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NEWS CAPSULE

Korea polls

SEOUL, May 9: Former human rights lawyer Moon Jae-In won South Korea's presidential election by a landslide today, according to early results. He comes to power on a yearning for change after a tumultuous scandal. The ballot was called after Park Geun-Hye was ousted and indicted for corruption. — AFP

Suspended

THE NANJANTHRAVM NEW DELHI, May 9: Four teachers were suspended after a NEET candidate at Kannur in Kerala was asked to remove her bra as an anti-cheating measure. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assured legislators of action on the issue even as the CBSE admitted to 'overzealousness'. — PTI
(Details on Page 12)

Mishap claims 4

MIRzapur, May 9: Four persons died at Lalnath near Hahim under Boko PS in Kamrup district when an auto rickshaw with an accident struck it with an accident in the wee hours today. The deceased are Rone Rabha, Sanjay Rabha, Chintu Rabha and Rohin Rabha. — Correspondent

Ornament loot

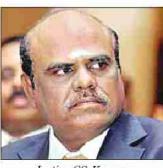
GUWAHATI, May 9: Over 100 lakhs of rupees were looted at gun point by four miscreants from a prominent jewellery shop on the GS Road here this evening. Police cordoned off the area and the outlet's CCTV footage is being examined. — Staff Reporter

Ultra nabbed

DIPUH, May 9: An extremist identified as Kamal Chakma was nabbed from Melaram village by security forces yesterday. One countrymade rifle and nine rounds of live cartridges were recovered from him. — Correspondent

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

SC sends Justice Karnan to six months in jail



NEW DELHI, May 9: In an unprecedented order, the Supreme Court today held controversial Calcutta High Court judge Justice CS Karnan guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to jail for six months, ordering that he be taken into custody forthwith.

A seven-judge constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar, said "We are of the unanimous view that Justice CS Karnan committed contempt of court, contempt of judiciary and the process."

This is the first time that a sitting high court judge is being sent to jail by the Supreme Court charges of contempt.

The bench, which also comprised Justices Dipak Misra, J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, MB Lokur, PC Ghose and Kurian Joseph, said it had satisfied that Justice Karnan be sentenced for six months in jail.

"The sentence shall be executed and he will be taken into custody forthwith," the bench said.

The bench also banned the media, both print and electronic, from publishing the contents of further orders passed by Justice Karnan.

At the outset of the hearing, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for West Bengal, said in compliance of apex court's earlier direction, a medical board along

with the DGP and police personnel had gone to Justice Karnan's place but he gave a letter saying he was fit and of a sound mind.

Dwivedi read out the letter to the bench.

ASG Maninder Singh told the bench that Justice Karnan knows what he is doing and he needs to be punished for contempt of court as he has passed several orders against the judges of the apex court. — PTI



SC holds Mallya guilty of contempt of court

NEW DELHI, May 9: The Supreme Court today held businessman Vijay Mallya guilty of contempt of court for transferring USD 40 million to his children in violation of the court's order.

The apex court directed Mallya, who is presently in the United Kingdom, to appear before it on July 10 to argue on the quantum of punishment in the matter.

India had recently asked Britain to ensure early extradition of Mallya, who is an accused in a bank loan default case of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

"We have found respondent number 3 (Mallya) guilty of contempt of court on two grounds," a bench comprising Justices AK Goel and UU Lalit said. The order came on a plea by consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI), which had said that Mallya had allegedly transferred USD 40 million received from British firm DiaGeo, to his children in "flagrant violation" of various judicial orders. — PTI

JOCOSERIOUS



The only profession where everyone claims they are honest is politics!

Reforms announced in State health sector

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 9: A slew of measures were announced in the State Assembly today to bring reforms in the health sector by Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Henceforth, all the civil hospitals of the State would have CT scan machines where tests would be performed free of cost.

The scheme would be launched on May 11 by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Administrative Staff College, Khanapara here.

As announced in the State budget, the government would also make X-ray free at 500 government hospitals, initially starting from 35 locations. Also, within three months' time,

60 types of blood test would be made free in government hospitals.

The free diagnostic facilities, however, would not be available in the medical colleges of the State due to academic reasons, the minister informed the house.

"To bring efficiency and world class quality control, the services would be outsourced to private party to whom the government would pay for the tests. The 24x7 facilities could be enjoyed by all sections of people," he added.

Further, the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital would soon get a new intensive care unit (ICU) ward with 100 beds. The medical college presently has 172 ICU beds in different departments. "We are planning to increase

(See page 4)

No confidence motion against Ranjit Dutta

STAFF REPORTER

na Kanta Handiqui State

Open University and Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University

will sit before the HSLC results are compiled and decide on the 'marks moderation' strategy.

The minister said that the

State Education minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said the government has decided to form a panel of four university vice chancellors (VCs) to formulate a formula to award grace marks to students.

The panel comprising the

VCs of Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Krish-

National Congress today wrote to the Assembly Principal Secretary intending to bring a no-confidence motion against Irrigation Minister Ranjit Dutta who had landed in a controversy after Irrigation Secretary Kuenjura Doley was arrested recently on charges of corruption.

Five Congress MLAs signed the plea that seeks a no-confidence motion 'censuring the conduct of a Irrigation Minister'.

Opposition leader Debarata Saikia told *The Assam Tribune* that while the BJP-led State Government has claimed to have launched a movement against corruption, cash to the tune of several lakhs of rupees is recovered from a secretary-rank official in the Secretariat.

"There had been several allegations against the Irrigation Minister following the incident. It is also alleged that the file which has been linked to the bribery incident was

(See page 4)

EVMs can be tampered in 90 secs: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, May 9: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today dared the Election Commission to provide an EVM to the AAP claiming it can be tampered with in 90 seconds flat.

During a day-long special session of the Delhi Assembly today, AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj put on a "live demonstration" on how electronic voting machines can be programmed with a "secret code".

The EVMs cannot be programmed to favour any party politically. However, sources said the machine "did not seem to be among the ones that are used during elections. — PTI

their voice against it.

"The ECI can give us its machines, we will show how to hack it in 90 seconds by merely changing its motherboard," Kejriwal told reporters outside the assembly.

Bhardwaj claimed that a voting machine can be manipulated by simply feeding it with a "secret code".

The Election Commission, which maintains that EVMs cannot be programmed to favour any party, did not officially react. However, sources said the machine "did not seem to be among the ones that are used during elections. — PTI

VC panel to decide grace marks formula

STAFF REPORTER

na Kanta Handiqui State Open University and Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University will sit before the HSLC results are compiled and decide on the 'marks moderation' strategy.

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The panel comprising the

VCs of Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Krish-

Rs 2.37 cr spent on Priyanka Chopra so far

STAFF REPORTER

The State Government has paid Rs 1.61 crore to Priyanka's company Purple Pebble Entertainment for signing the agreement for the tourism campaign.

The "Quintic" girl visited Guwahati on December 24 to address a tour operators' conference, where she was formally declared as the brand ambassador of Assam.

The government paid nearly Rs 11.91 lakh for air fare and other expenses for the brand ambassador and a similar amount for her delegates, whereas Rs 6.48 lakh was paid as air fare for the Guwahati visit of Chopra's team.

(See page 4)

Traditional brew gets heritage tag

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 9: Alcoholic beverage made from fermented grain or fruits by using traditional starter cake has got the "heritage" tag in Assam.

The brew, however, should not contain more than 12 per cent alcohol volume by volume.

"The objective is standardization of the traditional brew in terms of quality control as well as to give it an identity. The move will help popularize it," a senior Excise official told *The Assam Tribune*.

He said strict quality control measures will be enforced to

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A training institute in GS Road needs English/Sofskills trainers, send cv to care@lakshyaonline.com SVIP/AC911/2

"Wanted two Medical Officers for Tea Gardens in Dibrugarh District, who are required to be MBBS & experienced". Candidates having requisite qualification may apply to the Sr. Manager, Basmati Tea Estate, P.O. Labdihal, Dist: Dibrugarh-78610. SVIP/886/2

Required one Manager for Assam State Cooperative Federation Ltd, at Nagaon, Qualification B.Sc (Agri) BBA/ B.Com/B.Sc, having Experience in Accounts keeping, Computer & Management, age limit 25 to 35 years apply within 25.05.2017 Standard Form Consolidated pay of Rs. 8000/-+2000/- conveyance allowance. Contact: 9435062479, 03672231471. Email ID: ascffld@yahoo.com, Address: Zilparashad Market Complex, 2nd floor, Panigam, Nagaon (Assam), Pin - 782003. SVIP/AC913/1

Required Multipurpose Worker with motor bike & Automobile Mechanic. Salary negotiable. Contact: 908570283, SVIP/9293/1

Applications with biodata are invited from Eligible Master Degree TET qualified with B.Ed. candidates for the Posts of P.G. Teachers in the subjects viz. (1). Botany (S.T-P) (2) Geography (S.T-H) (3). Bengali (UR). Preference will be given to the candidates having Bengali M.LL in HSLC Exam or Bengali Mother tongue. Age should not exceed 43 years on 01.01.2017. Applications must reach the undersigned on or before 18.05.2017. Date of Interview 21.05.17.

**Sd/- Principal
S.P.H.S. School, Dhubri**

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Required Care Taker and Retd. House for hotel. 9854051951, 986403377. SVIP/9360/1

Applications are invited from TET Sanskrit passed candidates for one post of Classical Teacher Sanskrit (Resived SC) in Pay Scale of Pay in Mazmowari High School (Provincialised) Educational Qualification : Shastris with degree or BA with Sanskrit as one of the subjects with 50% marks and B. Ed. Age: as per Govt rule. Note: 1) Last date of receipt of application by the school is on or before 20.05.2017. 2) Date of Interview will be held on 25.05.2017 Headmaster Mazmowari High School, PO: Mazmowari; Dist: Sonitpur, Pin : 784117. SVIP/9312/1

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Applications are invited from TET Sanskrit passed candidates for one post of Classical Teacher Sanskrit (Resived SC) in Pay Scale of Pay in Dibrugarh HE Vidyapith (Provincialised) Educational Qualification : Shastris with degree or BA with 50% marks and B. Ed. Age: as per Govt rule. Note: 1) Last date of receipt of application by the school is on or before 20.05.2017. 2) Date of Interview will be held on 23.05.2017, Headmaster, Doodhema HE Vidyapith, PO: Kakching; Dist: Sonitpur, Pin : 784117. SVIP/9311/1

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CD/CSV/51/1

Applications with biodata are invited from Eligible Master Degree TET qualified with B.Ed. candidates for the Posts of P.G. Teachers in the subjects viz. (1). Botany (S.T-P) (2) Geography (S.T-H) (3). Bengali (UR). Preference will be given to the candidates having Bengali M.LL in HSLC Exam or Bengali Mother tongue. Age should not exceed 43 years on 01.01.2017. Applications must reach the undersigned on or before 18.05.2017. Date of Interview 21.05.17.

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

You will not be punished for your anger, you will be punished by your anger.

— GAUTAM BUDDHA

The Assam Tribune

Disgraceful act

The 'revelation' made by Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in the Assembly on Monday concerning the Board of Secondary Education Assam (SEBA)'s unwarranted generosity in doling out a high dose of grace marks to HSLC students is disturbing. According to the minister (Sarma himself had been the Education Minister for a fairly long period in the previous Congress regime), the SEBA's act was aimed at enhancing the overall pass percentage in the HSLC exam, and that it followed a directive to that effect by the Government. The matter raises several concerns, the foremost being the Government's clandestine bid to present a rosy picture of school education even though the reality was one in stark contrast. The uncalled for generosity in awarding 'hidden' grace marks — as high as 30-40 — largely explains the sudden quantum leap in the HSLC pass percentage beginning since the late 1990s. The trend attained phenomenal proportions in the past one-and-a-half decades which started witnessing pass percentages in the range of 60-70 whereas it rarely crossed the 30% mark in the 1980s and early 1990s. In taking recourse to such surreptitious and manipulative ploys, the Government has not just befooled the people but more importantly, it has done irreparable damage to the school education system all these years. Indeed, many periodical assessments on our school students' learning skills have consistently been exposing its abysmal status *vis-a-vis* students' learning aptitude even as the pass percentage in the all-important HSLC exam kept soaring by the year. This is a clear case of incongruity that now stands explained by the SEBA and the Government's obsession with higher pass percentages while keeping the masses in the dark.

The minister who has now 'revealed' the anomalies would also do well to explain a thing or two, failing which one would have the occasion to believe that he has been feigning ignorance all these years before choosing to 'expose' the scam once he changed his political affiliation. First, he was the most powerful minister during the Congress regime and only the naïve will believe that SEBA had the temerity to carry on with its disgraceful business of grace marks without the knowledge or the approval of the Education Minister. In such an eventuality, he would be a party to the nefarious act. Secondly, if indeed the minister was not in the know of the deceitful goings on while he was the Education Minister, natural questions will arise on his competence levels. Be that as it may, the immediate need now is to make the Government focus on bailing out the neglected school education sector. This will happen only when thrust is given on improving educational infrastructure in government schools besides creating a pool of dedicated training teachers who will function with professionalism and accountability. The Government has clearly made a mess of the qualitative aspects of school education, and has done even worse by using fraudulent means to show a highly-exaggerated performance. It's time the Government did its best to rectify its criminal act.

Sigh of relief

One can almost hear an audible sigh of relief rising from across Europe as well as other parts of the world at the emphatic, if not spectacular, victory of Emmanuel Macron in the French Presidential elections. This relief stems from the potential danger that the French, indubitably the most liberal among the people of Europe, might have elected the far right, National Front leader Marine Le Pen. Not that a huge chunk of the electorate was enamoured of what some have dubbed as the 'fascist' political philosophy of Le Pen. Yet the unexpected had happened before at least in two cases because of electorates being taken in by the core tenets of the nationalistic sentiments espoused by Macron's adversary — by a slender majority Britain voted to exit from the European Union, while in the US Donald Trump sprang the biggest surprise on an unwary world by seizing the Presidency from Hillary Clinton. After these two shock results, Cassandras had predicted the rise of nationalism and insularity in Europe as a whole, the loss of popularity on the part of Angela Merkel in Germany seemingly underlining such a reality. The pro-Brexit forces had been deeply perturbed by the loss of British sovereignty as also issues such as immigration; in the US, Trump had steered his way to the top by propagating an insular, America first, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant message.

However, Macron's victory may well prove to be a pyrrhic one, considering the huge number of those who had marred their ballot papers to signal that they did not want to vote for any of the candidates. Thus while Le Pen's philosophy had caused revulsion amongst many, they were not equally inclined to vote for the pro-EU, pro-globalization Macron. His problems were compounded by the fact that many French citizens did not quite know what he stood for, bursting out as he did from a relatively anonymous background. In fact, he had trailed badly in the preliminary round, far behind the centre-right front runner François Fillon who seemed destined to pick up the duelling glove against Le Pen's challenge. However, Fillon was embroiled in a monetary scandal, thereby catapulting Macron to the forefront. Many voters had voted for him because there was no alternative, they being determined to keep the liberal values which France had been known for. Thus the new French President like his counterpart in the US, would be leading a sharply polarized, highly divided nation, as signified by the protests which broke out immediately after his victory was announced. Saddled with a faltering economy, greater joblessness as also religious bigotry among a segment of society, Macron would need to display a high degree of statesmanship to sail through the choppy seas, else Europe might well discover that they had sighed in relief too soon.

Export best practices including sports

By the Brahmaputra
SANJOY HAZARIKA

The other day in Aizawl, capital of Mizoram and home to the now suddenly famous Aizawl Football Club or AFC for short, I was at a conference on various aspects of India-Myanmar relations. I noticed that the chair of the session, which was taking place at Mizoram University, was looking somewhat concerned.

What was the problem, I asked. The scholar, a prominent figure in civil society in his country, said that his Air India flight from Kolkata to Yangon had been cancelled and he would now go via Thai Air through Bangkok, longer but more efficient way of doing things — as much as possible reliable.

That's a poor reflection on a service and a component of policy engagement with our immediate neighbour that should have improved incrementally and visibly. For nearly 20 years, Air India has been running just two flights a week between Kolkata and Myanmar's most important commercial, political, cultural and historic hub. Twenty-five years into the Look East Policy and three years after the NDA Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi espoused the 'Act East Policy' as more representative of this Government's approach to our eastern neighbourhood, we haven't increased the number of direct flights by even one. This is not a good reflection of a topic that has been the subject of countless seminars, lectures, events and even intra-country and inter-people dialogues. Policies are not agreements written by governments but good practices visi-

ble and beneficial to the public.

I am reminded of a former Myanmarese diplomat who, at a conference in Kolkata, less than two years ago was so irked by slow pace of progress (it can be even called that) in infrastructure and connectivity between the two sides that he snapped: "You've been looking at us for 20 years, surely you know what we look like." The gathering at the Oberoi, which included diplomats and business folk as well as students and scholars, chuckled.

The point was, he added, what India was going to do after 'looking'. Would Delhi court, elope or marry the Myanmar maiden or would all the importuning come to naught because of this delay and sloth? I remember writing about it some time back in these columns and although the situation has changed within Myanmar — or as many still call it Burma — I'm not sure that there has been extensive progress in our approach. The speaker represented the country's premier foreign policy think tank and he was talking to a public audience.

The answer to that question is not simple, we will be told. It is complex and depends on many factors including India's own perceptions and priorities in the neighbourhood of South Asia. Yet, it is the eastern border which beckons in terms of stability and potential growth, not the northern border with China or the western one with Pakistan. Even though there are security issues with relation to two of the biggest remaining rebel groups which have bases in Myanmar — those of the National Social-

ist Council of Nagaland of SS Khamlang and the United Liberation Front of Aosom of Paresh Baruah, the fact remain that the former is a divided camp in Nagaland. It lacks the striking power of earlier times although it still has a bite as ambushes show but an important factor must be underlined and which has emerged over the past years — that the public mood has also changed in that State, that it has moved from fatigue with conflict to an earlier adversarial po-

it stands for. That he has persisted with the negotiations with interlocutor PC Halder, intermittent though these may be, is a sure indicator that this influential group sees negotiations and dialogue as the way forward, not confrontation, and has correctly guarded the public mood on this front. This is also the perception of the NSCN of Muivah which signed a secret framework agreement with its interlocutor RN Ravi nearly two years back and which neither side is prepared to reveal.

Thus, although the peace talks which appear to be going at the same pace as infrastructure growth in the country — and both are critical to the success of the Act East Policy — there is another element which is probably reflected in the Myanmar diplomat's outburst of a couple of years back. It is that Delhi has not been as inclusive of the States of the North-east in foreign policy making as it could have been. The border

States, as has been their long slogan but unheeded plea, should be involved in active policy making for their neighbourhood, not just Delhi. The latter has long seen both security and foreign policy as sole parish. This may be the beginning to change with greater interest from influential figures in Delhi and in Guwahati who seek to create better expertise and capacity through institutions based in the region.

They may be inspired by the experience of Yunnan Province which is an important driver of Chinese foreign policy with relation to South-east Asia, especially Myanmar. Beijing regards it as one of its bridgeheads and has generously

Kalinga war, Ashoka the great emperor became a convert to Buddhism. He had propagated the Buddhist religion all over India and sent missionaries to Ceylon, Java, Sumatra, Indonesia to preach the Buddhist gospels and doctrines. He even ordered his people to curve the Buddhist doctrines on the stone columns and rocks. Ashoka sent even his son to preach the Buddhist doctrines in Ceylon. Buddhism became a popular religion in Afghanistan, Japan, China and Indonesia. Thus the doctrines of Buddhism had, in the process of expansion, absorbed into itself the traditions and culture of the different areas which had accepted its message.

In fine, Buddhism is a system of spiritual reawakening from the deep slumber of earthly life engrossed and engulfed by *Aviida*. Buddha had attained spiritual wisdom and he showed man, through his own experiences, the way to how to attain it. The fourfold truth — the nature of man, the character of the world, the cause of man's predicament, the way by which man may rise above it and the state of enlightenment or release from subjection to time — are the result of his own experiences of truth. The Buddha shared with man all those aspects of his experiences. By following the doctrine of Buddhism man can free himself from the shackles of earthly bound existence and become divine.

Buddhism: a golden thread to Nirvana

■ Badan Sarma

The Buddha was accepted as an 'avatar', a God incarnate who came to this world in order to reform mankind from sanguinary rites and erroneous practices. The *Purana* describe the Buddha as the ninth avatar of God Vishnu. In his book *Gita-Govinda*, Jayadeva refers to the different incarnations of Vishnu and mentions Buddha as an avatar of Vishnu.

Lord Buddha was born of a minor ruler of Kapilavastu, grew up amidst comfort and luxury with no mundane pain and misery. He married Jasadhora, had a son Rahul and thus had enjoyed his married life amidst peace, pleasure and plenty. But suddenly one day, his whole mindset had undergone a terrible change when he had come across four incidents which offered him four new earthly experiences. Once he met an old man and Buddha instantly felt that human life is subject to the frailties of age; secondly, he met a sick man and soon realized that human life was liable to suffering. Thirdly, he had come across a dead person and he felt that life is subject to mortality. Fourthly, Lord Buddha met an ascetic, who had rigidly denied himself all bodily gratifications for the sake of truth and conscience. He was the seeker of truth, high above mundane pleasures. Buddha followed the golden ways of

the ascetic in order to attain freedom from squalor, oldage and death. With a firm determination and intensive knowledge, he soon resolved to do away with family life and the life of pleasure and plenty. He left his home, wife and the only son Rahul and far away from the madding crowds of ignoble strife, he fled in the deep forest and resorted to meditation and had spent six years studying the doctrines of religion. During this tenure of his rigorous self-imposed meditation, he had reduced himself to the verge of starvation. He came very near to death without attaining the much-craved-for truth.

He then gave up the path of the ascetic and returned and resumed his normal life. But when in his normal life he gained bodily strength and mental vigour, Lord Buddha spent seven weeks under the shade of Bodhi tree sitting in a state of the most profound meditation. There in this state of deep meditative mood, he attained enlightenment and soon he resolved to preach and propagate the truth and reawakening which is the ultimate result of man's lifelong endeavour on earth. Lord Buddha then recurred himself in the third person as Tathagata. In order to light the lamp of truth he explored, Lord Buddha roamed in Barasras to enlighten and awaken man from the deep slumber of *Aviida* or *Maya* to

the bondage of birth and death, to free his soul from the trammels of existence, and by breaking through the outer and apparent darkness of ignorance of *Maya* or *Aviida* human life must persevere to set the soul free to the celestial world of eternal bliss and spiritual joy. In such state of transcendental existence, there is neither old age, nor fear nor disease, nor birth or death.

The concept of this world as Buddha conceives refers to a stream without end, where the law of Karma functions. This concept is common to all religion — Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh. Man, therefore is the architect of his own destiny. He can work out his future and attain Nirvana. Our aim, as Buddha says, is therefore to conquer time, overcome *samsara* and by following the golden ways of moral and ethical disciplines that is illumination of the soul high above the temporal life. In order to achieve such a goal, Buddha re-emphasizes on the moral codes of conduct and ethical disciplines such as good thought, good deeds, good realization, charity, compassion, forbearance, love, common brotherhood, etc. He preaches and propagates the ideals of '*Pragna'* and '*Karma'* (compassion).

Consequently on the widespread devastation of property and untold misery of the people in the wake of the great carnage, caused by the

Letters to the Editor

Sir, — This refers to the news item 'Dress code for Govt employees mooted' (AT, May 4). While seeking to preserve the 'traditional ambience' in workplaces by prescribing a dress code for employees may appear to be a laudable objective, the jury is out on whether it needs to be imposed, and what works best in a given circumstance. Asking individuals to conform to a particular dress code that is decided or forced upon by people in power or claiming to be in high moral ground restricts the freedom of expression and violates human rights. Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of speech and expression. Dress codes is also a form of expression. Dress codes and restrictions blatantly violate this law. Any attack on this with

flimsy justifications like 'it is not our culture' ignores the fact that our culture is not a monolith.

The employees should be given the freedom of choice when it comes to office attire. They should be free to dress the way they see fit as long as they do not compromise on decorum. The current generation of workers, consisting of a large number of millennialists, look for options and flexibility. The current proposal floated by the Assam Government led by the BJP is not suitable and therefore unnecessary. Yours etc., KAMALJIT DEKA, Houston, Texas, USA.

Life lessons

Sir, — Buddha Purnima is celebrated all over the world to commemorate the birth of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Also known as Vesak and Buddha Jayanti, this festival is celebrated in different ways in countries like Japan, Cambodia,

China, Indonesia, Nepal and the USA, to name a few. The followers of Buddhism wear white clothes after a holy bath, preach the teachings of Lord Buddha and have *kheer* to celebrate the founder's birthday.

Gautam Buddha said, "No one saves us but ourselves; no one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path. Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. You only lose what you cling to. Doubt everything. Find your own light. Every morning, we are born again. What we do today is what matters most. There is no path to happiness. Happiness is the path. If we could see the miracle of a single flower, our whole life would change. Do not look for a sanctuary in anyone except yourself. You will not be punished for your anger, you will be punished by your anger. Do not dwell in the past, it will dream of the future, concentrate on the present moment."

Bitter experience

Sir, — I had a bitter experience travelling by second class AC coach by 22412 New Delhi-Naharlagun Super Fast Express from Siwan to Rangpur on May 1. Though I ordered non-veg food to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) caterer, a person disguised as the IRCTC caterer

came to me when the train reached at Kathai railway station and delivered me the supper. To my surprise he brought vegetarian food and tried to dupe me charging for non-veg food. When confronted, he sought apology and replaced the food. I was quite surprised to receive another non-veg lunch box this time from the real IRCTC caterer. I later learnt that these belong to private caterer groups and mostly dupe people as IRCTC caterer. Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I want to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to look into the matter so that such private caterers are not allowed to carry on such business on trains. Yours etc., NARUMA BEGUMA, Hospital Road, Tengra.

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

Dress code by Government diktat?

China, Indonesia, Nepal and the USA, to name a few. The followers of Buddhism wear white clothes after a holy bath, preach the teachings of Lord Buddha and have *kheer* to celebrate the founder's birthday.

The Buddhists pay special attention to Buddha's teachings during Vesak. Buddha was an influential spiritual teacher during and after his lifetime. Many Buddhists see him as the Supreme Buddha. The *dharma-chakra* is a symbol often seen during Vesak. It is a wooden wheel with eight spokes. The wheel represents Buddha's teaching on the path to enlightenment. The eight spokes symbolize the noble eightfold path of Buddhism. Yours etc., PRADIP KUMAR BARUA, Dibrugarh.

Bitter experience

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Appeal to AERC against making prepaid meters mandatory

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 9: Bidyut Grahak Manch, a forum of the electricity consumers, has appealed to the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) to ensure that the prepaid energy meters are not made obligatory, fearing financial burden on the consumers.

In its letter to the chairman of the AERC, the Manch stated that the move to make such meters mandatory for the electricity consumers of the State has been made apparently to ensure a budgetary control on electricity consumption by individual consumers, which is unnecessary in the context of electricity consumers' interest.

A huge quantity of such meters is proposed to be purchased by the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) as part of its meter replacement drive.

"In the past also, a huge quantity of digital energy meters was purchased by the APDCL under the ADB finance and the cost was passed on to the consumers for reducing the transmission and distribution losses and to ensure accuracy of meter reading. However, a huge quantity of such meters are still lying unused in the company's store," Subodh Sharma, secretary of the Bidyut Grahak Manch, told *The Assam Tribune*.

Supporting its demand with the argument that the load security deposit made by the

consumers is in itself an advance payment made to the APDCL on account of energy purchase made by the consumers for three months, Manch stated that there was little justification in insisting prepaid meters on the consumers, over and above the prevalent condition of keeping a permanent load security deposit with the APDCL.

"The meter recharge would entail a service cost component, to be borne by the consumers," Sharma added.

The Manch suggested that if all the APDCL wanted to introduce prepaid meters, it could have been introduced as optional service for the willing consumers, but only after a proper market study and procurement of the same as per necessity.

The AERC was also requested to make public the outcome of the Accelerated Power Distribution and Reform Programme (APDRP) and Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (RAPDRP), taken up for energy auditing to quantify the actual position of the technical losses suffered by the PSUs.

"Through the schemes had the potential to hasten the revenue collection process through higher bill collection efficiency, the facts like quantity of meters bought and installed under the schemes and the number of inventory lying unused in stores must be made public," he added.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati-781039, Assam

Sealed quotations are invited for supply & installation of the following items:

Hostels: UF+UV Water Treatment Plant; **EE:** EEL Digital Storage Oscilloscope; **Chemistry:** Micro Pressure Vessel; **Physics:** Source Measure Unit; **Student Affairs:** DSLR Camera and accessories

For detailed specifications, terms and conditions, please visit our website at www.igert.net/tender/19. Correspondence in this regard, if any, will be published/ intimated in the above mentioned website only.

Sd/-
DR(S/P)



CITY Guwahati smart city project to be completed in time: Govt

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 9: Though any infrastructure work related to the smart city project in Guwahati is unlikely to start within this financial year, the State government is hopeful of completing the project and the detailed project report (DPR) would be ready by December this year.

A smart city advisory committee would be formed with all the MLAs and the MP of Guwahati to ensure their total involvement in the project.

The Union government has sanctioned Rs 189 crore for the

smart city project in Guwahati. The State government would also give an equal amount for the project.

"Till now, tendering process for the projects - 'system integrator for city command and control centre' and 'water and waste water supply under the Jalukhar and West Guwahati water supply scheme by October 2." Nearly 94 per cent work of the projects has been completed and we are looking forward to starting the water supply to the citizens before Durga Puja," he added.

stipulated time," Sarma said.

On the ambitious water supply scheme for Guwahati, the Minister informed the House that the government is hopeful about starting water supply under the Jalukhar and

West Guwahati water supply scheme by October 2.

"Nearly 94 per cent work of the projects has been completed and we are looking forward to starting the water supply to the citizens before Durga Puja," he added.

Woman succumbs to burn injuries

GUWAHATI, May 9: Yasmin Begum, who received burns in the fire that took place in Dantapara area on Sunday night, died at a private hospital here early this morning. The fire had already accounted for the lives of three daughters of Yasmin. - Staff Reporter

Free medical camp

GUWAHATI, May 9: Aranya Society, a registered society acting as a facilitator between patients and various hospitals outside NE, is holding a free medical camp at its office at Kushan Plaza, Ganeshguri on May 14. Dr Sudhi Jan from Delhi Indraprastha Apollo, who is a specialist in piles, ulcer, pancreas, gall bladder and abdominal pain, will offer consultation to patients at the camp, said a press release.



Vehicles plying on the submerged AK Dev Road at Datalpara following a heavy afternoon shower in Guwahati on Tuesday. - UB Photos

Govt to organise seminars on Tagore across State from next year

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 9: The State Government will organise seminars in all the districts of Assam to mark Rabindra Jayanti celebration from next year.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced this while taking part in the Rabindra Jayanti celebration at Rabindra Bhawan in the city today.

Greater Guwahati Rabindra Jayanti Celebration Committee organised the programme today in association with the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam.

Rabindranath Tagore was a great humanist who made inedible contribution to glorify Indian literature on the world stage. The Govern-

ment of Assam will organise seminars coinciding with the Rabindra Jayanti celebration in all districts from next year for greater understanding about his personality and his works," Sonowal stated.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the steps taken for promoting artists who practise Rabindra Sangeet.

Stating that Tagore brought an intellectual stimulus to the national freedom movement, the Chief Minister remarked that his contributions surpassed national boundary and earned acclaim from the world community.

Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) Mayor Mrigen Sarana, Director, former MLA Ajay Dutta, and a host of dignitaries were present in the celebration.

Cong-President meeting over Assam Accord

APCC downplays AIUDF criticism

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 9: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has questioned the locus standi of the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in criticising the Congress' act of meeting Peoples' Front Mukherjee and Upin Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the issue of implementation of the Assam Accord.

Unlike the AIUDF, Congress is not a B-Team of the BJP. The AIUDF is hence trying to unite the minorities in the name of religion and has been trying to present a different picture about the State's political situation to the common people taking recourse to falsehood, said the APCC senior spokesman.

Senior APCC spokesman Arup Bhattacharjee said in a statement here that the Congress is aware of its commitment towards the people of the State and hence it has met the President of the country

and the Union Home Minister for proper implementation of the Assam Accord. This bid has been taken by the Congress as a pre-emptive move to check any attempt by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in the State against the Centre's influence over the implementation of the Assam Accord.

Unlike the AIUDF, Congress is not a B-Team of the BJP. The AIUDF is hence trying to unite the minorities in the name of religion and has been trying to present a different picture about the State's political situation to the common people taking recourse to falsehood, said the APCC senior spokesman.

He demanded that in constructing the LSHEP the opinion of experts should be honoured.

TENDER NOTICE NO. Medical-03 of 2017 DATE: 04-05-17

Name & Description of work: Providing 06(Nos.) privacy secured guard (Un-Skilled) and 1 (one) Number of (Semi-Skilled) Security Supervisor and the check to water and guard duty to protect the Railway property as well as to control visitors and private vehicles at Divisional Railway Head Office Alipurduar Jn., Darjeeling Dist., Pin - 734411, the office working hours w.e.f. 15/05/17 from 10.00 hrs to 12.00-17 up to 12.00 hrs.

Tenders can be submitted in the office of CM/DPD/J's office up to 12.30 P.M. on 13/05/17. The office opened at 11.00 a.m. on 13/05/17.

Detailed Tender Notice and Tender Documents are available at www.gauhati.ac.in

Chief Medical Officer

N. F. Railway, Alipurduar Jn.

North-East Frontier Railway

Service Customers With A Smile

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI 7

PROs' body seeks appropriate land laws

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 9: The Public Relations Officers and Employees' Association of Assam, in its fourth meeting held on Sunday, appealed to the Government of Assam to frame appropriate land legislation debarring non-permanent residents and suspected Bangladeshi infiltrators from acquiring land in Assam and also for taking steps to restrict the entry of non-indigenous persons from acquiring land, particularly in tribal belts and blocks.

The secretary of the Association, Khaagen Chandra Medhi, in his report mentioned the activities of the Association and appealed to all the retired employees and officers of both the governments of India and Assam, and also private and government sector organisations for enlisting themselves as active members of the Association.

Manorama Barua, Abdul Wasi, Harekrishna Das, Anupoma Dutta Saikia and Satyen Gogoi, while participating in the discussion, appealed to the State Government to remove the anomalies in respect of pensioner benefits of retired State Government employees compared to those of the Central Government.

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The third planet from the Sun needs your help, Jadav Payeng tells youths



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 9: As part of the Auxesis, the technocultural mega fest of Dibrugarh University, a plantation drive was organised in the premises of the varsity, nearby schools and surroundings.

The event was marked by the presence of Padma Shri Jadav Molai Payeng, the famous self-taught environmental activist and forestry worker.

The Padma Shri recipient planted two saplings within the University campus in memory of former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and music maestro Dr Bhupen Hazarika. This year the Auxesis will start from

October 13 with the theme 'Valiant Virtuous'.

During the event, Jadav Payeng once again urged upon the youths to add lungs to the society by planting trees for a greener Earth. The Earth, which is the third planet from the Sun, desperately needs your help, he reminded the younger generation. He added that tree plantation must become a habit with the present generation and reiterated that it must be included in the curriculum from the elementary school level.

Saving the ecosystem should be the responsibility of every single human being, he justified.

Payeng further said that with thousands of trees being

recklessly cut down to make way for a new dawn in Assam in the form of a highway project, there is an urgent need to make up for the losses as soon as possible through a vigorous afforestation programme.

The event also witnessed the participation of Jiten Hazarika, Dean of Student Affairs, Dibrugarh University, Mukul Chandra Bora, Director of DUJET, Malanch Maiukh Saikia, Student Convenor of the event, Kaushik Das, Faculty Convenor of the event, Manasi Pratim Dutta, general secretary of Dibrugarh University Post-Graduate Students' Union, professors and associate professors of the university.

Construction works of APL's new 500 TPD methanol plant begin

ANN Service

NAMRUP, May 9: Assam Petrochemicals Ltd (APL), a State Government undertaking located at Namrup is a premier petrochemicals industry of the entire NER. It has been in services to the nation since 1976 with glorious performances, carving a niche in the international market too.

Considering the viability of the existing plants and realising the need of survival and growth, APL is implementing a new 500 TPD Methanol and 200 TPD Formalin project along with a 7 MW Captive Power Plant by investing a total capital out-

Youth held for derogatory remarks against Sonowal

BISWANATH CHARIALI, May 9: One Parimal Gour of Borgang was arrested on Monday for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, All Assam Students' Union adviser Dr Samujjal Bhattacharya and the students' body, in the social media.

Gour is reportedly an activist of State Gouri Samaj and Biplobi Yuva Santha. According to information available, Gour had made the derogatory comments in regard to the foreigners issue and others, which subsequently went viral in the social media. The Biswanath Chariali and Pabbar units of AASU lodged an FIR at Biswanath Chariali Police Station in this respect, following which Gour was arrested. — Correspondent

World Lupus Day today

A CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 9: Tomorrow (May 10) is observed the world over as World Lupus Day with an appeal for a global call-to-action awareness programme on behalf of the millions of people affected by lupus. The entire month of May is observed as the lupus awareness month to increase public understanding of this mysterious disease that is known to affect atleast 5 million people worldwide, as stated by the Lupus Foundation of America. Lupus is most likely to strike women of child-bearing age, although men, children and teenagers, too have been known to suffer from it.

A chronic autoimmune disease, lupus can affect any part of the body at any time, in any way. It is also known as the "Great Imitator" as the symptoms of this disease are known

to imitate those of a variety of other conditions. Lupus is essentially a condition in which the body's immune system becomes hyperactive and attacks normal, healthy tissue. This results in symptoms such as inflammation of joints and extremities, allergic reactions and damage to joints, skin, kidneys, blood, heart and lungs. It is commonly characterised by unexplained and recurring fever, extreme fatigue, painful, swollen joints, unusual hair loss and the appearance of a red or purplish scaly, butterfly-shaped rash across the face known as Malar rash. It is not contagious. Research suggests that a combination of genetic, hormonal, environmental and immune system factors may trigger the disease. People suffering from lupus are known to experience periods of flares, when symptoms show and periods of remission when

CME prog on paediatric anaesthesia

GUWAHATI, May 9: A day long-Continuous Medical Education (CME) programme was organised by the Guwahati City Branch of the Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists (ISA) in collaboration with Mission Smiles on Paediatric Anaesthesia on the premises of Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital, Panbari, on May 6, a press release stated.

Lupus, being a chronic condition, is not curable but through proper medical diagnosis and continued monitoring, persons affected can lead normal lives. Treatment for this disease is varied, just as the symptoms displayed by patients vary from person to person. The treatment for lupus involves anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids, immunosuppressants etc., depending on the severity and the body systems affected by it.

With more and more people being affected by it, it has now become a major concern for the World Health Organisation as well.

Various international faculties from Sweden and United States delivered their talks on various topics on the subject. Two of them were Paediatric Anaesthesiologists, one Paediatric Cardiologist while another was a Paediatric Intensivist. Faculties within the State from various Government and private sector hospitals also delivered talks in this academic event. Through this programme, the local fraternity of anaesthesiologists had the opportunity to exchange their knowledge and experience with their overseas counterparts and at the same time they also had an update about the recent advances on the subject. The CME was attended by around 75 anaesthesiologists from all over the State.

One held in Jorhat for verbally abusing girl

CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 9: Police today arrested a person on the charge of outraging the modesty of a college-going girl by hurling abusive words at her at the Jorhat Railway Station.

Identified as Raju Gupta, the accused is reportedly a history-sheeter who had earlier committed several crimes, including assaulting a police officer of the city police station. According to the complainant, the accused abused her verbally while she was walking through the railway station.

Several locals alleged that many criminals loiter around in the railway station with impunity these days due to security lapse by the authority concerned.

In another case, a college-going girl of a private junior college barely managed to escape from the clutches of a gang of kidnappers near the Royal Oak School here on Monday.

Not surprisingly, therefore, mobile phone customers and computer enterprises in rural areas have urged the authorities concerned to redress their long-standing network problem.

A section of customers of private computer enterprises, mobile phone users and mobile phone repairing stalls, besides aggrieved postmasters of the aforementioned areas lamented that they had never been able to avail the advantages of Digital India during the course of their daily official transactions.

It may perhaps not be out of place to mention here that mobile phone service providers have over the years not

failed to instal towers in many rural areas of the State, following which the concerned customers regularly face severe network problems.

Most of the rural areas, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, still require installation of at least 2,817 more mobile towers, BSNL sources revealed. Besides, there are 8,621 villages out of 19,190 unconnected ones which are yet to be covered by setting up 6,673 towers respectively.

Not surprisingly, therefore, mobile phone customers and computer enterprises in rural areas have urged the authorities concerned to redress their long-standing network problem by erecting adequate number of mobile towers in rural Assam at an early date.

It may perhaps not be out of

place to mention here that mobile phone service providers have over the years not

failed to instal towers in many

rural areas of the State, following which the concerned customers regularly face severe network problems.

Though water navigation is an important medium of transportation for many in Dhubri district, but due to the lack of proper regulations and inappropriate number of boats, accidents in the rivers are common.

Even after the tragic Medaryati incident where at least 150 passengers travelling in a ferry capsized in the

waterways in the district safe, secure and organised, the Inland Water Transport Department is all set to implement news regulations, introduce new boats and modify the river ports.

Brahmaputra and subsequently went missing on the afternoon of April 30, 2012, not much improvement has been witnessed in the water transport scenario within the district.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the Director of Inland Water Transport Department, Bharat Bhushan Choudhary in his recent visit to the town assured that water transportation in the district would not only see a massive improvement in the near future, but will also become the trade and business route for the people of the entire State.

"In a district like Dhubri, where water navigation is as

Seminar on dying traditions of Kukis, Dimasas, Karbis of Karbi Anglong held

GUWAHATI, May 9: A seminar-cum-workshop was held recently by the Institute of Research & Documentation of Indigenous Studies (IRDIS), Assam under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India on "The culture and the threatened and dying cultural traditions of the Kuki, Dimasa and the Kuki communities in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam" at the premises of the Jirsonsong Asong, Diphu.

Dr Deepa Dutt, Executive Director, IRDIS, in her introductory remarks, said that this seminar-cum-workshop was the last of a series of seminars organised by IRDIS in the State with the involvement of various members of ethnic communities and cultural experts at the grassroots level to deliberate on their traditional cultures and the threats perceptions to their rich cultural and social heritage with the passage of time. The earlier two seminars were held at Morigaon and Goalpara districts.

The two sessions of the seminar-cum-workshop at Diphu were chaired and moderated by Dharamsing Teron, writer and Director of the Centre for Karbi Studies. The resource persons viz., Dr Paul Chonzik, Head of the Department of History, Assam University Diphu Campus, Dr Motilal Nunisa and Sikri Taso, researchers and cultural experts of the Dimasa and Karbi communities respectively dwelt on the various cultural traditions practised by the Kuki, Dimasa and

the Karbi people of Karbi Anglong and expressed their apprehensions at the gradual changes that have crept in with time, the reasons thereof, and the genuine fear that these changes may herald the extinction of their true cultural practices, traditions and beliefs. They further expressed the need for such deliberations with a view to unearth the manifold threats to their culture and traditions and to strive unitedly for the revival, restoration and the depiction of the cultural practices of the three communities in their right perspective.

The seminar was widely attended by researchers and cultural experts, students and research scholars and participants from the Karbi, Dimasa and Kuki communities.



Child artists performing at a Mukoli Bihu competition organised by the Biswanath Chariali Kendriya Bihu Sammelan, on Sunday — UB Photos

Guwahati Sahitya Kanan meet

GUWAHATI, May 9: Guwahati Sahitya Kanan, in its 361st sitting decided to observe birth day of Biruli Kumar Hazarika, poet, novelist, short story writer, dramatist, critic and literary pensioner "Sadhana Dini" every year on May 7, a press release stated.

In the above mentioned special sitting of Guwahati Sahitya Kanan, presided over by eminent social activist Kharindra Chaita Das, a host of literary and cultural personalities were present.

Dinesh Das, the veteran actor, enthralled the audience by his speech interspersed with humour. Anshuman Bhowmik, Chaitanya Chaitanya, Binod Chaitanya, Rupjyoti Barthakur recited some dialogues from *Caligula* which was earlier staged at Guwahati and Delhi. Self-composed poems were read out by El Ahmed, recipient of Padmashri, Mir Thakur, Deba Prasad Talukdar, Sashi Prabha Das, Bhusen

Chakravarty, Amola Chakravarty, Anima Gogoi, Dr Roman Sarma, Purabi Barua, Karuna Deko, Tarun Barman, Rituparna Barua, Uttam Barua, Anjali Barua, Arup Goswami, Lalit Nath, child artist Suraj Das and Bimal Kumar Hazarika.

Self-composed English poems were read out by Tapati Barua Kashyap and Bishnu Kinkar Dipi Barua, Sashidhar Pachani and Anamika Thakura rendered Assamese songs which were well received. Sashidhar Pachani and

Dhruva Ranjan Bhagwati sang Bihu songs and El Ahmed,

Dipu Barua, Mandira Hazarika and Purabi Barua danced to the tune drawing applause from the members present. In his presidential speech Kharindra Chaita Das expressed his delight at the huge gathering and requested the members to come in a big way in the next meeting of the Kanan.

Vote of thanks was offered by Bimal Kumar Hazarika, working president, Guwahati Sahitya Kanan.

Water transport in Dhubri district set for facelift

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, May 9: To make waterways in the district safe, secure and organised, the Inland Water Transport Department is all set to implement news regulations, introduce new boats and modify the river ports.

Brahmaputra and subsequently went missing on the afternoon of April 30, 2012, not much improvement has been witnessed in the water transport scenario within the district.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the Director of Inland Water Transport Department, Bharat Bhushan Choudhary in his recent visit to the town assured that water transportation in the district would not only see a massive improvement in the near future, but will also become the trade and business route for the people of the entire State.

"In a district like Dhubri, where water navigation is as

important as any other mode of transport, issues relating to it are many in number," said the Director. He also added that the department will soon be receiving World Bank funds worth Rs 1,000 crore for the improvement of waterways in the State, of which a major chunk will be utilised for improvement of the water transport system in Dhubri district.

Choudhary said, "the regulations and laws of the department are very archaic and pertain to the period of British rule. We are therefore planning to modernise the rules and regulations within a very short period," he said. The Director also informed that with the funds the department is expected to receive, they would undertake a survey on the most appropriate design of boat suitable for the waterways in the district, and such boats would thereafter be made available for the commuters.

He also informed that the ports will be restructured and converted into river ports.

"The condition of all the river ports are pathetic, insecure and unhygienic in the district. We are working on improvement of these ghats as soon as possible", The Director also said that according to the plans chalked out by the Department, they would convert the ghats of Dhubri into business ports.

He said that after improvement of the ports are complete, they would systematically open connectivity of the river ports of Dhubri with other parts of the State, as well as the neighboring States, including Bangladesh, for ensuring free flow of trade and commerce.

Meanwhile, Choudhary during his visit also attended an official hearing on the Medaryati boat tragedy at the Dhubri Circuit House and subsequently distributed licenses to the commercial boats plying in the rivers of the district.

Dimbeswar Pait: a tribute

Dimbeswar Pait of Dibrugarh Kangkan Nagar breathed his last on April 25 at 2 am following a protracted illness. He was 73.

Having retired as Labour Superintendent in 2004, he joined service as Labour Inspector in 1974 after qualifying in the APSCL. He worked in several places during his service career and was closely associated with culture, ed-

ucation and social activities. Founder Headmaster of Akashan High School, he established the school in 1969. He also established several other schools in the area. He was also the founder teacher of Chittamukh Higher Secondary School, Anguri Tribal HS, Akajan Tribal Girls' High School, besides Dibrugarh Mishring High School. He also served as teach-

er at the Ramkrishna Mission at Aalo in Arunachal Pradesh. Helped Dr Bhupen Hazarika during the making of *Miri Jori*, besides the first Mising language film *Migong*. He leaves behind his wife, three daughters, one son, sons-in-law and grandchildren along with a host of relatives. May his soul rest in peace.

— Gunadhar Doley

No. MCH/2017/9362

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paisa Twenty Five) only Proposals from reputed Companies/ Principals/ Manufacturers dealing with the Medicines & Surgical Items/ Reagents/ Instruments/ Kits & Equipment required for the Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh are invited for purchase of the same on annual rate contract basis for the year 2017-2018 by the Superintendent, Assam Medical College & Hospital, Dibrugarh -786002. Assumptions along with terms of bid let out and the nature of the requirement, their credential, manufacturing capabilities, quality control system, financial background etc. within 20 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

The tender will be received by the office of the Superintendent upto 1.00 pm of 10.05.2017. The tender will be open on 30.05.2017. The tenders are requested to attend the tender committee meeting at the office of the superintendent from 10.00 am onwards with their sample products.

Detailed tender with terms and conditions may be obtained from the AMC website as given below.

Name of the Website: www.assammedicalcollege.in

Sd/- Superintendent
Assam Medical College Hospital
Dibrugarh

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited with necessary documents from interested candidates for the following posts at Water and Sanitation Support Organisation (WSSO), PHED, Assam on contractual basis for 4 (four) months only and may be extended subject to requirement & performance.

- Driver cum Mobile Water Treatment Plant Operator : 5 (five) posts. Qualification : Class- VII pass with valid License of running Heavy/ Light Motor Vehicle (Commercial) and experience in operating Mobile Water Treatment Plants.
- Electrician Operator : 6 (six) post . Qualification : Graduate Diploma with computer knowledge and experience in online data entry.
- Caretaker of Guest House : 2 (two) post. High School pass & having good communication skill.
- Technician for Mobile Water Treatment Plant : 1 (one) post. ITI/ Diploma holder in Mechanical/ Fitter with knowledge in operation and maintenance of Mobile Water Treatment Plants. The upper age limit for the posts is 38 years. Salary will be as per WSSO norms. Application in Standard Application form with biodata giving detail qualifications, experiences, contact detail, with passport size photograph etc. must reach the O/o the undersigned within 17.05.2017.

Sd/- Director, WESO
PHED, Assam
Betkuchi, Guwahati- 781035
Janasanyog/1504/17

CINEMA PROGRAMME

SILVER SCREEN
Bijoy Nagar, Opp. ICICI Bank
(Digital Projection and Dolby Surround sound system). Located near the market back street with delicious food court & car parking.
At 10.45 am, 1.45, 4.45 & 8.00 pm
BAHUHALI-2 (Hindi)
Spt. Prakash, Anushka Shetty etc.
For booking: 97762-90972 & 88763-35234
Or [bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com)

GRANDE CINEMA
5th Floor, Grand Central Building,
G.S. Road, Guwahati- 781009

(2 Curved Screens, Dolby CP 780
Surround Sound system, Push Back Seats, Air-conditioned and Multiplex Ambience)

At 10.00, 10.45 am, 1.45, 2.45 & 3.00 pm
9.00 pm

BAHUHALI : THE CONCLUSION

GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY-2 (E) 3D

For booking: [bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com)

Or 09854017777

INOX MOVIES - JORHAT

ABS Mall, G.A.R. Highway (Tent)

(15th May to 11th June 2017)

At 10.00, 10.45 am, 1.45, 2.45, 4.45,

5.45 & 8.00 pm

BAHUHALI : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY-2 (E) 3D

For booking: [bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com)

Or 09854017777

PURANA MANGLA

2nd Floor, Samrat Shopping

Complex, L.N.B Road, Mangalajoli

(Dolby Surround sound system and Push Back Seats)

5th May to 11th May 2017

At 10.00, 10.45 am, 1.45, 2.45, 4.45,

5.45 & 8.00 pm

BAHUHALI 2 : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

REGULAR TICKET :

Rs. 250/-, 150/-, 100/-

Morning show: Rs. 180/-, 90/-, 60/-

Online Booking: www.bookmyshow.com For any query please call 09854017777

AMBICA CINE PALACE

Duthnoi

Digital Projector & Dolby Sound

Air Conditioned & Push Back Seats

At 10.30 am, 3.30 & 8.30 pm

BAHUHALI-2 (Hindi)

THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

ANTARIN (Assamese)

TeleBooking No. 9882277555

www.bookmyshow.com

bookmyshow.in &

GALLERIA CINEMA

HUB, G.S. Road, Guwahati is showing

28th April to 4th May 2017 with following

Screen-1

At 10.15 am, 3.15, 6.30 & 8.30 pm

BAHUHALI-2 (Hindi)

REGULAR TICKET :

Rs. 280/-, Rs. 350/-

Morning shows:

Rs. 180/-, Rs. 250/- and Business Rs. 200/-

www.bookmyshow.com

VANDANA

(WITH DIGITAL PROJECTION)

At 11.00 am, 2.00 pm & 5.00 pm

ANTAREEN : THE HOUSE OF SANCTUARY

Sgt. Arun Nath, Umlan Meharanta

At 14.55, 6.00 & 8.15 pm

BAHUHALI 2 : THE CONCLUSION (Hindi)

Stg. Prakash, Anushka Shetty etc.

Plea to solve Tocklai research centre's problems**STAFF REPORTER**

looking into the issue and is in touch with the Tea Board.

Patowary said that as tea is under the Union List, the final decision regarding the institute will be taken by the Central government but Dispur has urged New Delhi to consider 'nationalisation' of the institute.

"The State government is also committed to do its share," he said, adding that he is in constant touch with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over the matter.

Earlier, raising the issue during the Zero Hour Congress Saikia cited newspaper reports about financial crunch being faced by the renowned institute has been brought to the notice of the government.

He said that Tea Board is not providing adequate help to the institute.

Sakia said that if necessary the government should take over the institute and declare it as an "institute of national importance."



Women taking part in community fishing contest organised on the occasion of Rongali Bihu celebration, at Barimakha village of Baksa district on Tuesday. - UB Photos

Free health camp marks World Red Cross Day at Jonai

ANN Service

objectives and services rendered by the organisation and asked the rural people to make use of these opportunities. He informed that Red Cross volunteers have been serving the flood and disaster- hit people with relief and rescue operations besides distribution of aid to the disabled in the subdivision.

Speaking on the occasion, Jonai subdivisional medical and health officer, Dr Kishore Kumar Kaman informed the people about the government's health policies meant for the rural people.

Among others, Red Cross Society secretaries Ashwani Pegu, Navajyoti Deori also spoke on the occasion and reflected various social services rendered by the organisation in the subdivision.

More than 300 patients were treated with free medicines in the camp.

Addressing the people, Jonai Urban Red Cross Society chairman, Shiva Pegu explained the

prove the condition of trade and commerce.

He said that the number of registered and unregistered organisations have been increasing at an alarming rate and such bodies are indulging in forcible collection of donations from shopkeepers and businesses.

While expressing serious concern over the ongoing donation drive, Kakkash asked the social organisations to stop collection or donations from shops and business establishments in Diphu town.

Addressing a press conference, Augustine Kramsa, chairman of KACC said that collection of donations must stop forthwith, so as to insure the Golden Globe Tigers Award was highlighted as the prices of essential items often spiral out of control due to this donation menace, Kramsa said.

On addressing the condition of trade and commerce, he said

Two killed in mishap

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, May 9: Two persons accompanying a wedding party were killed and several others injured in a road accident near Barpeta road in Barpeta district last night.

According to information available, the Tan Magic car which were travelling hit a parked vehicle near Beki river on National Highway 31 around 8 last night. The driver of the vehicle Dibyajit Talukdar and a passenger Badheswar Das were killed on the spot. Another 10 passengers, including a five-year-old child, were critically injured in the incident.

It is learnt that they came to Kalbari near Barpeta road from Sakhisali near Manikup in Bongaigaon district in the daytime itself. After completion of the rituals early in the evening, the group was returning to the groom's home. However, the newly-wed couple travelled in a separate vehicle and escaped the accident.

New CGM of FCI



GUWAHATI, May 9: Flight Lieutenant Monj Gogoi today joined as Chief General Manager of Food Corporation of India, North East zone. Prior to his joining in Guwahati, Gogoi was posted in FCI headquarter, New Delhi. He is the first Assamese to be appointed in the second highest post of the corporation in North East zone, said a press release.

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WEATHER

NORTHEAST

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at several places over Assam, Meghalaya and light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Warning: Thunderstorms with wind speed exceeding 50 km per hour are likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland on May 10. Thunderstorm with gusty wind speed exceeding 30 km per hour is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya on May 12 and heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland on May 13 and over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on May 12 and 13.

Temperatures

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	32.0	23.0
Tinsukia	31.8	24.3
Silchar	33.8	24.2
Dhubri	4.0	20.9
Jorhat	33.2	23.8
Naharkhimpur	23.0	7
Shillong	23.5	13.9
Imphal	31.7	18.5
Itanagar	34.8	22.5
Aizawl	35.1	15.2
Agartala	33.8	25.6
Kohima	-	15.8
Pasighat	33.9	22.3
Cherrapunji	23.2	17.3

Hailstorm, heavy rain lash Nagaland

KOHIMA, May 9: Hailstorm and heavy rain lashed parts of Nagaland, including its capital town today but there was no official report of any major damage due to hailstorm.

Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) OSD, Johnny Riangmei said there is normal rainfall in Nagaland this year but due to its erratic nature its volume is very high and the impact is therefore more.

He said moderate to thunderstorm weather is expected across the State for the next few days. NSDMA team is assessing damages caused to plantation and vegetation if any in today's hailstorm, he said.

The heavy rains ahead of the monsoon clogged drains here and flooded the main roads in some areas. Rains and hailstorms did not take place in Dimapur and Mon districts. - PTI

E-waste workshop

IMPHAL, May 9: National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Senapati extension centre organised a five-day awareness workshop on E-Waste Management for the government employees at Senapati recently.

Executive Director of NIELIT, Imphal, Th Pramesswar Singh highlighted the management of E-waste life cycle. He said that appliances such as mobile, radio, electric switch, kitchen gadgets, etc., can be hazardous to health if these are not disposed off properly.

He also said that 95 percent of E-waste can be reused by putting them into different stages of recycling process. Besides dustbin in green, yellow and red can be used for disposing different gadgets for e-waste management, he added. - Correspondent

Naga political groups meet tribal bodies

CORRESPONDENT

DIMPUR, May 9: To deliberate on the social and political situation facing the people of Nagaland, the Nagaland National Political Groups (NNPGs) held separate meetings with Zeling People's Organisation (ZPO) on May 8 and Pochury Hoho on May 6 at Oking.

In a joint press statement, the NNPG said, "Both sides agreed and believed that it is a correct time for the people of Nagaland to decide the best acceptable and honourable political solution for the people of Nagaland. For future generation Nagas, this is a practical necessity of the hour."

The statement said, the NNPG and ZPO, having understood the position of the Government of India on the issue of Nagaland integration, reaffirmed that although Nagas were divided under different administrative areas, all effort would be given to maintain social, cultural and emotional integration of all Nagas, till future generation Nagas decide to chart higher political course for their betterment.

Both sides also expressed confidence on each other and recalled that Zeliangs had played a prominent part in the Indo-Naga political struggle.

Meanwhile, according to a local daily, the ZPO has reportedly endorsed the political solution for Nagas of Nagaland. Stating that Zeliangs were scattered in Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the ZPO said their customs and traditions therefore should be respected in any political settlement. It further appreciated the working group of the NNPGs for understanding each other and forming the working group platform.

The working group of NNPGs also held a joint meeting with Pochury Hoho (PH) and its tribal bodies on May 6. The PH expressed appreciation at the coming together of various Naga political groups.

In a joint statement issued by the NNPGs and presidents of Pochury Hoho, Pochury Mothers' Association and Pochury Youth Association, the



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma inaugurating the Hallidajang Police Station in West Garo Hills on Monday. - UB Photos

Nagaland CM for improving inter-State relations with Manipur

IMPHAL, May 9: Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhozied Liezitsu today announced that efforts are on to improve inter-State relations between Nagaland and Manipur.

"All must realise that only when there is peace, there can be development and this applies to the entire Northeastern region as the problems faced by the States are almost the same," Liezitsu, who is on a visit to Manipur, told re-

porters here.

He claimed that "some leaders" in the past had exploited the situation for their "selfish ends" and created feelings among different communities.

"However, with the change of the government that has been made and there is no tension between the two States," the CM said.

Stating that Nagaland People's Front (NPF) had extended its assistance in forming the BJP-

led Government in Manipur, Liezitsu exuded confidence that a "new era has begun".

Replying to a query on the economic blockade along highways in landlocked Manipur, the NPF president said it was over and there are considerations to create a separate road for truckers heading toward Manipur as Kohima experiences heavy traffic jam during the day and trucks are not allowed to enter the city. - PTI

Khandu congratulated for making Itanagar clean

ITANAGAR, May 9: Arunachal Pradesh Governor PB Acharya today congratulated Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his team after the State capital soared up on the cleanliness scale, occupying 216th position in "Swachh Surveyan" 2017.

Itanagar was last year judged as the third dirtiest city of the country.

The Governor also thanked the people of the city for their participation in the cleanliness drive. He applauded the team led by the CM for their efforts.

According to a statement from Raj Bhavan, Acharya asked the citizens, trade associations, NGOs and students of the city to join hands with the district administration and make Itanagar free from open defecation. - PTI

APCC threatens to launch stir against Centre

ITANAGAR, May 9: Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) today threatened to launch a State-wide agitation against Centre for allegedly failing to provide banks in the State with sufficient cash.

"This has caused difficulties to the common people, particularly the daily wage earners and the business community," APCC president Takan Sanjory said.

"This is a fallout of demonetisation launched by Modi Government at Centre. The remonetisation programme of the Central Government has caused chaos and confusion," he said.

The party gave one week's time to the Central and State Governments to ensure cash flow in the State and the entire Northeastern region, he said.

"Almost all the ATMs in Itanagar and district headquarters in Arunachal Pradesh are closed which is a clear sign of collapse of the State economy," Sanjory added. - PTI

1st Nagaland Film Festival on May 11

CORRESPONDENT

DIMPUR, May 9: The 1st Nagaland Film Festival will be held at the Capital Convention Centre in Kohima on May 11.

Organised by the Department of IPR, Nagaland in collaboration with Dimpur-based theatre group Dream Unlimited, the event is being organised by the Nagaland government to promote the works of local filmmakers and to bring the film fraternity un-

der a common platform to share and deliberate on film scenario in the State.

Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Public Relations, Nagaland Imtikumzuk will inaugurate the event at 10 am.

The screenings of films will start with the feature film Onaatab, directed by Pradip Kurba.

The screenings will also include a discussion hour, where Leena Ranjana Narzary, consultant from the Film Facilitation Office, National Film Development Corporation, will highlight the activities of the FFF, NFDC to the participants.

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10 Garo villages may boycott polls

TURA, May 9: People of ten villages in Garo Hills, affected by bifurcation during 2012 elections, have threatened to boycott the upcoming Assembly elections if the confusion created by the mess is not rectified.

The decision was taken at a meeting in Takurhilla after the creation of two new C&RD blocks of Raksamgri in West Garo Hills and Bajengdoba in North Garo Hills on May 3. All the 10 villages are located in NGH.

The ten villages affected by the bifurcation are Takurhilla (Garo village), Takurhilla (Rabha), Daruge, Borgha, Daporita, Sarapara, Nampara, Pu-

ranpara, Pokimora and Amtu. In 2012, these villages were declared electoral villages of Dadengre Subdivision under Raksamgri constituency. "This bifurcation was done without the knowledge of the locals and was done unconstitutionally", said a release by the convenors of the meeting. - Correspondent

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CAPSULE**SBI cuts home loan rates**

GUWAHATI, May 9: State Bank of India (SBI), country's top home loan provider, has announced rate cut in home loan by 25 basis points to 8.29 per cent.

Claimed to be the lowest charge in the market, the new rate became effective today. The effective interest rate for all eligible salaried customers will be 8.35 per cent per annum for loans up to Rs 30 lakh. Further, an eligible home loan customer can also avail of an interest subsidy of Rs. 2.67 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme, a press release by the bank said.

Blue Star net up

NEW DELHI, May 9: Air-conditioner maker Blue Star has reported over a twofold increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 37.17 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. The company had registered a net profit of Rs 15.01 crore in January-March period a year ago. Its total income during the quarter was at Rs 1,391.10 crore, up 18.08 per cent as against Rs 1,178.07 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal. Blue Star said in a BSE filing. -PTI

Microsoft gesture

GUWAHATI, May 9: Microsoft Philanthropies, created a year ago, has contributed a total of over \$10 million towards community development in India over the last year. This contribution includes both cash and technology investments to transform the way non-profits deliver impact in India, offer educational opportunities to empower the next generation, and extend support during humanitarian crises, a press release said.

Zoomcar service

GUWAHATI, May 9: Zoomcar, a self-drive car rental company, has announced its arrival in Guwahati after its stint in almost all major cities in the country. The firm will offer cars on rent in hourly, daily and weekly basis, a press statement said. - Staff Reporter

GENERAL NOTICE

This is notified for general information to all concerned that Kaziranga National Park will be closed for visitors/tourists from 16th May, 2017 onwards until further orders.

The Kaziranga National Park Authority shall not be liable for any damages and/ or financial losses to any person or entity due to closure of the Park at short notice.

The inconvenience caused if any is regretted.

Sd/- R.B. Salikha IFS
Divisional Forest Officer
Eastern Assam Wildlife Division
Bokakhat

Janasanayog/1515/17

No ATDC/2587/2016 Date: 9.5.2017

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to our earlier Advertisement issued on 3/3/2017 "Ahaar Alohi Rural Homestay Scheme 2017-18". The following changes in the advertisement are being brought to your notice which may be noted for all concerned and interested applicants:

Funding pattern for "Newly Set-up Homestay Units" will be entitled for the following incentives/financial assistance under the scheme along with the existing incentives:

(i) Limit of subsidy for the type of construction:-
(ii) Assam Type cottage (Type 1): Assistance of 80% of the project cost as Annexure IV;

(iii) Binsa Type cottage (Type 2): Assistance of 80% of the project cost as Annexure V;

(iv) The remaining fund 20% of project cost would have to be arranged from bank or such other source by the homestay owner.

Please note the above changes will be valid for less than 26 years and not more than 40 years as on 01.01.2017 as published in the booklet in the website.

For all the other details related to the Scheme, kindly visit our official website <http://assamtourismonline.com>

Sd/- Managing Director,
Janasanayog/380/17
Assam Tourism Development Corporation

**Education (Secondary) Department
TET Empowered Committee for Secondary Education
Press Release for Teachers'
Eligibility Test for BTC/NC/CHAC**

No/RMSA/Special TET for BTC/745/2016/15

With a view to offer quality education in the secondary schools of Assam, the Govt. of Assam has fixed the minimum standard of qualification for the Teachers' eligibility for the secondary schools of Assam and in accordance with the same Teachers' Eligibility Test for BTC/NC/CHAC area was held on 8th January, 2017 in 6 zones across the Assam. Total 2756 candidates appeared in the said Examination out of which 358 candidates have qualified the examination. Result can be seen at www.rmsaassam.in.

Sd/- Member Secretary
TET Empowered Committee
For Secondary Education
Janasanayog/260/17

ADVERTISEMENT

In pursuance of Govt. letter No. RM-1201/358/2017-LP-Rev-R & DM/1/dtd 19.04.2017, the intending candidates are hereby invited for appearing for Walk-in-Interview for the post of Consultant for Integrated Land Record Management at the District level on contractual basis under the Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat to be held on 16.05.2017 from 10:30 AM in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Post title: Consultant for Integrated Land Record Management.
2. No. of Post: 1 (one) No.

Essential Qualification:

M. Sc. (IT)/MCA/B.Tech/ BE: In Computer Science or IT or Software Engineering from a recognized University.

At least 2 years of experience in installation, configuration and administration of various Windows and Linux platforms.

Desirable Qualification: Experience in the field of Computerization of land records including integration of textual and spatial data.

5. Age: The applicant should not be above 40 years of age on 1st January, 2017.

6. Period of Engagement: The engagement will be for a period of 11 (eleven) months Only.

7. Remuneration: Rs. 25,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand) per month.

8. Duties & Responsibilities:

i) Assist Deputy Commissioner in uninterrupted functioning of the interconnectivity among Revenue Offices.

ii) Provide system level support for multi use Operating Systems, Hardware & Software tools, including instruction, configuration, maintenance and services of these systems.

iii) Ensure proper functioning of integrated Land Record Management.

9. Leave: The Party will be entitled to 12 days casual leave in a year and other leave as decided by the Govt. specifically for the party.

10. Tax: Income Tax and Assam professional Tax etc. as applicable as per rules will be deducted from salary/ remuneration.

The interested candidates may report in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat on 10th May, 2017 with all original documents and a set of photocopy of documents related to qualification, age proof, residence certificate and bio data.

Selected candidate should sign an agreement for contractual engagement of Consultant. No TA/DA shall be given to the candidates for appearing in the interview.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner,
Golaghat
& Chairman,
Selection Committee
Janasanayog/1502/17

Gadkari to talk infra reforms at London Stock Exchange tomorrow

NEW DELHI, May 9: Union minister Nitin Gadkari is all set to make an address to the famed London Stock Exchange on May 11 documenting India's infrastructure reforms and hard-selling the growth story for ploughing in more investment.

The Rail Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister, whose visit may coincide with NHAI's debut masala bond issuance, is also slated to open trading for the LSE.

"Gadkari has been invited by the London Stock Exchange to address its guests and the union government's initiatives in infrastructure and opportunities for investors to par-

ticipate in India's growth story. The minister will also open the market for the LSE for trading on May 11, 2017," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement.

The masala bond is expected to list on the LSE shortly.

The national last month said the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will soon raise Rs 5,000 crore through green masala bonds to be listed on the LSE.

Masala bonds are a key initiative encouraged by the government, the statement said, adding that they have been gaining traction among foreign investors.

"Until recently, the ability of Indian companies and other

issuers to borrow from the overseas market was predominantly limited to foreign currencies, but masala bonds have finally taken off, giving Indian companies from various sectors the ability to access international capital markets and raise financing without taking on the attendant exchange rate risk," the statement said.

What Indian companies need to do is to access the masala bond market to enhance its liquidity and give international investors the opportunity of exposure to the Indian rupee, it added.

It further said that given its strong linkages to the Indian government and its strategi-

cally important role for the economy, the NHAI is uniquely placed to help attract the widest possible investors to the masala bond market and help develop it.

"Towards this objective, the NHAI has been conducting a global investor engagement exercise targeted at the world's largest supranational and sovereign wealth funds, global macro funds and international asset managers. This exercise is expected to culminate in London," the statement said.

Axis Bank, Nomura, SBI Capital and Standard Chartered, which have been hired to manage the bond issuance, are conducting the roadshows. -PTI

PowerGrid gets unified licence to offer telecom services

NEW DELHI, May 9: State-owned Power Grid Corporation has been granted a unified licence with national long-distance and internet service provider authorisation to provide telecom services.

The power transmission utility provides its telecom towers and optical fibre cable infrastructure for service providers to service providers and other firms for commercial use. This is a separate segment of revenue for the company.

"The Department of Telecommunications has granted a unified licence to PowerGrid with national long distance (NLD) and internet service provider - Category A service authorisation for providing telecom services. The licence is valid for 20 years," PowerGrid said in a BSE filing today.

A senior official said PowerGrid has been in the business of telecom infrastructure for business-to-business services.

Earlier, the company had two separate licences of infrastructure provider-1 (IP-1) and national long-distance (NLD-1), which is due to expire. Now, the company has got a single unified licence.

While the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has estimated India's growth at 7.1 per cent this fiscal, IMF has predicted it to decelerate to 6.8 per cent due to demonetisation.

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Delhi govt slammed over noise pollution

NEW DELHI, May 9: The National Green Tribunal today pulled up the Delhi government for not exploring alternative sites to Jantar Mantar for allowing protests after a plea alleged that massive noise pollution was caused due to the agitations.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said that various courts have passed orders from time to time for relocating the venue to some other place but nothing has been done till date.

It asked the AAP government to look into the possibility of shifting the venue to Ramilla Maidan, which is also used for holding major political rallies and meetings.

"Have you ever visited Jantar Mantar? Have you ever seen the condition and plight of the residents in that area. Why don't you shift them to some other alternative place," the bench said.

"Supreme Court and Delhi High Court have already passed orders on this issue. Why don't you implement them on the ground? What compliment you want to earn from the world. Why don't you shift them to some other alternative place," the bench said.

The green panel said people were living there for months even though they are not part of the agitating lot and moreover there are stalls which provide food to protesters and "business" was being run there.

During the hearing, Delhi government lawyer told the bench that they were ready to shift the site for protests to some other place as the police officials of the nearby Tila Marg police station too face problems and they are not able to reach their office.

He submitted that the authorities keep a regular vigil on the protests and whenever there is any violation of the noise standards, they immediately take action. - PTI



Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Sahyadri, Jyoti and Kamorta of the Eastern Fleet, manoeuvring in Andaman Sea, as the task force is on a routine deployment to Malacca Strait, the Java Sea, Flores Sea, the Arafura Sea and Southern Indian Ocean. During the course of the deployment, as part of the 'Act East Policy', the ships would make port calls in Singapore, Kuantan (Malaysia), Jakarta and Surabaya (Indonesia), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) and Fremantle (Australia). - UNI

Four teachers suspended, CBSE says 'overzealousness'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/NEW DELHI, May 9: Four teachers were suspended, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assured legislators of action and the CBSE admitted to "overzealousness".

"The incident reported at Kannur is unfortunate and a consequence of the overzealousness of a few persons involved in the process. However, inconvenience caused to the students inadvert-

ently to concerns expressed by members of the House, the chief minister said he would bring the matter to the Central notice and that the police had been asked to examine the incidents. The specific incident of the young woman student being asked to remove her bra would examined legally after registering a case.

"A woman police officer has been directed to meet the student and her parents," he said. A Famous Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said the CBSE norms were "an insult to humanity".

"The stripping of students and using metal detectors for physical examination was 'cruel, inhuman and insulting' which created mental pressure on the students, he added.

"Students had to beg, borrow and buy new dresses to appear for the examination after they were told that their clothing was not as per norms."

This is human rights violation, the Congress leader said, adding they had not come with bombs and pistols to write the test. - PTI

NEET case

ently in the process is regretted by the Board," she said.

As the news spread, four teachers in Kannur, ground zero of the controversy, were suspended. Jamaluddin K, principal of TISK English Medium school, one of the NEET centres, told PTI that four women teachers had been suspended pending inquiry though he was yet to receive any complaint.

The issue found angry echo in the Kerala Assembly as well with treasury and opposition benches condemning it. Re-

India to pump Rs 10,000 crore in Deep Sea Mission

TITAGARH (WB), May 9: India has embarked on an ambitious Rs 10,000-crore Deep Sea Mission, likely to commence by the year end, to explore and mine mineral wealth beneath the ocean floor, a top government official said here today.

Ministry of Earth Sciences secretary Madhavan Nair Rajeevan said here today that the Rs 10,000-crore project was an interministerial and interdisciplinary project.

"It is expected to begin from end of the year," Nair said.

Speaking on the sidelines of a programme to mark the commencement of ship building by Titagarh Waggon Ltd, he said that a cabinet note on the project was under preparation.

Rajeevan said India was open for technical tie-ups with several countries in this regard. He said that the mission intended to harness the ocean's resources in a "responsible way" and could turn out to be a transformative step for the prosperity and security of the nation.

The Exclusive Economic Zone allotted to India in the international waters will be covered under the Deep Ocean Mission. - PTI

Brain dead man's organs save five lives

COIMBATORE, May 9: Five persons got a new lease of life today after the organ of a brain dead 54-year-old state transport bus conductor was transplanted and harvested on them.

Kandasamy suffered severe brain injury after he was knocked down by a speeding two-wheeler while standing near a tea shop at Kumamuthur area here on May 6.

He was rushed to KG Hospital here where a team of specialists and supporting staff started treatment.

However, despite their best efforts the patient could not be brought back to life and he was declared brain dead on May 8, Hospital chairman G Bhakthavatsalam said in a release today.

After getting the family's consent, vital organs like the two kidneys, two eyes and the liver were harvested today.

The eyes were donated to Aravind Eye Hospital, the liver and one kidney to PGH Hospitals and another kidney to KG Hospital and were later transplanted on the five patients.

Kandasamy is survived by his wife, a government employee, two married daughters and a son, who is into his final year BE course, Bhakthavatsalam said. - PTI



Security personnel retreat with stones to counter brick pelting students at Moudana Azad road in Srinagar on Tuesday. - UNI

SC to hear plea against pellet guns in Kashmir after vacation

NEW DELHI, May 9: The Supreme Court today deferred hearing on a plea, seeking a ban on the use of pellet guns to quell agitating and stone-pelting mobs in the Kashmir valley, till after the summer break.

The apex court told the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association of Srinagar, which has filed the petition, that it would be proper to hear the matter after the vacation as the time could be utilised by the lawyers' body to come out with a workable solution.

The apex court had asked the lawyers' body to come up with suggestions to resolve the crisis, including the stone-pelt-

ing and violent street protests in the Kashmir Valley.

It had told the bar, which had sought a ban on the use of pellet guns to quell the agitating mobs, to take the "first step" to bring all stakeholders on the table for workable suggestions to overcome the crisis.

The court had also said that there was a need for joint effort to resolve the crisis. The apex court was hearing the appeal of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association against the High Court order seeking a stay on the use of pellet guns as a large number of people had been killed or injured due to their use. - PTI

AAP stages live demo of EVM tampering in Delhi Assembly

NEW DELHI, May 9: The AAP today staged a "live demonstration" of alleged EVM manipulation in the Delhi Assembly.

AMP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj claimed that anyone knowing a "secret code" can feed into a machine while casting vote.

The Election Commission has time and again rubbished allegations that EVMs can be programmed to favour any particular party.

Before Bhardwaj's demonstration, Kejriwal tweeted, "Saurabh Bhardwaj will reveal the truth behind a big conspiracy in the country. Satyameva Jayate".

Bhardwaj, who represents the Greater Kailash constituency, claimed that in his capacity as an engineer, he had extensively worked in this area and was aware of how the machines can be fiddled with. - PTI

Kapil Mishra files 3 complaints with CBI

NEW DELHI, May 9: Sacked Delhi minister Kapil Mishra today filed three complaints with the CBI against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Minister Satyendar Jain and AAP leaders who allegedly misused party funds on foreign trips.

The Karawal Nagar MLA, who was yesterday suspended from primary membership of the AAP also threatened to launch a hunger strike tomorrow if details of foreign visits by five AAP leaders are not made public by the party.

Mishra said he filed complaints with the CBI over the exchange of Rs 2 crore between Jain and Kejriwal, a Rs 50-crore land deal arranged for the chief minister's brother-in-law and five AAP leaders allegedly misusing party funds on foreign trips. - PTI

NCERT textbooks driven by political agenda: ICCSR chief

NEW DELHI, May 9: The new chief of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICCSR) believes that textbooks published by the government are responsible for "archaic trends" in society.

Anthropologist BB Kumar, who took over as the head of the apex body promoting research in social sciences on May 5, said the books published by the National Council Of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), were driven by a "political agenda", and urged the government to review them.

"The NCERT textbooks are driven by political agenda and are partly responsible for the increasing social conflicts and anarchical trends in society," he said in a 2016 editorial in a journal called Dialogue that he edited.

Kumar, who also edited a quarterly called Chintan Srijan,

Schoolgirl gets hit by bullet, battles for life

ALIGARH, May 9: A 13-year-old girl, student of AMU Girls' School, was hit by a bullet when an armed man fired at a car on a busy road in the civil lines area here.

The culprit escaped even before the scores of bystanders managed to react. Anam Aslam (13), a Class V student, was returning home from her school yesterday when an armed person who was walking on the other side of the road fired at the car and the bullet hit her, police said.

She was battling for life at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital where she was admitted. As the news spread a large group of AMU students converged at hospital.

Senior police officials and AMU officials rushed to the hospital. AMU Proctor Professor M Mohsin Khan said that according to preliminary reports it seemed the girl was not the intended target but the bullet strayed and hit her. - PTI

The Assam Tribune PROPERTY & LIFESTYLE Corner

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আমাৰ গাঁও আমাৰ আঁচনি

বিশেষ গাঁও পঞ্চায়ত উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা প্রস্তুতকৰণ অভিযান



১২ মে', ২০১৭ৰ পৰা
১২ জুন, ২০১৭ লৈ



২০১৭-১৮ বৰ্ষৰ মহাআৱা গান্ধী
এন্বেগা আৰু চতুর্দশ বিভীষণ আয়োগৰ
অধীনৰ সকলো আঁচনি এই পৰিকল্পনাৰ পৰা
লোৱাটো বাধ্যতামূলক। আহক—সকলো গাঁও পঞ্চায়ত,
ভিচিডিচি, ভিডিচিকে ধৰি সমগ্ৰ বাজ্যজুৰি চলিবলগীয়া
পৰিকল্পনা প্রস্তুতিৰ এই অভিযানৰ প্রতিটো পদক্ষেপতে
অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰক আৰু আপোনাৰ গাঁওখনৰ
উন্নয়নৰ অংশীদাৰ হওক।

পলম নকৰিব...

মন কৰিব »»

- পদক্ষেপ ১ ► অভিযানৰ প্রস্তুতিৰ বাবে পঞ্চায়ত কমিটিৰ বৈঠক (১২ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ২ ► পৰিকল্পনাৰ বাবে বাইজৰ স্বতঃফূৰ্ত অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত কৰিবলৈ রার্ড পৰ্যায়ত প্ৰচাৰ অভিযানৰ আয়োজন (১৩-১৪ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৩ ► ক) বিভিন্ন উৎসৰ পৰা গোণ তথ্যবাজি সংগ্ৰহ
খ) বিভিন্ন আঁচনি বাছনিৰ বাবে বাইজৰ দ্বাৰা মানচিত্ৰ অংকন (১৫-১৭ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৪ ► রাৰ্ড পৰ্যায়ত সকলোৰে অংশগ্রহণেৰে মানচিত্ৰ অংকন (১৮-২০ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৫ ► রাৰ্ডসমূহত গাঁওবাসীৰ সৈতে আঁচনি বাছনিৰ বাবে মত বিনিময় অনুষ্ঠান আৰু বিষয়ভিত্তিক আলোচনা (১৮-২০ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৬ ► আন্তঃগাঁথনিমূলক আঁচনি বাছনিৰ বাবে বাইজৰ সৈতে পদৰজে চুবুৰি ভ্ৰমণ (Transect walk) (১৮-২০ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৭ ► বাইজৰ দ্বাৰা সংগৃহীত তথ্যসমূহৰ একত্ৰীকৰণ, অগ্ৰাধিকাৰ নিৰ্কপন আৰু অনুমোদনৰ বাবে রাৰ্ড সভা (২৪-২৯ মে', ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৮ ► রাৰ্ডসভাৰ পৰিকল্পনাসমূহৰ একত্ৰীকৰণৰ বাবে পঞ্চায়তৰ দ্বিতীয় বৈঠক (৩০ মে'-১ জুন, ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ৯ ► অগ্ৰাধিকাৰ ভিত্তিত আঁচনি গ্ৰহণৰ বাবে গাঁওসভাৰ বৈঠক (২-৩ জুন, ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ১০ ► খচৰা উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা প্রস্তুতি (৪-৫ জুন, ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ১১ ► বাৰ্ষিক কৰ্ম পৰিকল্পনা বিশ্লেষণৰ বাবে পঞ্চায়তৰ তৃতীয় বৈঠক (৬ জুন, ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ১২ ► বাৰ্ষিক কৰ্ম পৰিকল্পনা অনুমোদন কৰাৰ বাবে গাঁওসভাৰ বৈঠক (৭-৮ জুন, ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ১৩ ► চূড়ান্ত গাঁও পঞ্চায়ত / ভিচিডিচি/ ভিডিচিৰ উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা প্রস্তুতকৰণ (৯-১২ জুন, ২০১৭)
- পদক্ষেপ ১৪ ► প্ৰাক্কলন প্ৰস্তুতি আৰু কাৰিকৰী অনুমোদন (১২ জুন, ২০১৭ৰ পিছৰ পৰা)



আহক, আমি সকলোৰে মিলি গাঁৱৰ উন্নয়নত সহযোগ কৰো।

পঞ্চায়ত আৰু গ্রামোন্নয়ন বিভাগ, অসম।



Chelsea's Diego Costa celebrates after scoring against Middlesbrough during the Premier League match at the Stamford Bridge in London, on Monday.

Atletico aim to overturn 0-3 deficit against Real

MADRID, May 9: Tensions are likely to run high on Wednesday when Atletico Madrid look to overturn a 0-3 deficit at home to Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League semifinal.

Last Tuesday, Real Madrid produced a convincing display and Cristiano Ronaldo scored a hat-trick against an Atletico side that was almost unrecognisable to the team that is usually so hard to beat, reports Xinhua news agency. Atletico were slack in defence, ineffective in attack and misplaced passes in the middle of the field as Real went a long way towards booking a place in the final which will be held in Cardiff.

Preparations for the game were rocked on Monday by the news that French left-back Theo Hernandez, who is on loan at Alaves from Atletico, travelled to Madrid to undergo a medical.

Real are willing to pay Hernandez's buyout clause, unilaterally breaking their deal with Atletico that the two clubs would not poach each other's players.

That act of faith means Real Madrid can expect an even worse reception than the one they would have received in what is the last European game to be played in the Vicente Calderon Stadium. The good news for Atletico is that right back Juanfran Torres will be available after injury giving the side some balance they were missing in the Bernabeu where Lucas Hernandez (Theo's brother) was forced to play on the right. - IANS

Star Sakshi to lead the Indian challenge at Asian C'ship

NEW DELHI, May 9: Rio Olympics bronze-medalist Sakshi Malik will be the star attraction and spearhead the Indian challenge at the Asian Wrestling Championship, starting here tomorrow.

In the absence of some of the leading grapplers such as Yogeshwar Dutt, Sushil Kumar and the famous Phogat sisters – Geeta and Babita – the onus will be on the likes of Sakshi, Olympian Sandeep Tomar and Bajrang Punia to help India improve on its last year's performance at the showpiece event.

India had bagged a total of nine medals including a gold, three silver and five bronze when the tournament was held in Bangkok, Thailand last year. Sandeep (men's 57kg freestyle) was the lone Indian to have won a yellow metal there.

This is the first major com-



During the competition, 112 freestyle, 103 Greco-Roman and 83 female wrestlers will be vying for 24 gold and silver along with 48 bronze medals. Some of the top grapplers from Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakh-

stan, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, Korea, China and Mongolia, besides India will be fighting for top honours at the KJ Dhadav wrestling arena in the five-day-long event, which will conclude on May 14.

While all eyes would be on Sakshi, she may find it a bit tough against some of Asia's best grapplers in women's 58kg freestyle category as this is her first major outing after the Rio Games.

After scripting history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win an Olympic medal at Rio de Janeiro, she only took part at the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) earlier this year and fought just a couple of bouts.

However, she proved her mettle at the recent trials in Lucknow for the Asian Championship, outplaying Manju 10-0 in a technical knockout. - PTI

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with logic, reason and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

Venky's 'deeply hurt' by Blackburn's fall from grace

LONDON, May 9: Blackburn Rovers' Indian owners Venky's insist they are "deeply hurt" after the club's shocking decline hit a new low with relegation to England's third tier for the first time since 1980.

Crowned English champions 22 years ago when they memorably pipped Manchester United to the Premier League title, Blackburn suffered a humiliating exit from the Championship on the final day of the season yesterday.

Rovers won 3-1 at Brentford, but victories for Nottingham Forest and Birmingham City ensured Tony Mowbray's side were unable to escape the bottom three.

Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton, the strikers who scored 49 goals between them in Blackburn's title-winning campaign, pointed the finger of blame at Venky's, with Shearer claiming they "deserve it".

The Rao family, who purchased the club when they were still in the Premier League in 2010, have presided over a string of disastrous decisions, from the moment they announced their arrival by sacking Sam Allardyce.

Slammed by Blackburn fans who want them to sell the club, Venky's made a rare public state-

SPORTS

Chelsea close on title, beat Middlesbrough 3-0

LONDON, May 9: Cesc Fabregas sparked as Chelsea moved to within touching distance of the Premier League title and condemned Middlesbrough to relegation with a breezy 3-0 home win.

Fabregas made sure Chelsea capitalised on Tottenham Hotspur's 1-0 defeat at West Ham United on Friday by setting up goals for Diego Costa and Nemanja Matic, with Marcos Alonso also finding the net yesterday.

It left Chelsea seven points clear of Spurs at the summit and means they will be crowned champions for the second time in three seasons if they win at West Bromwich Albion on Friday.

"At this stage it was important to win and exploit Tottenham's defeat," said Chelsea manager Antonio Conte.

"Now, another step to the title. We have to rest well and

prepare for West Brom. We must try in the next game to score Boro bounce back very quickly."

If Chelsea fail to take maximum points at The Hawthorns, subsequent home games against Watford and relegated Sunderland mean Conte's side have plenty of margin for error.

Fabregas has now assisted 10 or more goals in six different English top-flight seasons with a record in the Premier League era.

Middlesbrough return to the Championship after one season back among the elite, joining Sunderland in sinking into the second tier just as fellow northeast Newcastle United are celebrating their return to the top level.

"We just came away from a strict dressing room," Middlesbrough manager Steve Agnew told Sky Sports.

"It's a terrific club and it's about how we reflect over the

summer. We need to make sure Boro bounce back very quickly."

Chelsea were missing NGolo Kante – named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year in the day – due to a thigh injury, but the Frenchman's absence was to prove a blessing in disguise.

It brought Fabregas into the team and the Spaniard immediately got into the act to foil Middlesbrough's defensive plan with a succession of accurate, strafing passes.

He seemed particularly taken by the space behind Middlesbrough right back Fabio da Silva.

Alonso twice received passes from his countryman in the area in the early stages, taking a half-volley passed onto the bar by Middlesbrough goalkeeper Ben Guzan and then drilling a dangerous cross across goal.

Fabregas side-footed wide

from an Eden Hazard cut-back and Costa came within inches of bundling in Hazard's low cross before the hosts went ahead in the 23rd minute, with Fabregas inevitably the source.

Fabio, stretching, managed to get his foot right to the former Barcelona midfielder's clipped pass, but succeeded only in hooking the ball straight at Costa.

The Spain international cushioned the ball and tucked a shot between Guzan's legs for his 20th goal of the campaign.

Chelsea's second goal, in the 34th minute, sprang from similar circumstances, instigated by Cesar Azpilicueta's probing pass from the inside-right channel.

From a prohibitive angle at the back post, Alonso drilled a shot towards goal and saw the ball ricochet off Guzan's left thigh and bounce into the net.

Fabregas was at it again shortly after with a raking pass that freed Victor Moses,

whose shot obliged Guzan to save with his legs.

Middlesbrough's bus had been delayed on its way to the ground, but to their dismay, there was little slow-moving traffic to be found inside Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea resumed their assault on the visitors' goal in the second half, Pedro grazing the bar from Hazard's lay-off and Azpilicueta pinged a shot narrowly over.

Costa could only get a couple of studs on a fierce Alonso cross, Gary Cahill almost surprised Guzan with a rasping drive and Fabregas saw a deflected effort bobble agonisingly wide.

The third goal arrived 20 minutes into the second period and owed once again to the inventive brilliance of Fabregas.

His flicked pass was chested down by Matic, who arrowed a low shot between the legs of the over-worked Guzan. - AFP

No WSB for Vikas, BFI to seek explanation

NEW DELHI, May 9: Indian boxer Vikas Krishan, who forfeited his semifinal bout in the Asian Championships, won't be allowed to compete in the World Series of Boxing.

Gujarat on the other hand, have awarded Krishan with injuries as their most successful boxer.

Andrew Tye had to leave at a crucial juncture and now opener Brendon McCullum has also been sidelined due to a hamstring strain.

Seamer Basil Thampi has carried the bowing on his shoulders with 10 wickets, while their celebrated all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been off colour.

Skipper Suresh Raina has scored bulk of the runs for his team while Dinesh Karthik has contributed significantly. - PTI



the forfeiture and Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh today said there would be an enquiry into the matter. "He is certainly not going to compete in the World Series of Boxing. Plus a disciplinary committee of BFI will seek an explanation from him on the matter. He has apparently

claimed that he was injured but we have to find out if it is genuine," Singh said. Vikas was to turn up for the British Lions semifinals in Tashkent, Uzbekistan last week.

The reasons for his decision

were not known at the time of

claim that he was injured but we have to find out if it is genuine," Singh said. Vikas was to turn up for the British Lions semifinals in Tashkent, Uzbekistan last week.

Bouchard beat fallen idol Sharapova in Madrid

MADRID, May 9: Eugenie Bouchard matched her fighting talk with some thrilling tennis to shock Maria Sharapova 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 in the second round of the Madrid Open.

Bouchard called Sharapova "a cheater"

last week and was also critical of the Russian's welcome back to the sport after a 15-month doping ban with a series of wildcards for big events.

The world number 60 admitted she was extra motivated to face her former idol and



she showed signs of the form she has lost over the past few years since reaching the Wimbledon final in 2014 in a bruising near-three-hour contest.

Bouchard battled back from 4-2 down to claim a topsy-turvy first set and she edged a marathon 11th game before serving it out for a 6-4 second set in five meetings with Sharapova.

However, Bouchard held her nerve when serving for the match in 5-4 as she saved off two break points and an unfortunate let card on her first match point. The Canadian jumped for joy after delivering the final blow before the two exchanged a very frosty handshake at the net.

Both players struggled to hold serve in the deciding set as a total of 14 break points were squandered.

However, Bouchard held her nerve when serving for the match in 5-4 as she saved off two break points and an unfortunate let card on her first match point. The Canadian jumped for joy after delivering the final blow before the two exchanged a very frosty handshake at the net.

Bouchard will face top seed Angelique Kerber, who fought back from 5-3 down in the deciding set to overcome Katerina Siniakova 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 earlier on Monday, in the third round.

Kerber has had an inconsistent season and her fragile form was on show in the course of the first two sets. - AFP

Indian women's hockey team leaves for NZ

NEW DELHI, May 9: With

new-found aggression and tactics up their sleeves, the Indian women's hockey team today departed for the five-match Test series against New Zealand starting in Midlands from May 14.

The Indian women play the Test Series in New Zealand after a successful outing in West Vancouver, Canada where they won the Women's Hockey World League Round 2 and qualified for the Women's Hockey World League Semi Final to be played in Johannesburg.

The team led by Rani features an experienced mix with the likes of Sushila Chana, Ritu Rani, Deep Grace Elka, Sunita Lakra, Vandana Kataria, Namita Toppo, Navjot Kaur, Lolina Minz, Monika, Remuka Yadav, Nikki Pradhan, Savita among others.

The team also has new drago

flickers in Gurjit Kaur, new-comer Reena Khokhar who made her debut against Belarus in the Five-match Test Series earlier this year and Uddita, who will be making her debut.

"There is a lot of difference in how we play now. I believe we have improved in our fitness, technique and man-to-man marking," said Rani ahead of their departure.

"New Zealand tour will be a good preparatory tour for us ahead of the World League Semi Final and this exposure will help us improve and also understand our weak points."

The team, under newly-appointed Chief Coach Sjoerd Marjine, began the season with a 5-0 win against Belar

"Playing five times against a higher ranked team like New Zealand will open up areas that we require to work on in the next three months ahead of the World League Semi Final," said chief coach Sjoerd Marjine. - PTI

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ment today in a bid to convince their critics that the club's relegation is only a temporary blip.

"The owners of Blackburn Rovers wish to place on record their appreciation for the work of manager Tony Mowbray since his arrival at the club, during which time both the performances of the team and results have improved significantly," the statement read.

"Going forward he will continue to have our full support. Despite the courageous performance by the players and the victory at Brentford yesterday, results elsewhere led to the relegation of the club from the Championship."

"This is indeed a very sad situation and we are deeply hurt by these events. We share the same feelings as our supporters."

"Notwithstanding this temporary setback, we are confident that the collective efforts of the team under Tony's leadership, will enable the club to achieve promotion back to the Championship next season."

"We have all witnessed the events of recent years, where teams have been relegated but have turned their clubs around and emerged stronger, and we are determined to see Black-

burn Rovers do the same." - AFP



Blackburn fans have protested regularly against owners Venky's, run by the Rao family, through out their time at the club.

