে মুখ্য অভিযোগ হিচাপে অৰ্থগ্ৰহণ
কৰিব।
উক্ত সন্ধিলনীৰ সমূহ কাম্পন্যাত আপোনা/আপোনাকেৰ উপলক্ষত তথা সহায় সহযোগিতা আন্তৰিকতাৰে
কৰামন কৰা হৈল।

বড়ভাইয়া
তাৰিখ ১১-০৬-২০১৭
Janasanyog/562/17

জেলা প্ৰশাসন
বড়ভাইয়া

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister, Assam

GET READY FOR
GST

GST will be rolled out with effect
from 1st July, 2017

- GST Acts & Rules are available in Public domain on www.tax.assam.gov.in
- Assam Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 notified
- GST rates on Goods & Services announced
- Existing tax payers shall have to migrate to GST in order to avail balance credit on transitional stock
- Provisional registration certificate will be allotted to the migrated tax payer on the date of implementation of GST
- New tax payer shall register themselves to avail inter-state and intra-state input tax credit (ITC)
- GST awareness workshops held by the tax department throughout the State in co-ordination with the Commissionerate of Central Excise
- GST Law and Frontend software training completed for all officers and staff
- Frontend software training also being imparted to various stakeholders

Janasanyog/358/17

Issued in public interest by: Commissionerate of Taxes, Government of Assam

Hautie couture can be credited for enhancing more than just catwalks and red carpets, as a new study suggests that the 3D or "stereoscopic" vision of dressmakers is as sharp as their needocraft.

Sharp vision

Dressmakers have needle-sharp 3D vision, finds a study

Stereoscopic vision is the brain's ability to decode the flat 2D optical information received by both eyes to give us the depth of perception needed to thread a needle, catch a ball, park a car and generally navigate a 3D world.

Using computerised perceptual tasks, researchers from University of California (UC), Berkeley, in the US and the University of Geneva in Switzerland, tested the stereoscopic vision of dressmakers and other professionals, and found dressmakers to be the most eagle-eyed.

The results, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, show dressmakers to be 80 per cent more accurate than non-dressmakers at calculating the distance between themselves and the objects they were looking at, and 43 per cent better at estimating the distance between objects.

"We found dressmakers have superior

stereovision, perhaps because of the direct feedback involved with fine needlework," said study lead author Adrien Chopin, a postdoctoral researcher at UC Berkeley.

What researchers are still determining is whether dressmaking sharpens stereoscopic vision, or whether dressmakers are drawn to the trade because of their visual stereo-acuity, Chopin said.

It has generally been assumed that surgeons, dentists and other medical professionals who perform precise manual procedures would have superior stereovision. However, previous studies have shown this not to be the case.

That spurred Chopin to investigate which professions would produce or attract people with superior stereovision, and led him to dressmakers.

For the study, participants viewed objects on a computer screen through a stereoscope and judged the distances between objects, and between themselves and the objects.

Researchers recorded their visual precision and found that, overall, dressmakers performed markedly better than their non-dressmaker counterparts in visual acuity.

A better understanding of dressmakers' stereoscopic superpowers will inform ongoing efforts to train people with visual impairments such as amblyopia or "lazy eye" to strengthen their stereoscopic vision, Chopin said.

In addition to helping people with sight disorders, improved stereoscopic vision may be key to the success of military fighters, athletes and other occupations that require keen hand-eye coordination.

An estimated 10 per cent of people suffer from some form of stereoscopic impairment, and five per cent suffer from full stereo blindness, Chopin said.

For example, the 17th-century Dutch painter Rembrandt, whose self-portraits occasionally showed him with one lazy eye, is thought to have suffered from stereo blindness, rendering him flat vision.

Some vision scientists have posited that painters tend to have poorer stereovision, which gives them an advantage working in 2D.

(Source: PTI)

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! For Friday, June 16, 2017:

This year you easily could feel conflicted. Your mind and emotions seem to be battling each other. Take an overview, and assess what would be the best way of communicating and interacting. A new approach could prove to be the most successful. If you're unsure, this is the time to really sit and be projected onto any situation you encounter. Romance has come up come fall. If you are attached, the two of you really enjoy being together. You and your sweetie might be considering making a major change at home. PISCES can be overly emotional.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** You could be slightly disconcerted by a change you see. Avoid overthinking it, and try not to lose your focus. Your intuition becomes a strong force in making decisions. Use your insight when deciding what works best for you. Tonight: Make it OK to maintain a low profile.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

*** Gain as much as possible. In general, you tend to make quite a difference when dealing with sensitive matters, as you have the ability to draw others out. Your ideas appeal to many people and are likely to spark their ingenuity. Just accept someone else's invitation.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

*** Taking charge could add to your list of responsibilities. Someone's expectations of what you can do might be very different from what you actually can do. Your sixth sense guides you in your interactions with an important person in your life. Tonight: A must appearance.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

*** Fresh out to go at a distance. Understand what is at the root of a disagreement between you and a close friend. Solve the real issue and not the superficial manifestation of it. Do not push for an immediate solution. Trust your inner voice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Relate closely to those around you. You could gain some insight by slowing down and stopping to think about what has changed. A financial agreement made today might fall apart or have a bad outcome. Try to see the big picture. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** You have to do a better job of listening. The person who shares some news with you might not be intentionally deceptive, but he or she could be leaving out some important information. Avoid making any decisions right now. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Know that you might miss an important detail regarding a key project. There seems to be sufficient chaos around you and others. Mistakes are likely to be made. Allow your imagination the freedom of wandering more. Tonight: Don't overthink a situation; live in the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** You have to make some sense of what to do and when. Refusing to follow these instincts would be unwise. Someone close to you might not be aware of his or her own feelings. Be careful when dealing with this person, as a backfire could occur. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

*** Pressure builds on the horizon. You could feel as if you are misunderstood. What others don't realize is that you have a multifaceted personality. Confusion surrounds you. What you thought was a given, actually isn't. Ask more questions if need be. Tonight: Happy at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Consider what could be out of whack. You'll think you understand what is being conveyed, only to find out otherwise. Plans could be tossed in the air, and misunderstandings are likely to emerge as a result. If you can, remove your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Hang out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Use caution with your finances. You easily could make a mistake, so don't forget to count your change. A little skepticism goes a long way in determining which direction you should head in. Do not make a kind of agreement right now. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner and drinks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** A lot might be going on, but trust yourself to come out smiling. Someone close to you shakes up the status quo. You might look at this person differently in a few days. You could feel as if it is time for you to take a stronger role in your emotional life. Tonight: As you like it.

Thought for the day
Absolute morality is the regulation of conduct in such a way that pain shall not be inflicted.

- HERBERT SPENCER

Kids Entertainment



16:00 We Bare Bears

17:00 10 Team Trains Go

18:00 Roll No. 21

19:00 Hindi Honey

20:30 Roll No. 21

21:00 Team Trains Go

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GST a blessing for households

SINGLE TAX TO BRING DOWN PRICES OF MOST HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



81% of items to fall below/in 18% GST slab.

EXEMPTED FROM GST

Unpacked Foodgrains, Gur, Milk, Eggs, Curd, Lassi, Unpacked Paneer, Unbranded Natural Honey, Fresh Vegetables, Unbranded Atta, Unbranded Maida, Unbranded Besan, Prasad, Palmyra Jaggery, Salt, Kajal, Phool Bhari Jhadoo, Children's Drawing and Colouring Books, Education Services and Health Services

ONLY 5% GST

Sugar, Tea, Roasted Coffee Beans, Edible Oils, Skimmed Milk Powder, Milk Food for Babies, Packed Paneer, PDS Kerosene, Domestic LPG, Fabric, Footwear (upto ₹ 500), Apparels (upto ₹ 1,000), Cashew Nuts, Raisin, Agarbatti, Coal, Coir Mats, Matting and Floor Covering

12% GST

Butter, Ghee, Almonds, Fruit Juice, Packed Coconut Water, Preparations of Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts (including Pickle, Murabba, Chutney, Jam, Jelly), Umbrella and Mobiles

18% GST

Hair Oil, Toothpaste, Soap, Pasta, Corn Flakes, Soups, Ice-cream, Toiletries, Computers and Printers



deep 15502/13/038-17/18

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Directorate General of Taxpayer Services
CENTRAL BOARD OF EXCISE & CUSTOMS
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GST related query

HS Prannoy of India in action against Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia during their match of the Indonesia Open at Jakarta, on Thursday.



Prannoy stuns World No. 1 Lee, Srikanth shocks Jorgensen

JAKARTA, June 15: India's HS Prannoy stunned World No. 1 Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia in straight games to storm into the quarterfinals of the USD 1,000,000 Indonesia Super Series Premier here today.

The World No. 25 Indian, who went into the match with a 0-2 head-to-head record, saw off three-time Olympic silver medalist Lee 21-10, 21-18 in a 40-minute men's singles contest at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

"Lee looked ordinary today and I took my chances. I was very happy to have won," Prannoy told PTI.

Kidambi Srikanth also dug deep into his reservoir to notch up a stunning 21-15, 20-22, 21-16 victory over fourth seed Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark to make the quarters too.

"Tough match today but happy to be on the winning side," said Srikanth after the match.

Prannoy will next face Olympic champion Chen Long of China, while Srikanth will meet the winner of the match between Chinese Taipei's Tsai Wei Wang and Hong Kong's Ng Keng Long Ang.

Prannoy looked to be in great touch as he opened up a 6-0 lead in the opening game and then jumped up to a 10-3 advantage. After the break, the Indian continued to move ahead to eventually pocket the game without much ado.

In the second game, Prannoy once again held a 10-6 lead, which was quickly erased by Lee, who had a 13-12 advantage for a brief time.

Prannoy soon changed gears to surge to 17-14 but Lee again levelled the scores before the Indian shut the door with some good points to foil the top seed's chance of clinching his record 7th Indonesian title.

World No. 22 Srikanth, however, had to toil hard to get across Jorgensen, ranked 9th. The 24-year-old from Guntur had beaten Jorgensen in straight games during their last meeting at the Rio Olympics and he once again had the last laugh in the 55-minute hard-fight battle.

The opening game was fought tooth and nail by both the players as they moved neck and neck till 10-10. After that, Srikanth slowly moved away and reeled off four straight points at 17-15 to grab the game.

In the second game, the duo was engaged in a fierce fight as neither gave an edge. After being locked at 11-11, Jorgensen moved to a 15-12 lead but Srikanth kept fighting till the end to claw back at 20-20.

However, Jorgensen managed to earn the two points to stay afloat in the competition.

In the decider, Jorgensen zoomed to a 5-0 advantage but Srikanth showed tremendous grit in the face of adversity to turn the tables with six straight points before slowly dismantling himself from the Dane. -PTI

Man Utd sign Lindelof

MANCHESTER, June 15: Manchester United have completed the signing of Victor Lindelof from Benfica after the defender passed a medical.

Lindelof, who has cost United £30.7million, arrived at the club's Carrington training base on Wednesday morning before signing a four-year contract.

The 22-year-old has long been a target of manager Jose Mourinho, who decided against a move for the player in January.

The Sweden international has revealed his joy at moving to Old Trafford, where he will stay until the summer of 2021.

It is also understood that Benfica could be due a further £8.8m in add-ons.



In an interview on the club's official website, he said: "I am thrilled to be joining Manchester United."

"I have enjoyed my time at Benfica enormously and I have learned a lot there."

"But I'm looking forward to playing in the Premier League at Old Trafford and for Jose Mourinho."

"I'm keen to get started and make my contribution to the team's efforts to win more trophies."

He will get his chance to play with his new teammates in the summer when United go on their tour of the US.

Mourinho believes Lindelof will add depth to his defensive line for next season, with the side competing in the Champions League.

"Victor is a very talented young player, who has a great future ahead of him at United," added Mourinho.

"Our season last year showed us that we need options and quality to add depth to the squad and Victor is the first to join us this summer."

"I know that our fantastic group of players will welcome him as one of us..." Agencies

Sharapova receives invite to Stanford

LOS ANGELES, June 15:

Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova has received an invitation to play at the WTA Stanford tournament at the end of next month as the Russian star continues her return from a doping suspension.

Sharapova's comeback from a 15-month doping ban will include a stop at Stanford University for the July 31-August 6 event, organisers announced on Wednesday. Officials gave the 30-year-old Sharapova a wildcard entry as she gets set to compete in the tournament for the first time in six years.

"I am excited to return to the Bank of the West Classic and would like to thank the tournament for giving me the opportunity to play," Sharapova said.

Former world number one Victoria Azarenka is also in the 28-player singles draw.

Sharapova tested positive for melonium, a heart and blood boosting drug, at the 2016 Australian Open. She said that she had taken it for several years and did not know it



had been placed on the banned list at the beginning of 2016.

Sharapova was issued a two-year suspension but the Court of Arbitration for Sport reduced the ban on appeal.

Sharapova, ranked 173rd in the world, made her return in April at Stuttgart, reaching the semifinals. She had been due to try to qualify for Wimbledon but she pulled out earlier this week, citing a muscle injury.

She was denied an invite to the French Open, which wrapped up on Sunday. - Agencies

Assam players shine in AITA tourney

GUWAHATI, June 15: Altogether eight Assam junior players made it to the semifinals of the ongoing AITA Champion Series Tennis Tournament organised by the All Assam Tennis Association at its own complex at Chachal, here.

Andy Thaosei, Jigyashan Hazarika and Mamman Nath in the boys U-12 singles event; Medhanish Jain, Anchit Gogoi and Arunesh Borah in the boys U-14 category; Tanishqa Patar in the girls U-12 age group and Kristi Boro in the girls U-14 event stormed into the semifinals defeating their respective opponents today.

Today's results (Boys U-12, Q/F) Top seed Andy Thaosei bt 7th seed K Mani Sahoo 6-2, 6-1; 6th seed Jigyashan Hazarika bt 3rd seed Gopal Das 6-0, 6-1; Geetika Upadhyay bt 8th seed Tanishqa Patar Das 6-0, 6-2 (Upset); Bricky Saikia bt 2nd seed Arya Bhattacharya 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 (Upset); **(Boys U-14, Q/F)** Arunava Majumdar bt seed Kritika Samra 6-1, 6-3 (Upset); Medhanish Jain bt 4th seed Aditya P Bhagat 6-0, 6-4 (Upset); Anchit Gogoi bt 6th seed Rishabh Pathak 6-0, 6-2; Arunesh Borah bt 2nd seed Arka Baruah 6-3, 7-6(6); **(Girls U-12, Q/F)** Top seed Bhumi Shekhar bt Sumire Jaiswal 6-3, 6-2; 3rd seed Soha Singh bt 5th seed Oindrila Sen 6-3, 6-3; 4th seed Tanishqa Patar bt 6th seed Narmata Das 6-0, 6-2; Kristi Boro bt 7th seed Shreya Bhattacharya 6-3, 6-1; **(Girls U-14, Q/F)** Top seed Kriti Boro bt 7th seed Soha Singh 6-0, 6-4 (Upset); 3rd seed Charmin Nongkampam bt 4th seed Simran Neha Eka 6-4, 6-4 (Upset); 5th seed Bhumi Shekhar bt 6th Seed Shreya Bhattacharya 6-1, 6-3; 2nd seed Ishika Chakma bt 8th seed Justina Borgohain 6-2, 6-0.

ACA fitness camp begins

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 15: Despite facing acute financial crisis, the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) today started the pre-season conditioning camp at their Barsapara stadium here.

Altogether 44 players including Ranji probables, U-23 and U-19 players, attended the camp on the inaugural day. ACA secretary Diporaj Buragohain, vice president Debojyoti Sarker and assistant secretary Kamalika Sarker were present in the brief inaugural function.

BCCI trainer Nishanta Bordoloi has been appointed as chief trainer of the camp while he will be assisted by ACA cricket academy trainer Taulihud Ali Talukdar, Kaustav Bharadwaj will assist the players as the physio.

ACA secretary Buragohain said that the camp has been organised in order to bring the players in proper shape prior to the upcoming Ranji season. He further revealed that the effort of the ACA has been lauded by several former Ranji players.

Int'l armwrestler passes away

GUWAHATI, June 15: Ishaku Choudhury, an international level armwrestler, died in a road mishap at Nongpoh on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Ishaku was a gold medallist at the national championship in the 105 kg category. He also took part in Asian and world level championships.

He leaves behind his wife and daughter. The All Assam Armwrestling Association secretary Prahlad Shankar Bhagawati condoled the demise of the promising armwrestler.

Kidambi Srikanth of India in action against Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark during their match of the Indonesia Open at Jakarta, on Thursday.

Rishabh, Kuldeep included for Windies tour

BIRMINGHAM, June 15: mit led by MSK Prasad to try the two youngsters against a weaker international side.

The other significant devel-

oping back after a hamstring injury, the team management probably don't want to play too many back to back matches



Quotid: Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Ajinkya Rahane, MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Kedar Jadhav, Hardik Pandya, Dinesh Karthik, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravinder Jadeja, Ravindra Jadeja, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvnesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav.

as he has already played a month

and a half of Indian Premier League followed by the Champions Trophy.

In case of Rohit, who is com-

ing back from a hamstring injury, Pant has a hawk eye on his fragile ham-

string. It is pretty clear that Indian team management wanted Rohit to play this tourney desperately and then give him his debut. - PTI

With Rohit not there, Pant could be a choice for opener but as has been the norm, Ajinkya Rahane will be the top contender to open the innings with Shikhar Dhawan.

Pant will certainly feature in the half-T20 International, having already made his debut. - PTI

Since their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 edition, England had won plaudits for the dynamic way they had re-invented themselves as a 'white-ball' side and they came into this match having won 11 of their previous 12 ODIs.

Pakistan then cruised to their victory target, finishing on 215 for two with a massive 77 balls to spare.

But Morgan promised lessons

to have won all three of their group games.

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Pakistan then cruised to their victory target, finishing on 215 for two with a massive 77 balls to spare.

But Morgan promised lessons

Eoin Morgan leads his players off the field after the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal defeat against Pakistan at SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff, on Wednesday.



Morgan vows England will 'stay true' to beliefs

CARDIFF, June 15: England captain Eoin Morgan insisted his side would stay true to their attacking style after an eight-wicket Champions Trophy semifinal thrashing by Pakistan.

Wednesday's loss in Cardiff meant England's wait for a first major ICC One-Day International tournament triumph will continue until at least 2019 – when they stage the next World Cup.

Since their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 edition, England had won plaudits for the dynamic way they had re-invented themselves as a 'white-ball' side and they came into this match having won 11 of their previous 12 ODIs.

They were also the only team in the eight-nation Champions Trophy

to have won all three of their group games.

But they failed to come to terms with battoning on a used pitch after Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed won the toss.

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But Morgan promised lessons

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

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

HORIZON

The Assam Tribune
GUWAHATI

FRIDAY
JUNE 16, 2017



The future of technology

Bedanta Choudhury on how the Internet of Things is revolutionising our lives.

Just as the internet revolutionised humanity over the last 20 years, making information available at the tip of one's finger, today we stand at the threshold of yet another revolution – the Internet of Things (IoT). The IoT revolution pivots around the principle that anything that can be connected, will be connected. It relies on the increasing ‘smartness’ of devices and appliances – smartphones, smart televisions, smart cars, and smart watches, to name a few. A gadget is said to be smart when it has the ability to sense and process information, and possibly exchange information with other devices, and in some cases, take intelligent decisions, and trigger specifications based on information analysis.

The government is envisioning smart cities, where there would be sensors distributed across the city to collect various information, to be transmitted to aggregators and processing nodes, and a certain action implemented thereupon. For example, traffic sensors at a certain street can proactively alert potential incoming vehicles from other streets, and recommend drivers to take detours to avoid delays due to expected traffic snarls or in the extreme case, force a smart car to automatically steer into another lane! Does it sound like science fiction? Well, it will be plausible soon, just as today's possibility of watching your favourite video anywhere, anytime on a handheld device, would sound a distant dream two decades ago.

How convenient and efficient it would be for everyone in the streets if the IoT system could help in counting pedestrians on the footpath, and cars on the streets to synchronise traffic lights, so that neither cars nor humans have to wait unnecessarily just because the traffic signal lights have been programmed to wait for a fixed duration. This is reasonably plausible; smart lighting, for example, is already in use in hotels and offices, where some lights turn on only when they detect human activity. Tomorrow's offices, buildings and homes will be increasingly smart, not only for efficiency, but also for energy conservation for ecological reasons.

The electronics industry is envisaging smart buildings, smart homes and smart industries of the future that will extensively leverage the IoT infrastructure. The world will become a cobweb of small devices, interconnected with one another, sensing, processing and taking intelligent decisions on their own, delivering productivity and efficiency for the larger benefit of humanity. The smartphones that are the most widely used connected devices today, would serve as crucial components of this network, and remain as handheld user interfaces of choice, along with smart wearable devices such as smart watches.

The 5G mobile broadband technology that is being developed today, shall connect various Internet-enabled devices, and emerge as the connectivity backbone of the future IoT infrastructure. 5G that is expected to be commercialised by 2020, will transcend smartphones, and harness multitude of intelligent devices embedded in gadgets and mundane objects, enabling them to capture, send and receive information.

The sensors on the IoT network could be of different types, such as temperature sensors, humidity sensors, motion and speed sensors,

to mythical Sphinx sculptures and hieroglyphs of Egypt; from the jade life-sized terracotta army, ornate bronze tapestries, and silk work of China to Shamanic African wooden masks; from the decorative tattoo art of Scandinavia, Polynesia, Mesoamericans, Scotland to religious temple and cave paintings; murals of India; to ink painting, wood-block printmaking of Japan, art is everywhere.

The socio-cultural confluences, the cross-pollination of Western and Eastern world and the major historical

colours, media, the title of art, which may vary from person to person.

What is good art?

A good art is the one which maintains a perfect balance of excellent execution of skills and technique, concept colour and form and most importantly, that which touches the mind, soul and heart of every viewer.

For example, a well-crafted object with nothing to say is just an ordinary piece of art, whereas something that shows intelligence, imagination and creativity can sometimes be good art, even



Chiranjib Barooah

Art is the most powerful medium of self-expression, conveying a set of intellectual theories, giving form to the formless, a portal into other aesthetics apart from its beauty and life-enriching experience.

To a layman, art may be a technically skilled representation of something intangible, a decoration, a way to create illusionary presence. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. It ignores a host of other motives like:

► Executing a predictable purpose,

- Exhibiting technical skill,
- Illustrating ideas and narratives,
- Preserving age-old customs and traditions,
- Capturing history, folklore and mythology through visuals,
- Documenting things and events and educating the literate to list a few.

Since time immemorial, humans have left behind traces of artistic capabilities throughout the ages, from cave paintings of the Palaeolithic Age, the Stone Age Pagan goddess of fertility sculptures to Sumerian reliefs on vases, from monumental epic Assyrian sculptures, the Ishtar Gate of Babylon

if its technique is ostensibly poor.

Future and scope of art

Digital revolution has enabled artists to use their talents and expertise in a variety of fields like animation, gaming, illustration, comics, books, graphic design, film production, product design, medical science, military weapons, concept and design, aeronautical engineering, and virtual reality, apart from becoming art critics, curators, professors etc.

Thus we can conclude that bright days are up ahead for all artists and it's time to reclaim the lost status and prestige in the society and reject the stereotype of an artist being poor, depressed or a frustrated creative force.

"An artist is not paid for his labour but for his vision".

- chiranjib.barooah@gmail.com

The importance of art

events have created a vibrant mix of art and that has enriched its content.

Why art is difficult

Over past 150 years, art has increasingly moved from the familiarity and comfort of resemblance to complex, cryptic and highly conceptual paintings because artists felt that photography and the film industry, along with some major earth-shaking historical events like wars, revolutions and economic changes have compelled them to express their hidden voice, emotions, grief and anger through vigorous brush-strokes, vibrant colours, minimal figures and codes.

So viewers find it difficult to understand the hidden meaning of art, but the easiest way to decode it is to judge the piece of art through our perception, understanding the expression of

its technique is ostensibly poor.

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Have you
hugged today?

Chandana Choudhury Barua

A s a teacher of Pharmacology, when I discuss neurohormones/neurotransmitters, like dopamine (love hormone), 5HT (the hormone related to sleep, depression, schizophrenia, etc) or oxytocin (the feel good hormone), or endorphins (the natural pain killer), students listen with rapt attention and in examinations, they write at length on this subject, be it about drug addiction, sleep, depression, so on and so forth. And they are more interested if they can relate it to their everyday life.

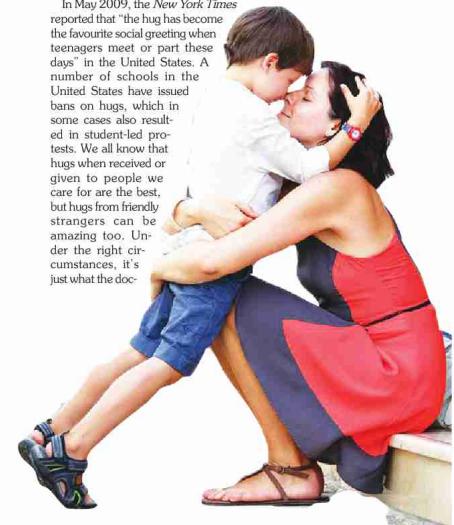
In my favourite magazine *Reader's Digest*, I read an article on hug and I was amazed to realise its power. It narrates the story of an old person in a mall, and how he requested a young girl to hug him. It was her birthday. She immediately hugged him. It started the mother but from that day onwards, they started visiting the aged man (who had lost his wife recently), and spent some time with him.

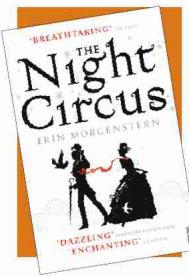
It was an eye opener for me, as we Indians always hesitate to show our love and warmth to people, unlike in the West. One feels self-conscious and hesitant to publicly display their love. However, slowly, this trend is changing. Now friends of both genders, college and university students in India, freely hug each other before parting or when they meet. Once you are hugged, you feel wanted, cared for, and will reciprocate the same way too. It is really a great feeling, and the hormone oxytocin has a role to play in this. It is already known as the love hormone, which is released from our posterior pituitary gland, when we feel affectionate or loved. Lovers, breastfeeding mothers, humans and animals, will have increased release of the oxytocin hormone the moment they are touched or hugged. The result is milk secretion and the babies getting nourished. Likewise, husbands, wives, parents, children, and people in relationships feel warm and affectionate due to the release of the oxytocin hormone.

A hug is a form of physical intimacy, not necessarily sexual, that usually involves closing or holding the arms around the neck or waist of another person. Hugging has been proven to have health benefits. Study has also shown that hugs increase levels of oxytocin, and reduce blood pressure. Hugging is not particular to human beings, as there are many species of animals that engage in similar exchanges of warmth.

In May 2009, the *New York Times* reported that "the hug has become the favourite social greeting when teenagers meet or part these days" in the United States. A number of schools in the United States have issued bans on hugs, which in some cases also resulted in student-led protests. We all know that hugs when received or given to people we care for are the best, but hugs from friendly strangers can be amazing too. Under the right circumstances, it's just what the doctor ordered.

- chanacin@gmail.com





Incredible adventure

The design for a contest between illusionists was made well in advance. Much before the circus surfaced. This was no ordinary spectacle; it took place at night time, all semblance of its performance existence lying dull during the day. Feats of extraordinary nature, seeming improbabilities fashioned to challenge the understanding of recognised reality, wowed audiences in different cities of the world. The circus stayed on in a location for a while, and subsequently moved to another place with the magical weave enthralling newer audiences, each programme crafted to fascinate through novelty and surprise. Initially awestruck, the people who had the experience of seeing the circus realised that it was an altogether different show. And the audience mattered in quite a different way, the magnification of which wasn't immediately apparent: "A show without an audience is nothing, after all. In the response of the audience, that is where the power of performance lies." The circus was the brainchild of Chandresh Lefevre, an assembler of talents of the extraordinary kind who invested both in idea and circumstance to make 'Le Cirque des Reves' an event of striking brilliance. Chandresh, himself a multicultural maverick, spotted these crafty individuals, each bearing features of noticeable uniqueness — which made the circus a gallery of inventive minds. This was not another display of acrobatics that circuses conventionally were characterised by; it was the most spectacular achievement of the 19th century world, a marvel that defied logic and stretched the limits of probability to its extremes. Although each act retained its individuality, collectively all of the individual units came together. The orchestration of the multiple items was so neat and organised that the sense of unity binding each and every one became its signature feature: "Every element of the circus blends together in a wonderful coalescence. Acts that have been training in separate countries now perform in adjacent tents, each part melding seamlessly into a whole. Each costume, each gesture, each sign on each tent is more perfect than the last."

At the centre of the circus was a quiet contest that ran unobtrusively: Celia Bowen and Marco Alistar were separately groomed to fuel ambitions of their masters where their performances would attest to their trainers' marksmanship. That they were contestants in an unseen battle of wits and ability gradually emerges, but more than this knowledge it is the coming together of a more acute understanding of purpose and vision which makes the journey so captivating. From being pawns in a larger game, Celia and Marco strike a balance where their own identities are carved from the shadows into which they merge. And in the recognition of the changing contours of life's moving spectrum lie the greater understanding which no set pattern can yield — this seems to be the lesson that Marco and Celia learn as they seek to balance out their situations on a scale that is not of their making alone. "There are no more battles between good and evil, no monsters to slay, no maidens in need of rescue. There are no longer simple tales with quests and beasts and happy endings. The quests lack clarity of goal or path. The beasts take different forms and are difficult to recognise for what they are. And there are never really endings, happy or otherwise. Things keep going on, they overlap and blur, your story is part of your sister's story is part of many other stories, and there is no telling where any of them may lead" — Encapsulated succinctly, these words delineate the focus of Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*, a novel whose racy impetus drives the bridge between reality and fantasy with stunning grip and control, making it one of the most sought-after narratives of contemporary literature.

— *outenga@gmail.com*

LOVING LITERATURE

Bibhash Choudhury

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— *outenga@gmail.com*

Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has been selected for France's highest civilian award, Legion of Honour, for his outstanding contribution to cinema and theatre. With this, Chatterjee has become the first Bengali actor to be chosen for the award. The honour comes almost three decades after the same recognition was conferred on master director Satyajit Ray in 1987. Chatterjee has acted in several of Ray's films including *Apur Sansar*, *Debi*, *Aranyer Din Ratri*, *Ghare Bairey* and *Chandramukhi*. Earlier recipients of the Legion of Honour include star maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Kamal Haasan. Chatterjee was awarded the Dadasabeh Phalak Award in 2012.

People magazine has declared Hollywood actress Julia Roberts the 'World's Most Beautiful Woman'. According to the magazine, Roberts held the position five times since the award's inception in 1990. That means Julia Roberts has been the world's most beautiful woman for 17.8 percent of the last 28 years. Last year's winner was Jennifer Aniston. (Information sent by Mayuri Das Biswanath Charial)

In today's Master's Choice section, do try out a set of questions on 'Art and Culture'. Meanwhile, keep writing to us with quiz reports, questions (answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizone, Horizon, C/o The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati. SMS at: 98640-26322 and e-mail at: *tosaller@gmail.com* or *quizonesaller@gmail.com*. To read Quizone online, you can log on to *epaper.assatribune.com*.

MASTER'S CHOICE

- He was a musician in the court of Henry VIII. His aim was to amuse and not moralise. His interludes were hilarious and they paved the way for comedy. Name the writer and his work.
- "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings." Who said this and in which play?
- In which play does Shakespeare introduce us to the world of fairies, with the roguish imp of folklore, Puck?
- In the Lewis Carroll's novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, which birds were used as mallets in a croquet game?
- Which Spanish painter was quoted as saying: "I paint objects as I think them, not as I see them"?

Harrowing summer

You are a cruel lover, O' Spring! Was it nothing more than a fling? How could you leave so soon? Shed me from your snug cocoon. In this world of heat and dust, My spirit lies thrashed and crushed. The grim glaring sun cast aside, Loo lashes out with despoil, The spectre of the raging storm, A violent death of death perform. Pale and withered dust laden trees, Parched earth, parched man and beasts. All in vain, For the healing touch of rain. The penance must go on, I trust, Till the soul is washed of all the dust.

Amita Chatterjee,
Awar, Rajasthan

Life of toil

Black was the world, Where he was born; Broken were the people, Whom he called his own. Begged all day, And stole at night. He called it hell, And he was so right. Half-dead was the place, People called it the slums; His home, where he dwelt, Lay between the dirty swamps. He dreamt of a life too bright, Faithful to God and his might: For a day would come, That'd bring him light. So he vowed to rise, Out of the wilderness, He chose to fight; Revived his sunken hopes. To eradicate the sufferings of his folks. Toiled all day long, made himself strong. Thus a day came when he won; And by the time he retired to an eternal sleep, He had a statue of his own.

Akshay Upadhyay,
Guwahati

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Akshay Kr Haloi
Dr Evarani Kalita

Sleep disturbances are a risk factor for mental disorders such as depression and anxiety

Sleep is defined as "a condition of the body and mind in which the nervous system is inactive, the eyes closed, the postural muscles relaxed, and consciousness practically suspended".

Every night, a person goes through two types of sleep that alternate with each other. They are slow-wave sleep, in which the brain waves are strong and of long frequency, and Rapid Eye Movement sleep (REM sleep), in which the eyes undergo rapid movements despite the fact that the person is asleep.



Stages of sleep

While sleeping, every person usually passes through five phases: Stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and REM sleep. These stages progress in a cycle from Stage 1 to REM sleep, then the cycle starts over again. We spend almost 50 percent of our total sleep time in Stage 2, about 20 per cent in REM sleep, and the remaining 30 percent in the other stages. Infants, by contrast, spend about half of their sleep time in REM sleep.

What controls our sleep?

Stimulation of several specific areas of the brain called raphe nuclei can produce sleep. Experiments have shown that cerebrospinal fluid, blood and urine contain a substance that can cause sleep. The amount of sleep each person needs depends on many factors, including age. According to the National Sleep Foundation, the general guidelines of daily sleep requirement for different ages are:

- 0-2 months (12-18 hours)
- 3-11 months (14-15 hours)
- 1-3 years (12-14 hours)
- 3-5 years (11-13 hours)
- 5-10 years (10-11 hours)
- 10-17 years (8.5-9.25 hours)
- Adults (7-9 hours)

Good sleep

The three elements of good quality sleep

The veil

Was this so necessary, Standing behind the tapestry, Waiting for him to introduce me... Like he did when *Bhaiyya* passed by. I check the sweetness of the tea, Two spoons, they said. Two spoons is what I had mixed. So why is father not calling me; In front of those dignitaries? I kept standing, And waited for *Baba* to call me. Guests left the house, I was left with doubt in my mind. I went over to *Baba*; But then I overheard "Sheila, you don't know how much they are demanding!" I came back, Because he was no more my father, Who fed me his share of butter. He left my dreams to shatter, I used to be his daughter... But I am now his share of burden.

JajaBour,
Via e-mail

Unanswered questions

They baffle the mind, Night and day, Disquiet galore, And pour like raindrops. They haunt like spirits, Sneaking inside a silent room, Horror penetrates the veins, As though venom. The passage, thus far, is unfinished, Onerous, with some unanswered questions.

Dr Geetanjali Debi,
Guwahati

are duration, continuity and depth. Environmental conditions, such as temperature, noise, light, bed comfort, and electronic devices may modify sleep. Sleep disturbances are a risk factor for mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. Failure to obtain quality sleep may even lead to lack of attention, reduced concentration, decreased insulin sensitivity, diabetes and increased risk of motor vehicle accidents.

Tips to get good sleep

- Stick to your sleep time.
- Avoid oversleeping.
- Use the bed only for sleeping, not for television viewing, phone calls or work.
- Avoid coffee, tea or energy drinks.
- Avoid strenuous exercise or heavy meals just before bedtime.
- Avoid alcohol or tobacco.
- Avoid exposure to bright light before bedtime.

Sound sleep is of utmost importance for the maintenance of good mental health. Sleep problems constitute a global epidemic that threatens health and quality of life. The physiological functions of sleep still remain a mystery, and a better understanding of sleep conditions and more research into this area will help reduce the burden of sleep disorders in the society.

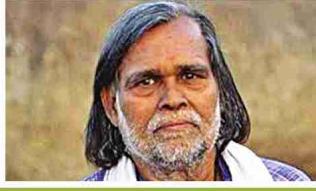
— *akshayhaloi@yahoo.com*

QUIZ ZONE

Sailen Baishya

Picture clue:

19. He was selected for the Goldman Environment Prize 2017 from India for his work to protect the Nyamgiri Hills from a massive aluminum ore mine. Identify him. (Bidisha Mahanta, Jorhat)



ANSWERS

- John Heywood: *The Four P's*, 2. Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, 3. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 4. Flamingos, 5. Pablo Picasso, 6. Erol Flynn, 7. Liddell, 8. Francisco Goya, 9. Mahasweta Devi, 10. Namia, 11. Liberia, 12. Operation Barboosa, 13. Hyderabad, 14. Tripura, 15. The Silk Route, 16. Nana Sahib, 17. *Indramati*, 18. *Natyaashastra* by Bharat Muni, 19. Prafulla Samantara, 20. Product Red.

6. Which actor's autobiography was called *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*?

7. What was the surname of Alice who is remembered as the subject of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* stories?

8. Which Spanish artist painted the series known as *Fantasy and Invention* in the 18th century?

9. The film *Hazar Hazaar Ki Maa* starring Jaya Bachchan and Anupam Kher is based on a novel by which Indian author?

10. In children's literature, to which chronicles do the books *The Horse and His Boy* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* belong?

READERS' CHOICE

11. This country was founded in 1822 in order to settle the freed American slaves in West Africa. Name the country. (Hrisiksha Kumar, Hojai)

12. What was Hitler's code name for the planned invasion of Russia during World War II? (Thurnil Narzary, Koirabarai)

13. The *Hartla Priya* agriculture scheme has won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Award in Geneva under the e-agriculture scheme. This scheme is related to which Indian city? (Sitananda Bora, via SMS)

14. The name of which Indian state literally means 'three cities'? (Ningombam Duhit, Guwahati)

15. Northeast India and China used to trade via this road in ancient times. Name this famous road. (Barnali Devi, via SMS)

16. By what name was the revolutionary Bhondu Pant more famous in Indian history? (Aditi Agarwalla, Moranhat)

17. In which film did musical legend Dr Bhupen Hazarika work for the first time as an actor-cum-singer? (Juri Chakraborty, Guwahati)

18. Which book is considered to be the first written document on dances in India? (Manas Jyoti Borah, Guwahati)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

20. Name the musical brand, founded by singer Bono to raise awareness about AIDS in African countries, and licensed to multiple companies like Hallmark, Nike, Apple, Starbucks and Amex. (Niharika Bora, Tezpur)

Ronjoy Bordoloi

One of my friends and trusted colleagues once told me, "What is the use of going to the gym? Your muscles won't be able to cope with so much strain. You are getting old, my friend!"

After hearing him, I was astounded by this remark. This remark, although given in a light-hearted manner, compelled me to think about the subject of old age. And indeed, I thought! I thought that I read. I devoured books – not the scientifically magnificent ones, but books that gave insight into our physical abilities and mental strength.

I read the legendary book of Bruce Lipton named *The Biology of Belief*, wherein he mentions how our bodies can be healed with only the power of belief and how environmental factors tend to play an important role in shaping our cell structure, giving it extraordinary resources to cure itself.

I also read Robin Sharma's *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*, wherein ingenious yet simple ways to lead a fulfilling, peaceful and long, enthusiastic life are given. Another book that caught my attention was Joseph Murphy's *The Power of the Sub-Conscious Mind* that gives one a preview on the superhuman capabilities that man can possess if he could just access the full potential of his sub-conscious mind through faith and belief in himself.

Also worth mentioning is a recent book that I have started reading named, *NLP: The Essential Guide*, where NLP refers to 'Neuro-Linguistic Programming'. It is a wonderful book that gives useful insight on how to use our senses, sub-modalities, etc. It also explains how the suggestions of others throughout our lifetime have affected our reality and thought processes since our childhood, and ways to change them and feel self-empowered.

All these books and many more are treasures for mankind; because mankind has been living in an age of illusion and false

concepts, inserted into their brains through generations of brain-washing by incredulous and self-centred individuals and through the misuse of mass media. Disease and minor sicknesses are amplified and publicised as major health issues to the public, who then resort to taking prescription drugs and medicine at the slightest sneeze or minor headache. Further, it is an age where self-belief is at its lowest ebb and the people have lost contact with nature. It can be

feel incapable, that again gives rise to different kinds of disease and misinterpretations in our lives. However, if we could alter our mental state through profound belief in ourselves, along with a positive attitude, knowing deeply that our subconscious and our true souls have the power to transcend the boundaries of all diseases and has the superhuman ability to cure any illness, then we can transform our lives and move on to a different dimension altogether. This can be achieved through powerful auto-suggestions and positive self-talk, along with physical fitness routines, good diet and meditation.

Moreover, if we commence the unification process with ourselves and with nature, we will understand the mysteries of Mother Nature and also realise that we have the power of the whole universe within us. The universal consciousness is playing its eternal music through us. We never actually die, we just transform!

Therefore, my suggestion to my dear friend who started all this is to 'stay amazed'! Be amazed at the power of the mind, body and soul to heal itself without any external formula. In fact, we are the formula!

Every sickness has a mental connection, if we can identify the mental state or emotion that gave rise to the disease at the first place and take adequate steps to stop that intriguing emotion; if we think about our well-being, long life and perfect health only; then all illnesses will disappear and we can live a long, healthy and young life forever.

Another important advice to my friend is that great feats have been accomplished at a very old age. There are numerous examples. One example I would like to mention is that at the age of 99, Teiichi Igashri, a Japanese Mountaineer, climbed Mt Fuji. Therefore, old age is just a concept, an idea suggested into our brains repeatedly over time by pessimistic individuals; who have no flair to live their lives fully and with purpose. – *ronjoy_cosmos@rediffmail.com*

evaluated and scientists have proven it to some extent that all diseases, sicknesses, etc., are an outcome of disillusioned race.

The negative outlook, coupled with negative emotions like fear, greed, anger, etc., are the result of years of adverse suggestions received by our brains throughout our adolescent and teenage years, from various sources that include our parents, teachers, seniors, friends, leaders, superiors, TV programmes, movies, etc.

As such, this kind of a chain reaction, usually distorts our thoughts and makes us



The power within



Reasons to live for

into account, if we can transform those hopes and dreams; why not transform those into something positive and see what happens.

We have often heard one sentence, that if life closes a door for you, soon it opens up a new one. What we have to do is look for it. Whenever life gives you lemons, squeeze it, gather all that it has to offer, and learn from it and don't let this overpower you. Remember every individual is unique in his own way and subsequently has his own shortcomings. The moment you try to compare your problems with that of others you lose your individualism. There is no one like you, or can be you. Accept the uniqueness of your individual existence in this enormous universe and that no other living soul can ever replace you.

Life is all about the choices that we make. Everything that we do, relatively affects us in the process. If we throw a ball at a wall it is bound to bounce back at us. It's neither about the position that we hold or luck, it's about the time we are going through. Believe in time which is a very valuable aspect of our life; it guides us and helps us decide the right path to follow. But it should also be taken into account that it does not tolerate ignorance. It won't wait for you to understand its value; it'll pass at its own pace.

Also, remember, energy follows thought and actions express priorities. He is able, who thinks he is able. All humans die, but very few have lived. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. It's not what you are underneath; rather it's what you do that defines you. Pain and ecstasy both come hand in hand. To live is the rarest thing in the world and the biggest gift we can ask for, and it is totally up to you how you will use your gifts, what choices you make. Whether you will follow dogma, or you will be original. Whenever it gets tough, will you give up or will you be relentless? Will you guard your heart or will you act when you are loved?

As Hazrat Inayat Khan said, "The words that enlighten your soul are more precious than jewels."

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Gateway to the underworld

In the heart of Siberia's boreal forest, a massive crater which the locals call the 'gateway to the underworld' has been growing for the last 50 years. It appears in the form of a huge gash on earth, a kilometre long and one hundred metres deep at one end. Named after the Batagalka river, flowing nearby, a tributary of the river Yana, the Batagalka crater is what geologists call a thermokarst depression – cave-ins which result when the permafrost melts, and although the Batagalka crater has no connection to the underworld, as the Yakutian people believe, it is still something to be feared of as these 'lumps' that are increasingly appearing across the northern hemisphere, could represent an ominous sign of things to come as the world continues to warm.

The crater started to form in the 1960s after a chunk of forest was cleared for industrial use, triggering a series of catastrophic geological and environmental events. The vegetation provides insulation that keeps the ground cool – once that was removed, the summer heat was able to penetrate deeper into the ground, causing the permafrost to melt, and the area began to slump. The crater has been growing ever since, becoming bigger and bigger with each passing year as the climate continues to change. Dr Julian Murton, a geology professor at the University of Sussex, believes that the Batagalka 'megaslump' – so called because of its gigantic size – will continue to grow until it runs out of ice or gets buried by slumped sediment.

"In some sense, Batagalka does provide a view to what has happened in the past and what is likely to happen in the future. As the climate warms – I think there's no shadow of a doubt it will warm – we will get increasing thaw of the permafrost and development of these 'thermokarst' features. There will be more slumps and more gullying, more erosion of the land surface," Dr Murton said.

The melting of the permafrost has side-effects that are far-reaching. The frozen soil contains vast amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide. If the permafrost was to melt and the methane released into the atmosphere, it would cause an unprecedented rise in global temperature, tipping the planet into an extreme scenario. There is no immediate worry of the permafrost melting though, as parts of Siberia still experience temperatures more than fifty degrees below freezing.

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

When Alex Murphy, a cop, was injured in a bomb blast, the establishment set about replacing his innards and limbs until he was transformed into a robot police officer combatting criminal activities in the United States. That was the 1987 movie *Robocop*. Seems it didn't take much time for it to become a reality. Although it seemed difficult at that time, the government of the Dubai Emirate has introduced robots in their police force, which will interact with citizens.

Standing at 5-foot, 5-inch, the 100-kg robot, equipped with facial recognition technology, has the ability to broadcast live video feeds. The first model, now patrolling the streets of the futuristic city, will however not be making arrests, but will be interacting with the community. Residents of Dubai will be able to report crimes, pay fines, and ask the robot questions (though what sort of questions is unclear).

The Dubai Police Tech Division informed that Dubai intends to have 25 per cent robots in its police force by 2030.

Though this is not the first robot to be put into service by police, it is the first that will be ever-present on the streets of a city and will eventually be able to make ar-

rests and have all of the responsibilities of a regular cop. The rollout of such intelligent robocops will take place over the next decade. With rising violence and high salary quotients, it seems these robocops make for an affordable alternative.

Nokia news

Here is good news for Nokia lovers. The much awaited Nokia phones have been finally launched in India. Nokia 3, Nokia 5 and Nokia 6, the three models on which I have already written, mark the re-entry of the Nokia smartphones in the country, and HMD Global has announced that all Nokia phones sold in India will be manufactured domestically.

The company is selling Nokia 3 and Nokia 5 offline, while the Nokia 6 will be sold exclusively via Amazon India. All three Nokia smartphones are 4G VoLTE-enabled, and run Stock Android Nougat software, with regular updates promised by HMD Global.

The Nokia 6 is priced at Rs 14,999 in India, and registrations for the first sale will start on July 14. The Nokia 5 is being sold at Rs 12,899, while Nokia 3, cheapest of the three, will be going on sale at a price of Rs 9,499.

The wait is finally over!

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TECH TRENDS

Devol Kumar Nath

Choosing your glasses

Here's how to buy the perfect glasses:

Research:

Do a little research first, and have some frame names and prices in hand so that you can do some comparison shopping. Look for a place that is well lit with lots of mirrors, as well as access to a window so that you can get an idea of what the frames look like natural light.

Many stores allow you to get the glasses, wear them for a day and then bring them back if you're not happy with them. If you can find a place in your area that offers this type of facility, then this is your best bet. However, make sure that you understand the full details before you make your purchase.



FASHIONABLY YOURS

Prasant Ghosh

chase, because there might be restrictions in the fine print.

Frames:

Square frames will emphasise the shape of your face. Round and oval frames will soften a very square face. High-end wearers might prefer wearing frames made of aluminium. Aluminium, like other metals, is lightweight and corrosion-resistant. High-end designers prefer working with aluminium because it provides a unique look and feel. Aluminium is often scarce to buy so aluminium frames are more expensive than other metal varieties.

Varieties:

If metal and plastic aren't your cup of tea, consider some of the more extraordinary materials:

- Wood and bone

- Solid gold

- Solid silver

- Leather (not practical in most cases, but definitely fashionable)

- Semi-precious stones (usually used to accent a frame)

Plastic frames are popular among those who want colourful, lightweight and cost-effective alternatives to metal frames. Among the more popular plastic frames currently in use are glisten frames. This material is extremely lightweight and offers the option of wearing layered colours. Another plastic commonly used in frames is propionate. This is a nylon-based substance that is good for sensitive skin. Nylon glasses are also durable and lightweight, and generally affordable for most eyewear consumers.

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

WEST SIDE STORY

Manchester citizenship for Ariana

ARIANA Grande is in line to get honorary citizenship of Manchester for arranging the One Love Manchester benefit concert which raised more than £4million for the victims of the terror attack, after an explosion at Manchester Arena following the singer's performance there last month left 22 dead and many injured.

Council leader Sir Richard Leese said, "This seems a fitting moment to update the way we recognise those who make noteworthy contributions to the life and success of our city."

Stressed Demi loses teeth

DEMI Moore has revealed on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* that she is missing her two front teeth. The 54-year-old even shared a photo of her without dentures – although the snap only showed one missing.

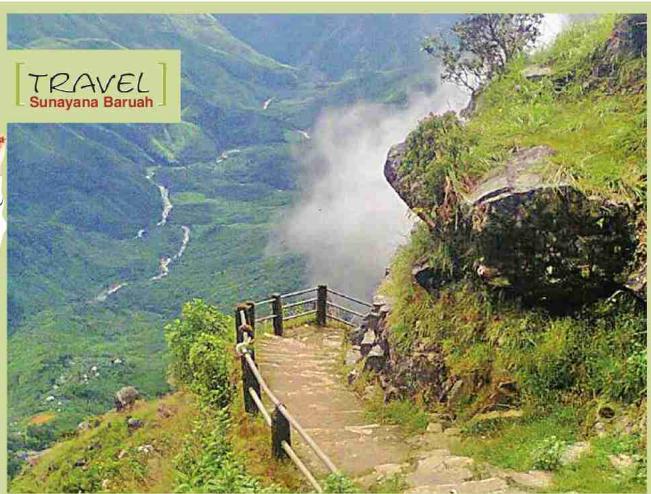
Demi said, "Stress sheared off my front teeth. I literally knocked it out. It was almost like it fell out and my warranty was up... I think it's something that's important to share because I think stress is probably, after heart disease, one of the biggest killers in America..."

"But in an effort to get ready for you, I wanted to make sure my teeth were in... Thank God for modern dentistry," she raved.

Cara flashes elephant tattoo

CARA Delevingne, who is known for her love of inking her body, and got a elephant tattoo last year, proudly displayed her inking as she attended the Save the Elephants charity dinner in London recently. Cara, 24, loves having animals adored on her body. She already has a lion tattooed on her right hand as well as a snake on her wrist.

AGENCIES



Laitlum: a little piece of heaven

The clock struck eight in the morning and I opened my eyes slowly. Beside me, there was my brother performing his morning ritual of attending to all the messages on his phone. It was post-Christmas day and we were supposed to be taken to Laitlum Canyon by my brother's friend, who the previous night elaborated why Shillong is also referred to as the Scotland of the East. According to many, Laitlum holds some resemblance to the vistas seen in the movie *Braveheart*.

Though Laitlum is only about four kilometres away from Shillong, we had to leave as early as possible because past noon, fog sweeps in and visibility becomes almost nil at times. Whenever the enticingly fascinating two-lane road to Laitlum diverged, it is either the left or the right turn that one needs to take, and it was at one

such point of divergence where we took the right turn but it turned out to be the wrong one which delayed us by a few minutes.

Laitlum, in particular, is just a picnic spot for the natives. But of late, this place has gained some recognition as a place of tourist attraction.

As we finally parked the car and stepped out of it, the cold breeze welcomed us. I parted from the two gentlemen and went along my way. The place brought a smile to my face and made me so happy – so much so, that at one spot near a cliff where I sat, I found myself humming the song *'Can't take it in'* by Imogen Heap, while savoring the few moments of freedom and solitude. The song seemed so perfect for the moment. I even tried out my zero-level mountain climbing skills while exploring the canyon. Some scarce, but pretty yellow flowers caught my attention and it left me

wondering the extent to which the beauty of this place would further enhance, had this flower been there in abundance. The silver linings and the sun's rays that passed through the clouds and fell onto the canyon and the different hues of green and brown that it reflected back, with the cold breeze, solidified my soul with happy thoughts and emotions.

But this experience had to come to an end and with the positive vibes and thoughts all packed in the subconscious part of my mind, I had to leave. The feeling that I felt there, was indeed, so much bigger than myself. I could not stop looking back until Laitlum faded out of sight. My only regret was that I forgot to shout as loudly as I wanted to while sitting near that cliff. However, I left a part of my heart there and I am definitely going back, soon, to reclaim it.

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RAABTA

DIRECTOR: DINESH VIJAN
STARS: KRITI SANON, SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT, JIM SARBH, VARUN SARMA

the song featuring Bollywood diva Deepika Padukone.

The filmmaker's lack of imagination is clearly evident as he tries to be too enterprising with his story-telling, but eventually ends up losing *raabta* (Urdu for 'connection') with the audience, more so in the second half. The first half too is pointlessly stretched.

Cheesy dialogue delivery and unpersuasive transitions to a different time zone adds to the ordeal as the movie struggles to strike a balance between two different time zones with identical faces.

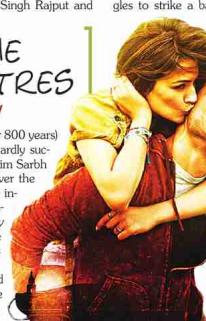
The writer duo of Siddharth and Garima, who have previously worked for Sanjay Leela Bhansali, deliver a cliché in their bid to become too adventurous. Performance wise, both Sushant and Kriti remained consistent throughout. However, *Raabta* – Raabta – should be out of his system very soon. The only saving grace for *Raabta* would be perhaps the fact that no major Hindi movie is expected to release this week.

However, one would recommend *Raabta* only if you have no place to hide this monsoon.

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AT THE THEATRES

Sanjoy Ray



Bollywood's obsession with reincarnation and love triangle continues. Debutant director Dinesh Vijan's *Raabta*, which attempts to provide a combo of both, may not, however, leave a desired effect in the minds of the cine buffs this time.

Raabta, with a predictable storyline and below-par treatment, could pinch the movie goers' every minute of stay and every penny spent.

The story of two lead actors (Sushant Singh Rajput and Kriti Sanon) unknowingly crossing each other's path in a chocolate bar only to realise that there is a past life connection, is unconvincing, to say the least. There is also a reference to a comet (arriving after 800 years) and its influence on human lives which hardly succeeds in generating any twist in the tale. Jim Sarbh plays the antagonist trying to win over the lady love of his previous birth in his new incarnation looks unimpressive with his dialogue delivery. But Varun Sarma of *Fukrey* fame, who plays Sushant's best pal in the movie, was once again impeccable with his comic timing.

The on-screen chemistry of Sushant and Kriti looks fresh and that is perhaps the only silver lining in the movie, apart from

the song featuring Bollywood diva Deepika Padukone.

The filmmaker's lack of imagination is clearly evident as he tries to be too enterprising with his story-telling, but eventually ends up losing *raabta* (Urdu for 'connection') with the audience, more so in the second half. The first half too is pointlessly stretched.

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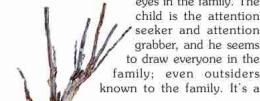
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The human psyche is a complex web of emotions that emanates like a fountain of water, spraying itself profusely. Apart from the plethora of emotions on display by Homo sapiens, perhaps the most potent ones are the emotions of joy, at someone's birth; and grief, at someone's demise.

The birth of a new born child heralds the arrival of life and continuity of the family's lineage. The child is a source of joy and celebration for each and everyone in the family, and for the time being, s/he is the centre of attraction and the cynosure of all eyes in the family. The child is the attention seeker and attention grabber, and he seems to draw everyone in the family; even outsiders known to the family. It's a



On life and death



URBAN MUSING

Sk Md Sabah Al-Ahmed

time for joy and happiness, and all the family members are seen jostling each other, and waiting for their turn to hold the baby in their arms. Amid all this euphoria, the new parents are crowned as the blessed couple by the elders in the family, especially if the newborn is the first child of the new generation. After all, this was the moment all were looking forward to with bated breath, and for which a lot of rituals and offerings were made to Gods and Goddesses.

The demise of someone in a family is indeed a tragic and sad affair. Be it due to natural or other reasons like accidents, suicides, etc., a pall of gloom always descends upon the house with the passing away of someone. It would be a week, or even more, of mourning; other post-death rituals are also observed in consultation with



family elders and spiritual heads for the peace of the departed soul. A lacerating effect engulfs the family and normal life comes to a grinding halt. It is more so because of the attachment of the deceased family member with his kith and kin, and those sweet memories linger on for the days that follow. His or her absence is felt and the person is sorely missed. One is suddenly reminded of the deceased person when something or some place or even something trifling associated with him/her suddenly springs up and s/he is remembered instantly. S/he is missed on the dining table, verandah, roof top, the old arm chair, pair of spectacles, a shopping mall or a bazaar that s/he used to frequently visit with his/her children or grandchildren – all these everlasting imprints keep bringing back sudden, tearful memories of the loved one – and now, the lost one. Those who were close to the person shall always cherish those memories and the time spent together. For it is believed that a good soul shall always be near his/her loved ones on earth to bless them every moment and also find a place in heaven.

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