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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIBRUGARH

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Urgently required one Assistant Accountant (Male/Female) and one Counter Sales Person (Male/Female) for a reputed firm in Guwahati. Send resume to broy2007@gmail.com SV/P/8405/1

Medical Representative 100% job Guaranteed Training for 15 days. (A.P.L.) Guwahati Club, Ph: 9854013922, 7002658410, SV/PA/805/31

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Srihish Hospital & Research Centre a reputed Hospital in Dibrugarh is looking for suitable candidates for the following posts urgently required Medical Superintendent MBBS Ass. Manager. Quality with previous experience Receptionist (Day/Night) H.S. with previous experience Interested candidates are requested to mail their CV to chirita.sarmah@srihishospital.com or contact HR department Ph. +918011942481, SV/398/1

Urgently required a MBBS resident Doctor & GNM (Diploma Holder) for a Tea Garden near Dulajian. Tea Garden experience is preferable and retired person may also apply as the Executive Director. Mahalibari, T.E. PO, Hoograj, 786601, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam. SV/PA/401/2

VACANCY
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(3) For details, visit our website: www.apstzpur.org
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Urgently required an experience Electrician for a Tea Garden near Dulajian with valid supervisory license and having some knowledge of electronics. Tea Garden experience is preferable. Interested candidates may also apply as the Executive Director. Mahalibari, T.E. PO, Hoograj, 786601, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam. SV/PA/222/2

URGENTLY REQUIRED
3 nos. Electronics Engg. (BE/B.Tech) Fresh (MF) as Trainee post for Robotics Company. Comt: 97065-31859, SV/P/8422/1

Hiring for Data Entry Operator with good typing skill Work for 6 to 12 hours. Roy Brothers Technologies Pvt. Ltd. 70022-07144, 87210-74037, SV/P/824/4

URGENT REQUIREMENT

FACULTY FOR TALLY,

ELECTRICIAN, COMPUTER

HARDWARE, BEAUTICIAN,

ASST. PHYSIOTHERAPIST,

NURSING, JAZZY,

CHANDMARI, 9957165170

9954475065.

Edu/P/PA52/1

URGENTLY REQUIRED

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MANAGER-SHOULD HAVE

REPUTED SKILLS AND

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MANAGE TEAM OF

EMPLOYEES AND OTHER

SYSTEMS. 2. OPERATIONS

MANAGER FROM

RECOGNIZED HOTEL

MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

WITH EXPERIENCE 3.

ACCOUNTS MANAGER-

DEGREE FROM C O M M E R C E

BACKGROUND WITH

EXPERIENCE IN

ACCOUNTING, ETC.

CANDIDATES SHOULD BE

P R O F E S S I O N A L LY

QUALIFIED WITH HANDS

ON EXPERIENCE IN THEIR

RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

REPUTED candidates can mail their resume to evan.helga@gmail.com SV/394/1

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Application is invited for the post of GMN in a garden in Upper Assam with an experience of atleast 10 years in garden hospital within 10 days of publication of this ad. Contact: 9435158810 between 10 to 12 am. SV/404/1

Srihish Hospital & Research Center a reputed Hospital in Dibrugarh is looking for suitable candidates for the following post:

Urgently required a Resident Medical Officer Qualification MBBS Ass. Manager. Quality with previous experience Receptionist (Day/Night) H.S. with previous experience Interested candidates are requested to mail their CV to their.sarmah@srihishospital.com or contact HR department Ph. +918011942481, SV/398/1

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Wanted Office Assistant (M) for Institute in Guwahati. Min Qly. HS & knowledge of Assamese & Hindi. Preferably two wheeler. Salary Rs. 5000/- (Negotiable). Ph: 86386-03473. Edu/P/AC070/4

Required Marketing Manager, Office Assistant (Computer knowledge) experienced Cook for reputed Company in Guwahati. Ph. 91270-09340, 98640-28890, dsdoffice16@gmail.com SV/P/AC59/1

Required Teacher for Entrance classes on Biology (Botany, Zoology & Physics), Chemistry (organic & inorganic) & Mathematics at Itafor Coaching Centre, Itanagar (A.P.). Interested may submit resume at icittanagar@gmail.com Date of interview at Guwahati on 30.04.2017. SV/P/AC22/2

Urgent job vacancy in Plastic Manufacturing unit position for CA-1, (Preferred Female). Interested candidate should send your resume info@syncof@gmail.com Contact No. 0361-274320. SV/P/PA22/1

Urgent required an experience Electrician for a Tea Garden near Dulajian with valid supervisory license and having some knowledge of electronics. Tea Garden experience is preferable. Interested candidates may also apply as the Executive Director. Mahalibari, T.E. PO, Hoograj, 786601, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam. SV/402/4

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REPUTED SKILLS AND

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Governor attends yagna on Damodardev Tithi

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: Governor Banwarilal Purohit today attended a 'Vishnu Yagna' organised in connection with the Damodardev Tithi by Deva Damodar Sanskriti Gaveshana Kendra at Paltan Bazar here.

Speaking on the occasion, Purohit said, "Yagna has held an important place in our society since ages. It is performed to nip negative energies in the bud and purify and sanctify society with positivity. The philosophies of Yagna teach us to promote good human values and live in harmony with all living beings."

Meanwhile, the 420th death anniversary of Vaishnavaite preacher Damodardev was also observed by the Geetanganachali Seva Samiti at the Sanatan Dharma Sabha, RG Baruah Road here. Apart from flag hoisting and tribute, a discussion was held on the religious philosophy of the Vaishnavaite preacher. Uma Kanta Dev Sarma Shastri, former teacher of Krishnakanta Bidyut Government Sanskrit College, and Tilak Chandra Sarma, executive president of Kamrup District Dev Dambar Sangha, took part in the discussion.

Earlier, GMC Mayor Miring Sarma lit the ceremonial lamp. A number of religious activities, including a devotional song programme, were also held on the occasion.



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	(ii) Two laning with paved shoulder of NH-53 from Silchar to Badarpur section from Km 6.25 to Km 17.50 (Length- 4.77 km) in the state of Assam under SARDP-NE*		
	(iii) Improvement and Strengthening of Road section from Chand Khera to Kuri Bridge on NH-208A (Length- 17.950 km) in the state of Assam near Assam-Tripura Border		

For more details please visit - www.nhidcl.com & https://procurement.gov.in/2017_NHIDCL_19763_1

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

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

Meet held on railway-related services

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: The 93rd meeting of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) was held today at the Nambari Officers' Club, Maligaon.

The main objective of the meeting was to have direct interaction with representatives from various sections of society and railway users for further improvement in all sectors of railways-related services.

The committee comprises MPs and MLAs from various north-eastern states, high officials from the transport departments of various states, various passenger associations, merchants' associations, different chambers of commerce from the region and special interest groups.

Chairman Ram, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), asked all the members of the committee to put forward their suggestions on each and every field of railway-related services.

He also assured them that their suggestions would be given due importance by the railway authorities.

Ram highlighted various steps already taken to improve services and various major projects undertaken for rail infrastructure development in the region.

Senior railway officials noted down all the suggestions and demands put forward by the members. They also replied to various queries from the members on different fields.

Meet of SBI pensioners

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: The monthly meeting of SBI Pensioners' Association, North East Circle, Guwahati, will be held at 11 am on April 29 at the State Bank Learning Centre here, stated a release.

CITY Minister for inter-caste marriages in State

STAFF REPORTER

thought of," the Union minister said while addressing a press conference here today.

The Republican Party of India leader also said that the districts with the highest number of inter-caste marriages should also be rewarded.

"I am for the increase in the amount which is given by the Centre to those marrying out-

Athawale to press for cash incentives

the case. I am for hiking the amount from the existing Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh," the minister said.

"Although caste divide hardly exists in Assam, yet it can help strengthen the bonding among various castes," he pointed out.

The minister also informed

that he has demanded during a NDA meet that some forward castes in the country should also be provided reservation on the basis of their annual income without tinkering with the existing coverage of Scheduled Caste (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC).

He said that the present reservation of 49.5 per cent should be increased to 75 per cent so as to accommodate the economically backward classes from different States including Assam.

"Those earning an income of up to Rs 6 lakh from among the forward castes should be given reservation. For this, the reservations should be increased by another 25 per cent," he added.

Tributes paid to Maniram Dewan

STAFF REPORTER

Burmese invasion of Assam, had the distinction of being the most outstanding figure in India's first organised struggle for freedom in 1857.

He also referred to the many-sided genius of Dewan, who was the first journalist of Assam, besides being a great freedom fighter and a pioneer entrepreneur.

Nishinath Changkakati, who addressed the function as the chief guest, dwelt at length on the contributions of Dewan in the industrial development of Assam and in India's freedom struggle.

Abhijit Baruah, the appointed speaker, spoke on the causes of entrepreneurial deficiencies of the Assamese society and regretted that Assam at present does not have a single person who might be clubbed with 100 most successful persons of India in the

field of entrepreneurship and in intellectual and other accomplishments.

Earlier, Arun Kumar Baruah, working president of the trust and a great grandson of Dewan, regretted that both the government and the people of Assam have not yet given due recognition to the great genius and contributions of Dewan.

Dr RP Roychoudhury, retired professor, in his speech, said that no nation could achieve excellence without recognising the contributions of their own great men.

The meeting requested the State government to install life-size statue of Dewan in the city and its other important towns of Assam. It also urged the government to observe both the death and birth anniversaries of the patriot as State programmes.

লোকসভায় গোপনীয়তা বর্দলৈ ক্ষেত্রীয় মানবিক স্বাস্থ্য সম্পর্ক
তেজপুর, অসম, পিন-৭৮৫০০১

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ADMISSION NOTICE

LGBRIMH, Tezpur offers admission to following fulltime programmes for the academic session 2017.

Course	Seat	Reservation
M.Phil in Psychiatric Social Work	6	UR-3, OBC-1, SC-1, ST-1
M.Phil in Clinical Psychology	8	UR-4, OBC-2, SC-1, ST-1
M.Sc Nursing	12	UR-6, OBC-3, SC-2, ST-1 (Psychiatric Nursing)

- Entrance Examination will be held on **06.08.2017** at **11 A.M.** at LGBRIMH.
- Last date of online application submission is **31.05.2017**.

• For detail information, please log on to www.lgbrimh.gov.in or after 01.05.2017

Director

N.B. : Ragging is totally prohibited at LGBRIMH and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging is liable to be punished appropriately.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed percentage rate tender through E-Tender is hereby invited by CE(Civil), I/C Tender Cell, ES, Sivasagar on behalf ofONGC, from reputed contractors as per instruction given in bid documents for the following works:

1) Tender No RC2K21032 (Two Bid): Name of work: Civil works at drill site DGJ in North Bank area, SH-1. Construction of main and ancillary foundations, internal hardening, waste pit, ring bund, path ways on ring bund etc.; Estd cost: ₹ 127.92,213.84; EMD: ₹ 2,55,850/-; Tender fee: ₹ 500/-; Job completion time: 03 months.

2) Tender No RC2K21031 (Two Bid): Name of work: Civil works at drill site DGJ in North Bank area, SH-1. Construction of main wall, steel gate, chemical shed, CISI, monche, guard pumpi, latrine and kitchen etc.; Estd cost: ₹ 4,19,827.80; EMD: ₹ 83,980/-; Tender fee: ₹ 500/-; Job completion time: 02 months.

(Common for above 2 tenders): Issue/sale of tender papers: 28-04-17, 09.30 hrs. to 08-05-17 upto 14.00 hrs. Last date & time for bid submission / on-line opening (Un-priced bid): 08-05-17 at 14:00:30 hrs. Submission / opening of physical document: upto 08-05-2017 at 14:00 / 15:30 hrs.

3) Tender No RC2K21033 (Two Bid): Name of work: Civil works at drill site DGJ in North Bank area, SH-1. Construction of mud protection/ enclosure walls, drains, false conductor grounding, mud pump and hopper shed, oil trap, HDPE pipe and denim tube well etc.; Estd cost: ₹ 2,00,000/-; EMD: ₹ 2,00,000/-; Tender fee: ₹ 500/-; Job completion time: 02 months; Issue/sale of tender papers: 01-05-17, 09.30 hrs. to 10-05-17 upto 14.00 hrs.; Last date & time for bid submission / on-line opening (Un-priced bid): 10-05-17 at 14:00 / 15:30 hrs. Submission / opening of physical document: upto 10-05-2017 at 14:00 / 15:30 hrs.

4) Tender No RC2K21036 (Single Bid): Name of work: Civil works at drill site RSEM, H & RSEN-L cluster with well No. R6/11 in RDS area, SH-6. Miscellaneous civil works during drilling operation at drill site RSEM, H; Estd cost: ₹ 3,73,707.30; EMD: ₹ 7,480/-; Tender fee: ₹ 200/-; Job completion time: 12 months or till completion of drilling.

Issue/sale of tender papers: 01-05-17, 09.30 hrs. to 08-05-17 upto 14.00 hrs.; Last date & time for bid submission / on-line opening (Un-priced bid): 25-05-17 at 14:00/14:30 hrs. Submission / opening of physical document: upto 25-05-2017 at 14:00 / 15:30 hrs.

For details of tenders please log on to website:

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Offer Price ₹ 14990/- **Offer Price ₹ 11990/-** **Offer Price ₹ 17890/-** **Offer Price ₹ 19990/-**

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State Water Resource Minister Keshab Mahanta with MLAs Rupak Sarmah and Prafulla Kumar Mahanta at a power tiller distribution programme, at Nagaon on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Bogadhar Hazarika passes away

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAMIJ, April 27: Bogadhar Hazarika, pradhan archarya of Sankardev Sishu Bidya Niketan, Dhemaji and an inhabitant of Dhemaji Kapulawa village passed away on Tuesday evening at a Dibrugarh-based nursing home. He was suffering from Japanese Encephalitis. He was 48.

Bognat Geluwa village in Sisimouza of Dhemaji district in 1969. Bogadhar Hazarika joined as archarya in Sankardev Sishu Bidya Niketan, Dhemaji in 1994 and was promoted to the post of assistant pradhan archarya in 1997. He took charge of the post of the pradhan archarya in 2007 and since then he has been carrying out the responsibility of maintaining the educational institution as the pradhan archarya.

Bogadhar Hazarika was an ideal teacher and an efficient school administrator, who with his whole-hearted devotion uplifted the Niketan to a splendid standard.

His sudden premature death was widely mourned at Dhemaji. All the schools in Dhemaji including his Niketan and a lot of individuals and organisations here have deeply condoled his untimely demise.

Army constructs bridge

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, April 27: The 7th battalion of Madras Regiment under the aegis of DAO Division of Indian Army constructed a wooden bridge across Kherem Nullah at Makantong village which falls in Arunachal Pradesh along Assam-Arunachal border under Operation Sadbhavna, 2016-17.

The Company Commander of 7 Madras Regiment stationed at Borduma inaugurated the bridge on Wednesday. The villagers have appreciated this act of the Indian Army.

Foundation stone laid

CORRESPONDENT

CHABUA, April 27: Binod Hazarika, MLA of Chabua LAC on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of 1.25-kilometre-long Merelipathar road connected to the NH-37. An estimated Rs 70 lakh has been granted for construction of the same. The MLA appealed to the public to cooperate in the construction of the road.

OBITUARY

Mrinmoyee Dutta

GUWAHATI, April 27: Mrinmoyee Dutta, wife of late Pramoda Chandra Dutta, and a resident of Latasil area passed away on April 23 at a local nursing home due to old-age ailments. She was 94.

She leaves behind a son, three daughters and a host of relatives.

Discussion on quality education held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, April 27: A district-level seminar on 'Quality Education System and Role of Teachers' was organised by Bidyut Parishad here recently.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr Hitesh Deka, Vice Chancellor of KK Handique Open University. In his inaugural speech Dr Deka discussed the role of teachers in providing quality education. He also laid stress on value education. Dr Deka said that the mindset of teachers should be welfare-oriented.

The inaugural session was presided over by Dr Bharati Dutta, former associate professor of Dibrugarh College.

Rihon Daimary visits Bongaigaon

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, April 27:

Public Health Engineering Minister Rihon Daimary on Wednesday had an interaction session with panchayat representatives and officials to assess the progress and status of schemes under his ministry in panchayat areas of the district.

He heard some of the grievances of the panchayat workers relating to total sanitation

programmes and drinking water supply projects during the session.

Minister Rihon before concluding the session, which was held at the District Library auditorium here on Wednesday, told the panchayat workers that the problems would be sorted out through formation of local committees in rural areas.

On Tuesday evening, Daimary had a meeting with officials of Public Health Engineering

College also spoke during the seminar.

During the interaction session, personnel from academic field like Sunil Baruah, Kiran Chandra Mech, Pabitra Goswami, Dr Ranjita Singh, Shantanu Bhattacharjee and Phani Borah, who have long association with Shishu Shiksha Sammittee, Assam also spoke in the seminar. Participants from various schools expressed their views and described the challenges they are facing in their teaching career.

Vote of thanks was given by the coordinator Bina Bora, former vice principal, Dibrugarh College, a release stated.

Kokrajhar scribes' exposure tour flagged off

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, April 27: Council Head of the Department of Information and Public Relations (CHD), Information and Public Relations department, Ansoms Mohilary on Wednesday flagged off the exposure tour of journalists of Kokrajhar from the office of the Council Head of the Department CHD, Bodnaga Nwguri to Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The flag off ceremony was also attended by the Kokrajhar DIPRO Gagan Chandra Narzary.

Speaking on the occasion, CHD said the Council considers the exposure tour of journalists important for sharing ideas and information regarding their experiences. He said altogether 27 mediapersons from Kokrajhar will meet the journalists of Kerala. He also hoped that the exposure tour

thorough along with the officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations where they will hold a meeting.

He also said the mediapersons from Kokrajhar will throw light on various aspects of BTC during their course of interaction with their counterparts of Kerala. He also hoped that the exposure tour

would be fruitful.

Earlier, the CHD of Information and Publicity, BTC released a booklet published by the department concerned for distribution during the interaction. The booklet titled, 'Bodoland Territorial Council... Emerging towards a role model council' highlights the developmental activities of the council.

2 held with explosives

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, April 27: The Railway Police Force arrested two persons from Bihara railway station on Wednesday while they were trying to get on to the Silchar-Guwahati fast passenger express.

The arrested persons have been identified as Lalraothen (38) and John Thoabong (30), both residents of Mawat of Dimasa district. As many as 30 packets of detonators and 575 gelatin sticks were recovered from the arrested duo. According to sources, the arrested persons will be taken to the RPF headquarters in Tinsukia.

Speaking on the occasion, CSD said the Council considers the exposure tour of journalists important for sharing ideas and information regarding their experiences. He said altogether 27 mediapersons from Kokrajhar will meet the journalists of Kerala. He also hoped that the exposure tour

would be fruitful.

On the auspicious occasion, Vijay Kumar Gupta, Chairman of the corporation talked about the historical achievements of Assam Financial Corporation in the last 63 years towards industrial development of the NE region and wished and congratulated each employee and urged them to contribute their best so that the corporation achieves

Massive eviction drive at Parwa Chariali, Tezpur

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, April 27: The district administration here has evicted all the illegally-constructed roadside business sheds at Parwa Chariali area. The series of eviction drives came to an end on Monday evening.

It is to be mentioned that allegations were rife here that certain Bangladeshi people started occupying roadside government land of National Highway 37 (A) besides the alleged encroachment of government land on the bank of river Marabbari near Gahan Uddyan in Parwa Chariali before the very nose of the administration under Mahabhairab

Police Outpost.

The area considered a gateway to the historic Tezpur town became the fifth one due to the waste materials thrown by the chicken-selling vendors. Moreover, frequent accidents occurred in the area since the road was converted to a narrow lane following illegal occupation of the roadside government land.

Terming the eviction drive as a welcome step by the administration, social worker and member of Gahan Uddyan Committee, Aswani Kumar Bora and Diganta Talukdar said that due to the illegal occupation of the roadside government land, a tragic incident took place in the area recently.

Urging the administration to take up a permanent step to check the illegal construction of business sheds in the area, socially-aware section of the area also opined that from Mission Chariali to Kaliabhumura bridge area, the NH 37 (A) has become a death trap. Due to the non-repair of this stretch of the road, many knee-deep potholes have been created posing a serious threat to the vehicular traffic and the common commuters.

Public have further alleged that although it is one of the busiest roads of Tezpur town and its vicinity, the department concerned is quite reluctant in looking after this road for which frequent accidents are taking place.

Contributions of Praneswar Sarma recalled

A CORRESPONDENT

TIHU, April 27: The 3rd commemoration programme of noted educationist, social worker of Nalbari district, late Praneswar Sarma was held at 3pm at Tihu Sahitya Sabha Bhawan under the aegis of Tihu Sahitya Sabha on April 25.

The programmes of the day started with the lighting of the lamp at the portrait of Praneswar Sarma by his elder son Debjit Sarma followed by garlanding programme by Chanakya Charan Kalita, ex-president of Tihu Sahitya Sabha

The memorial and book releasing ceremony held on the occasion was presided over by Bhaba Kanta Kalita, president, Tihu Sahitya Sabha. In the meeting, a book titled *Bata Bhritya* edited by Dibakar Medhi and Ajit Kumar

Sarma was formally released in presence of a large gathering by Karuna Kanta Kalita, ex-president of Nalbari college, Dr Dipanjan Bhagwati, Nalbari College, Dimanta Sarma, retired teacher of Bali High School, Gobinda Bhagubati, assistant teacher of Haribhangha High School, Debjit Sarma, elder son of Praneswar Sarma,

of Nalbari district. Attending the memorial meeting, Somnath Deka ex-president, Tihu Sahitya Sabha, Surendra Nath Kalita, president, Tihu Anchal Provincialized Schools Retired Teachers Employees Association, Dr Dipanjan Bhagwati, Nalbari college, Dr Dimanta Sarma, retired teacher of Bali High School, Gobinda Bhagubati, assistant teacher of Haribhangha High School, Debjit Sarma, elder son of Praneswar Sarma, Ranjit Sarma, second son and many others recalled his contributions towards the society.

The meeting attended by a large number of prominent persons of greater Tihu area including Manju Devi, late Sarma's daughter and Nabajit Sarma, late Sarma's youngest son was beautifully arranged by Pradip Kumar Talukdar and Nitus Sarma, secretary and assistant secretary respectively of Tihu Sahitya Sabha. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Ajit Kumar Sarma, president of Tihu Subdivision Reporters Association.

World Malaria Day observed at Udalguri

CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, April 27: Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) observed the World Malaria Day at Demakuchi ME school, Udalguri yesterday with active participation of school students, who dedicated their help to eradicate malaria, a press release.

The headmaster of the school hoisted the flag and the students from class 6 to 8 marched on the streets holding banners, hoardings and placards raising awareness. The class 8 students also took out a

cycle rally along with others. Besides the teachers of the school, AMO Jatin Chandra Rabha, NVBDCP, Rahim DPO NVBDCP, Junu Rani Rabha, NVBDCP, VHAI BCC officer Karunasharma Sharma, MIS officer Swapnil Thakuria, DPO Rajib Gogoi and the field staff were also present in the programme.

The programme ended with the students taking a pledge to bring an 'End to Malaria.'

It may be mentioned here that the VHAI is a registered national organisation working

in almost 27 States of the country. It is a federation of 27 State voluntary health associations, linking more than 4500 health and development institutions.

The VHAI has the largest health and development network in the world. It advocates people-centric policies for dynamic health planning and programme management in India. It strives to build a strong health movement in the country for a cost-effective, preventive, promotive and rehabilitative health care system.

Jamuguri Academy celebrates school week

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, April 27: The 47th biennial school week and prize distribution ceremony of Jamuguri Academy, one of the frontline secondary level academic institutions in the greater Jamuguri area, was held on Wednesday with a day-long programme at the school premises.

The main session was chaired by Dr Bipul Kumar Borah, president, SMDC

and Lila Bhuyan, ex-Head Master, North Jamuguri HS School graced the occasion as appointed speaker.

In his speech, Bhuyan opined that the students should devote their time in constructive work apart from studies.

The wall magazine of the school *Suryadai* was inaugurated by Chidananda Nath, ex-president of SMDC. In his speech, Dr Bipul Kumar Borah admired the students for their creative activi-

ties and appealed to them to continue it in the near future for the well-being of the society.

A colourful cultural show by the students was the prime attraction of the programme. The distinguished guests also gave away prizes among the students. The vote of thanks was offered by Basav Bhuyan. The programme came to an end with the State national anthem *O Mor Apnar Desh* sung by teachers and students of the school.



AJYCP activists staging a road blockade programme in demand of removal of truck parking on national highway and immediate repair of NH-37, in Jorhat on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Assam Financial Corporation observes 64th foundation day

GUWAHATI, April 27: The Assam Financial Corporation (AFC) observed its 64th foundation day in its head office premises located at Vittiy Bhawan, Paltanbazar and all its branch offices located at Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, North Lakhimpur, Tezpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Bongaigaon, Silchar and Agartala recently, stated a press release.

The programme started with lighting of the lamp by Vijay Kumar Gupta, Chairman of the corporation talked about the historical achievements of Assam Financial Corporation in the last 63 years towards industrial development of the NE region and wished and congratulated each employee and urged them to contribute their best so that the corporation achieves

its annual targets of sanction, disbursement and recovery of loans and becomes the number one public sector enterprise of the State. The vision of the AFC is to contribute to and accelerate the socio-economic development of the region by acting as a vibrant and dependable financial institution, promoting entrepreneurship and growth of the MSME and development sector. The AFC has a commendable history in performing industrial financing in Assam since its formation on April 19, 1954. The AFC is at present implementing vari-

ous schemes of assistance like general term loan scheme, working capital term loan scheme, working capital revolving fund loan scheme, scheme for medical professionals, equipment finance scheme, transport train scheme, Axom Fund Scheme, Kanaklata Micro Finance Scheme, etc., for the socio-economic development of the State.

The programme was followed by an interaction session and discussion on the business strategies of the corporation. At the end, Dr AU Choudhury, IAS, Managing Director of the Corporation, thanked all the employees of the Corporation for their dedicated service for maintaining continuous growth in the sanction, disbursement and recovery performance of the corporation and requested all to be the driving force for the continuous success and growth of the corporation. On the occasion, he reiterated the commitment required for the holistic development of the corporation and expressed the hope that the corporation will be able to achieve it with the support of each employee and stakeholders, the release added.

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CAPSULE

Hudo IPO

MUMBAI, April 27: Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudo) today launched a Rs 1,200-crore initial public offering, becoming the first Central unit to launch an IPO since 2012. The fully-owned government corporation has a price band of Rs 52-56 per equity for the issue. The issue will open on May 8 and close on May 11. — PTI

Tanishq collection

GUWAHATI, April 27: Leading jewellery brand Tanishq has launched a special collection, 'Swarnam,' which will be made available for customers on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. The collection, which includes a range of bangles, pendants, earrings, necklaces, rings and manipulating pendant-earrings sets, starts from Rs 20,000, a press release said.

Tata Motors

MUMBAI, April 27: Tata Motors has signed a contract with the Defence Ministry to supply specially built 3102 Safari Flame units to the Army and the Navy to replace their Maruti Gypsy vehicles. Though the company did not share the value of the order, it has been learnt that it is worth Rs 500 cr. These will be built under the banner of vehicles called the GS-800 and will be 4-wheel drive units and are modified as per the Defence Ministry requirements. — PTI

Bandhan Bank

MUMBAI, April 27: Private sector lender Bandhan Bank today reported a net profit of Rs 1,111 crore for fiscal 2017 and announced that the small business segment will be its area of focus in the coming times. The micro-lender, which turned into a universal bank in August 2015, had posted an annualised profit of Rs 500 crore in the year-ago period. — PTI

OYO foray

NEW DELHI, April 27: Online hotel aggregator OYO has entered Nepal in its second foray overseas with the launch of a hotel in Kathmandu. The company had earlier ventured in to Malaysia in January 2016. — PTI

SpiceJet service

NEW DELHI, April 27: No. 1 low-cost airline SpiceJet will provide air services for Indian passengers travelling to Dubai on its flights. All Indian passport holders travelling to Dubai on SpiceJet and holding valid round trip tickets can avail the visa service. It would be available for 14 days as well as 30 days tourist visas. — PTI

Paytm target

NEW DELHI, April 27: Alibaba-backed Paytm expects its platform to facilitate 4 billion transactions this fiscal, enthused by the strong uptake of digital payments in the country. The Noida-based company, which runs a mobile payment commerce portal, had registered 1.5 billion transactions on its platform last year. — PTI

Only 34% service taxpayers move to GST Network

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Revenue department is stepping up its outreach programme, asking taxpayers to register with the GST Network by this month-end as only 34 per cent of the costing service tax assesses have so far migrated to the new payment portal.

There are a total of 80 lakh VAT, excise and service tax assesses.

While over 75 per cent of VAT and 73 per cent of the Central excise assesses have switched to the GST Network (GSTN), the figure for service tax is a meagre 34 per cent of the existing assesses.

"We are fast approaching the last date for completion of migration, i.e., April 30, 2017. I urge all zonal Chief Commissioners to take necessary

steps to assist all existing taxpayers in their migration to the new regime," Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) Chairperson Vanaja N Sarmi said in a letter to officers.

The zonal offices of the Service Tax department has started issuing advertisements in leading daily, calling on the assesses to enrol and register with the GSTN immediately.

"Due to tax credits under the existing laws cannot be carried forward in GST unless you enrol in the GST portal," the department said, adding that provisional ID and password will be available for assesses on the ACES (Automation of Central Excise

and Service Tax) portal.

It also asked taxpayers not keen on migrating to the GSTN to confirm so by logging in to the portal.

"Your provisional ID and password would be cancelled and this may deny your credit migration to the GSTN," the department said.

Out of the 80 lakh assesses, some may

not require registration under GST as they are below the threshold of Rs 20 lakh for the levy.

At present, VAT and service tax assesses with turnover of Rs 10 lakh are required to get themselves registered with States and the Centre, respectively.

CBEC steps up outreach prog

Hence, assesses with turnover of up to Rs 20 lakh need not register with the GSTN, and as per the estimate of the CBEC, of the 80 lakh excise, service tax and VAT assesses, 54 lakh have turnover below Rs 20 lakh.

However, if the dealers intent to claim input tax credit, they will have to get themselves registered with the GSTN, the entity building the IT backbone for the goods and services tax.

The government plans to put into effect GST from July 1 and in the run-up to the new indirect tax regime, it has started migrating excise, service tax and VAT assesses to the new taxation portal. GST will subsume at least 10 levers, including excise, service tax, VAT and other local taxes. — PTI

Infosys unveils AI platform Nia

NEW DELHI, April 27: IT major Infosys has launched its new artificial intelligence platform 'Nia', which can help businesses forecast revenues, understand customer behaviour as well as deep dive into content of contracts and deal with compliance and fraud.

The new platform builds on Mana, the first AI platform introduced by Infosys last year.

"Infosys Nia leverages the big data analytics, machine learning, knowledge management, and cognitive automation capabilities of Mana," Infosys said in a statement. — PTI

Big Bazaar

'Public Holiday Sale'

GUWAHATI, April 27: Big Bazaar's much awaited shopping festival 'Public Holiday Sale' will be held in a bigger and better way this year from April 29 to May 3 at its premises.

The meeting was convened to push States for digital payments, "review Aadhaar and sensitise the States about what are the safeguards people should take in this area," Sundararajan said.

Sundararajan had also shot off a letter to chief secretaries of all States and Union Territories over data sharing on websites of departments, asking them to ensure strict compliance with provisions of the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Aadhaar Act 2016.

On digital payments, Sundararajan said that States proposed to use common strategy for payments to be made to government departments which will also help those who are unable to deploy their own infrastructure. — PTI

Leverage CSR to address developmental challenges: President

NEW DELHI, April 27: President Pranab Mukherjee today urged India Inc to leverage corporate social responsibility to manage the country's transition to a knowledge economy and catalyse the growth process.

Mukherjee said the Indian industry has displayed tremendous zeal and initiative in contributing to the betterment of this country.

"The reach of industry in India touches lives of our citizens through different ways such as jobs, entrepreneurship, consumer goods or social development goods including education and healthcare," he said at the function organised by CII.

"I would like to remind industry that just as much as the funds, the country also needs your ideas, energy and drive. I urge you to leverage CSR to reimagine interventions and transformative solutions to address the higher developmental challenges in India."

"I would also request you to have a pan-Indian outlook and not limit yourself to a few geographies for CSR development," Mukherjee said.

Addressing an award function here, the President observed that an inclusive growth process requires Indian industry to assume the mantle of

Centre pushes States to promote digital payments

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Centre today asked States to promote digital payments, especially in rural areas, and review safety measures to prevent leak of personal data like Aadhaar and bank details of people.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) today convened a meeting of State IT secretaries to devise a common strategy to resolve bottlenecks for expediting rollout of digital payments, mainly in rural areas.

The meeting was convened to push States for digital payments, "review Aadhaar and sensitise the States about what are the safeguards people should take in this area," Sundararajan said.

Sundararajan had also shot off a letter to chief secretaries of all States and Union Territories over data sharing on websites of departments, asking them to ensure strict compliance with provisions of the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Aadhaar Act 2016.

On digital payments, Sundararajan said that States proposed to use common strategy for payments to be made to government departments which will also help those who are unable to deploy their own infrastructure. — PTI

Panel on allowances submits report to Jaitley

NEW DELHI, April 27: A high-level committee headed by the Finance Secretary submitted today its report on allowances to 47 lakh government employees to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

The Ashok Lavasa Committee was constituted in June last year after the government implemented the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission. The pay panel had recommended abolition of or subsuming of allowances like acting, assisting cashier, cycle, confinement, flying squad, haircutting, rajdhani, robe, shoe, shortdead, soap, spectacle, uniform, vigilance and washing.

After submitting the report to Jaitley, Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa said the committee has taken into account representations made by various stakeholders. — PTI

TVS, Honda top list in customer satisfaction survey

MUMBAI, April 27: TVs and Motors and Honda are at the top in customer satisfaction among two-wheeler makers when it comes to after-sales service and communication with consumers, according to a survey.

TVS scored 782 points in customer satisfaction on the after-sales service front, while Honda Motorcycle and Scooter scored 749 points. The overall customer satisfaction stood at 746 points, said the survey by JD Power released today.

While the industry average score is 746, the market leader HeroMoto Corp is below this at 743, followed by Royal Enfield at 735. Other players at way below this.

According to the report, if dealers effectively communicate with customers at key junctions while servicing, overall customer satisfaction notably improves.

"While the process-related customer interactions start and end at the service facility, the

Google India is country's most attractive employer: Survey

NEW DELHI, April 27: Search engine giant Google India has been named as the country's most attractive employer brand, followed by Mercedes-Benz India at the second place, a survey says.

The sectoral-specific winners for the most attractive employers this year are Amazon India for e-commerce, ITC Ltd for FMCG and Philips India for consumer and healthcare.

According to the Randstad Employer Brand Research 2017, competitive salary and employee benefits continue to be the top priority among the Indian workforce while choosing an employer, followed by good work-life bal-

ance and job security.

However, for the IT professionals, good work-life balance emerged as the top priority while choosing an employer.

"Employer branding continues to be strategic importance influencing the talent agenda, particularly so in an economy that's driven by knowledge workers," Randstad India MD and CEO Moorthy K Upalur said.

According to the survey results, large and multinational corporations emerge as the preferred workplace for employees across all profiles.

However, IT professionals indicated that they would rather work in the dynamic start-

up ecosystem over the SME sector. On the other hand, engineering talent prefer working in start-ups over the public sector companies, reveals the survey.

The Randstad Award, instituted globally by Randstad, is hosted each year to encourage best practices for talent attraction and to identify the best 'Employer Brand' in the country based on perceived awareness and attractiveness of a company.

In India this year, the Randstad Employer Brand Research captured the views of around 3,500 respondents, who chose the nation's most attractive employer brand for 2017. — PTI



MoS for Finance Santosh Kumar Gangwar (C) releasing a publication at the 3rd pension conference on 'Towards a pensioned society: The road ahead', organised by PFRDA, in New Delhi on Thursday. — UNI

'United move needed for creation of Bodoland'

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PUBLIC NOTICE

1 Sri Biswajeet Mech, I have changed my name from Biswajeet Mech to Biswajeet Barrah by an affidavit before the Notary Public at Dibrugarh dated 03.03.2012, henceforth I shall be known as Sri Biswajeet Barrah for all purposes. PN/403/1

1, Chandrama Choudhury, wife of Mr. Pabin Ch. Mahanta daughter of Gati Ram Choudhury resident of village-Singra, P.O. Hinglilee, P.S. Kamrup (R) Pin: 781380 in the district of Kamrup declare by an Affidavit before Notary Kamrup (M) on 20.4.2017 that Chandrama Choudhury and Chandrama Mahanta is one and same person having single identity and from today onwards I shall be known as Chandrama Choudhury in all purposes. As my all documents are recorded as Chandrama Choudhury, So by this affidavit will be used as a piece of document evidence to connect my name in the PAN Card as Chandrama Choudhury from Chandrama Mahanta. PN/P/840/1

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TENDER NOTICE

The Engineer-In-Chief, Electricity Department invited sealed tenders from reputed manufacturers or their authorized dealer for the supply of 5 Nos. of 10 MVA, 33/11kV Power Transformer. For details, please visit www.tender.mizoram.gov.in or contact the Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, P & E Department, Mizoram.

Sd/-
Liangninglova Pachau
Engineer-In-Chief
Power & Electricity
Department
Mizoram : Aizawl
IPR No. 27
CD/TN/222/1

DR. BOROBOR CANCER INSTITUTE
(Regional Institute for Cancer Treatment & Research)
Gopinath Nagar, Guwahati-781016

EXTENSION NOTICE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Due to unavoidable reasons, the last date of submission of sealed tenders for supply of Multi Slice CT Scan machine High Dose Radio-Iodine Therapy Ward (Nuclear Medicine), Side Cabinet, Endoscopy Unit, Ultrasound Scanner, MPLAD fund, Fluorometer, Refrigerated Centrifuge and -20 Day Upright Vertical Deep Freezer for DBT Twining project and for other equipments mentioned in the Contract for Fujinon make Video Cystoscope & Video Processor Model: VCP-1000 and VCP-1000 Pro. NIT/R/89/2017 dt/03.04.2017 has been extended upto 2.00 PM of 12/04/2017. The bid submission opened on 12/04/2017 at 12.00 PM. Conditions & conditions of the NIT as available in Institute's website www.bbclonline.org (excluding tender) shall remain unchanged.

Director
CD/TN/...../J1

TENDER NOTICE (RUSA Scheme)

The Principal, Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat, Assam invites bids to supply of Engineering Building Material & Library of Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat-785007 from eligible Publishers/Distributors/Sellers having at least three years experience of supplying Engineering/Scientific/Technical Books to Engineering College/ Institutional Library under RUSA Scheme. Details of the bid may be seen/downloaded at College website: www.jecassam.ac.in.

Sd/- Principal
Jorhat Engineering
College
CD/TN/391/1

NOTICE INVITATION QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed manufacturer/authorised dealer for supply of a 'Colour Doppler Ultrasound Machine' for a debt funded project in the Deptt. of Vety. Physiology, CVSc., AAU, Khanpara, Guwahati. The detail of item/specifications, terms & conditions are available in the website : <http://www.vetphysiology.com> can be collected from the PI. The last date for submission of quotations is 15 days after the publication of this NIQ.

Sd/- (Apurba Chakraborty)
Director of Research (Vety)
Assam Agricultural
University
Khanpara,
Guwahati-781022

CD/TN/397/1

HOTEL & RESTAURANT
The Executive Engineer Ambassa Division PWD (R&B) Ambassa, Dhalai, Tripura, invites sealed tender(s) against project No. 03/EE/PWD (R&B) dated 20.04.2017.

For Replacement of Bailey Bridge by RCC Bridge over Thakura Cherra on Gandacherra-Raihbari Road, Dhalai, Ch. 3.50 Sanctioned area for implementation under NABARD (RID-XX) (2nd call).

With Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,88,886.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,88,886.00, Time of Completion: 18 (Eighteen) months. Last date of dropping of tenders: 19.05.2017 upto 3.00 PM. For further information: www.tripura.eis.in or www.tripuainfo.com

Sd/- Executive Engineer Ambassa Division, PWD (R&B) Ambassa, Dhalai, Tripura

ICA-C184/17
G/TN/223/1

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, April 27: Illegal influx from Bangladesh is the greatest threat to the BTC area as the flow of illegal immigrants is still high in the region. People of the region will become marginalized soon if the influx from the neighbour country is not stopped. This was asserted by Federation of New States in India (FNS) president Baha RR Dev Tomar while interacting with media persons at Kokrajhar today.

A delegation of the FNS, which visited the BTC headquarters here and extended their support to the creation

of a separate Bodoland state, had a meeting with the statehood movement leaders and also resolved to back the movement for Bodoland.

Talking to media-persons Tomar said, as the Bangladeshi is very easily get voter identity cards and claim Indian citizenship, time is not far when Bangladeshi would be the majority and rule the Bodoland area. He added that people of BTC area will see the situation as it happened in Tripura due to unabated illegal influx from Bangladesh.

Tomar said Bodoland is a genuine and longstanding demand of the Bodos who have their

own rich tradition, culture and language. The creation of Bodoland has become a necessity to safeguard the indigenous people and their land from the illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

"Tripura is the example, where the local indigenous people have become a minority in their own land at the hands of migrant Bangladeshi who now rule Tripura. The same thing is happening in Assam, more so in Bodoland region, where the migrants are occupying pre-

ious lands. This can be stopped only if a separate Bodoland state is created," he said.

"We (FNS) have helped in the formation of new states before and we will also do so

MPs in Delhi that by 2019, the Central government intends to create new states. The need of the hour is for all political parties of Bodoland to voice their demand in unison and create pressure on the government.

It happened when Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and most recently Telangana were formed," he said adding "We want Bodoland state, which is a very old demand, should also be formed when the government creates new states."

The FNS is organising a seminar on the issue of smaller states on May 28 in Nagpur where Central BJP leaders, including senior BJP leaders and Nitin Gadkari and Tel-

egana Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao, are likely to be present.

"Issues on creation of smaller states would be discussed at the seminar and the federation would pressure the government for creation of smaller states for better development and people's participation. We are also collecting signatures of MPs to get a majority," he said.

It may be mentioned that the FNS is a Delhi-based organisation formed by leaders seeking creation of smaller states for better administration and all-round development of all communities.

'Central government intends to create new states'



A cultural procession being taken out to mark the inauguration of the Golaghat Kendriya Rongali Bihu Sammelan in Golaghat on Thursday. - UB Photos

Munda asks partymen to highlight BJP's 'U' turns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

mittee at the Rajiv Bhawan here today.

Munda was accorded a rousing welcome in the city by the Congress workers as his convoy was escorted by a motorcade from Sukupha Bhawan in Borborroha, some 15 km from here. The party workers welcomed the new district president at Borborroha with Bihu and Jhumur dances, besides gayan-bhajan and slogans. Munda's convoy was led by Youth Congress rally.

Munda was also accorded a similar welcome at the Rajiv Bhawan. Former Union Minister Paban Singh Ghatak, former Minister Pramanti Phu-

kan, outgoing Dibrugarh District Congress Committee president Anwar Hussain, former Chairman of Dibrugarh Municipal Board Chandrakantha Baruah and several other party leaders were at the party office with several hundred workers to receive the newly appointed president.

Although some leaders within the party fold had different choice for the post, the gathering dispelled the rumoured factionalism. As the new president of the district committee, Munda called upon all the party workers to work cohesively for the pan-chayat polls.

Seventy percent people of our party, but we will also highlight the 'U' turns and false promises of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the electoral arena," Munda told newsmen here as he took charge as the party president of the Dibrugarh District Congress Committee.

It may be mentioned here that the recent flood and hailstorm in Sonbhel areas had flattened thousands of hectares of rice 'Boro' paddy and destroyed thousands of houses of farmers. They also demanded proper implementation of PEGME Project, setting up of a customer service centre of these areas are now living under open sky without any shelter. The district administration, as well as the Government of Assam, has not taken any necessary steps regarding rehabilitation of these helpless farmers till today.

The leaders of the Sangram committee submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate steps for rehabilitation of flood and hailstorm victims and setting up of a veterinary hospital at Kalibari Bazaar under Ramkrishna Nagar circle. They also demanded free distribution of seeds, fertilizers and others agricultural equipment, among the farmers till today.

They earlier took out a procession through Karimganj

town before gathering in front of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner.

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and team spirit, rather than keeping engrossed in the virtual world of mobile, TVs, etc. They also encouraged physical activities, along with studies.

The youngest member of the Jajabor team, Rakutpal Saikia enthralled the audience by playing the *dhob*. Later in the evening, the cyclists had an interactive session with the technical personnel of the gas cracker project, where Dr. Karuna Kalita, Associate Professor, IIT Guwahati spoke on Recent Development of Magnetic Bearings and Bearingless Machines'.

The Jajabor team was flagged off from the BCPL residential campus this morning by Reep Hazarika, General Manager of BCPL.

Jajabor bicyclists visit Dibrugarh

BUREAU

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The Jajabor team was flagged off from the BCPL residential campus this morning by Reep Hazarika, General Manager of BCPL.

While interacting with the children they emphasized on the importance of outdoor games

Life term for murderer

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, April 27: The District & Sessions Judge, Morigaon, Dhrupad Kashyap Das sentenced two persons – Nirajan Hira and Jitra Hira – to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life in a sensational murder case.

As per the prosecution case, Nirajan and Jitra had gone to the house of one Bhupen Hira, resident of Borbaria village under Mikirhatia PS, at about 10pm on October 19, 2012 and killed Bhupen with a spear.

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Non-payment of Rs 1,500 cr will land Subrata Roy in jail: SC

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Supreme Court today extended till June 19 the parole of Sahara chief Subrata Roy with a warning that failure to meet the deadline of June 15 for payment of Rs 1,500 crore would land him in prison once again.

Roy, who in compliance with the last order appeared before the court, was told by the apex court that he has to frequently make the payments as per the roadmap approved by the court or face further imprisonment.

The Sahara chief gave an undertaking to a Bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra that he would deposit Rs 1,500 crore by June 15 and another

payment of Rs 552.22 crore by July 15 in the SEBI-Sahara account and filed an affidavit.

The apex court warned Roy that he may be sent to jail again if the amount is not paid. In a related development, the Bench, which also comprised Justices Ranjan Gogoi and AK Sikri, ordered the arrest of Chennai-based Prakash Swamy, who failed to deposit Rs 10 crore as per the last order. He will serve one month jail for contempt of court.

Swamy had filed an affidavit on behalf of a foreign firm expressing his desire to buy hotel. - PTI

IIM-Ahmedabad Director resigns

NEW DELHI, April 27: IIM-Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda has stepped down citing personal reasons, more than a year before his tenure was to end. Kumar Mangalam Birla, the chairman of the Board of Governors of the prestigious Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, has accepted Nanda's resignation and requested him to continue till September to facilitate a smooth transition.

Nanda, a 1983-batch alum-

nius of IIM-A, took charge of the top post in September 2013 and his tenure was slated to end next year.

"When I joined, I had committed to serve the term. On September 1, it will be four years since I took charge. It is a good time to step aside and to hand over the responsibility and honour of leading the institution to the next fortunate person. I will hand over the responsibilities of the Director at the end of that day," Nanda said in a letter to the IIM-A community. - PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Haryana Governor Kapten Singh Solanki, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh VP Singh Badnore and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, on arrival at Chandigarh on Thursday. - PTI

PM flags off cheap flight from Shimla to Delhi

SHIMLA, April 27: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi today flagged off a flight from Shimla to New Delhi, the first such venture under a Government scheme which seeks to popularise regional air travel on short sectors by capping fares at Rs 2,500 per hour.

"Earlier we used to believe that air travel was meant only for rajahs and maharajas. This is the thinking that we need to change," he said.

The Prime Minister also recalled that he had proposed to Rajiv Pratap Rudy when Rudy was Civil Aviation Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpeyi's Government that the Mahanagar be replaced as the mascot for Air India with cartoonist RK Laxman's Common Man.

Under RCS, five airline operators, which were selected after a bidding process last month, will have to provide 50 per cent of their total seats on a flight on select sectors at fares not more than Rs 2,500 per hour.

The Prime Minister also simultaneously flagged off RCS flights on the Kadapa-Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors through a video-conference at the event.

He announced that the next flight under the scheme would operate on the Mun-

bai-Nanded sector.

Modi said that the Delhi-Shimla flight, with a fare of Rs 2,036 per seat, will be cheaper than a taxi ride.

"Earlier we used to believe that air travel was meant only for rajahs and maharajas. This is the thinking that we need to change," he said.

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bai-Nanded sector.

They were together awarded 128 routes. The Government will also provide financial assistance to the operators on these routes.

The scheme provides for various benefits, including no airport charges and three-year exclusive flying rights on the routes. The flight from Shimla is being operated by Air India's subsidiary, Alliance Air. The airline has deployed its 42-seater ATR plane on this sector.

In all, 12 passengers were aboard the plane, which can accommodate only up to 15 passengers when flying out of Shimla because of the length of the runway and other factors such as altitude and temperature. Under RCS, called Puttlu, the Government also aims at connecting 45 unserved and under-served airports.

Regional connectivity will bring development to tier-2 and 3 cities which are becoming "growth engines", he said.

It will also enhance connectivity to the Northeastern region, he added. "The scheme will also contribute to national integration. Different cultures and traditions will be able to intermingle," he said.

"Sab se, sab jude (Everyone will fly and unite)," was the PM's slogan. - PTI

Rs 35,000 crore burden. And at the same time, first nine months were very bad because coal movement, steel, were down, imports were down, exports were down. Because most of the cargo that we collect either takes to the port or is off-loaded from the port. Despite that, we have been able to manage that."

The Railways had about 110.7 million tons, which is the highest ever freight loading as against 1104.2 MT in 2015-16. - PTI

"In one year we had to take

er of darkness, the officials said.

"The entire operation lasted 35 minutes," said Col Sajiv Kapoor.

The troops recovered three AK rifles, which indicated that there was a third terrorist, he said, adding search operations are under way to track him down. "We have recovered three AK rifles, their identity was being ascertained. - PTI

Five other soldiers were injured and they were airlifted to the Army's 92 Base Hospital in Shillong.

Sources said the next meeting of the NECCC is scheduled to be held at Shillong towards the end of May.

Two militants were gunned down, while a third one managed to escape under the cov-

er of darkness, the officials said.

Accordingly, Dr Boroxah Cancer Institute in Guwahati has been supplemented with the faculty and infrastructure from the Tata Memorial Cancer Centre, Mumbai, which runs under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy. A superspeciality course of MCh Oncosurgery was started last year in this institute and every effort is being made to start a similar course of DM Oncomedicine from the next session, Dr Singh added.

He was seen in the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Dilwale* in 2015. He was last seen on screen in *Hema Malini-starred Ek Thi Rani Aisi Bhi*, which released on April 21.

Khanma was also an active politician, and a Member of Parliament from Gurdaspur, Punjab. The sitting BJP MP had won the seat four times. - PTI

All-women battalion in J&K to deal with stone-pelters

NEW DELHI, April 27: An all-women India Reserve Battalion will be raised in Jammu and Kashmir to primarily deal with incidents like stone peltin, a Home Ministry official said today.

The move comes days after girl students were seen fighting pitched battles with security forces at Lal Chowk in the heart of Srinagar on April 24, the day the educational institutions in the restive valley reopened after a five-day shutdown.

The exclusive contingent will be among the five IRBs the Centre has sanctioned for the State grappling with persistent violence. The women battalion would also be assigned other law and order duties, its personnel will be primarily deployed for tackling protesters, the official said.

As many as 14,000 candidates have applied for 5,000 posts in the five IRBs. The Home Ministry decided to go for an all-women battalion after discovering that 6,000 applicants were women.

The issue was discussed today at a high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister

Rajnath Singh on the Rs 80,000 crore development package announced for Jammu and Kashmir by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.

The process of recruitment to the five IRBs has started. Nearly 40 per cent of the applicants are from the Kashmir Valley.

The response is very encouraging with nearly 30 applicants against one post, the official said. The IRBs are being raised with an aim to provide jobs to the local youths. Sixty per cent of vacancies will be filled with candidates from the border districts.

The cost of raising each battalion is around Rs 61 crore, and 75 per cent of the expenditure will be borne by the Centre. Personnel of India Reserve Battalions (IRBs) are normally deployed in their respective States, but they can be sent elsewhere if there is a requirement.

At present, there are 144 India Reserve Battalions in the country. In addition, four IRBs each are being raised in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, 12 in Maoist-hit States, besides five in Jammu and Kashmir. - PTI

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
Guwahati - 781 039, Assam**

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited for supply & installation of LAPTOP for the EO cum SRC cell of the Institute. The quotations are to be submitted on or before 22-05-2017, 12.00 Hrs.

For detailed specifications, terms and conditions, please visit our website at <http://www.iiit.ernet.in/home/tender/19>. Corrigendum in regards to terms and condition and technical specification, if any, will be published/intimated in the above mentioned website only.

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A walk-in interview will be held for the contractual posts of Assistant Professor in Environmental Studies and Assistant Academic Registrar cum Resident Warden (Reserves for women) on 8th May, 2017 at the Registrar's Office, Assam Women's University. Interested candidates are requested to check details in the website of Assam Women's University, www.awu.ac.in.

Sd/- Registrar,
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Jorhat

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Contd from page 3

Veteran actor Vinod Khanna ...

(Contd from page 3)
children - Rahul, Akshaye, Sakshi and Shraddha.

Rahul and Akshaye, both actors, were from his first wife, Geetajali.

His potential was first noticed in Gular's *Mera Apne* in 1971. A much sought after actor in the 1970s and 1980s, he acted in several blockbusters, including *Mera Gaon Mera Desh*, *Anthony, Parvaaz, Hera Pheri* and *Mugdhar Sikandar*.

Khanma was cremated in Mumbai this evening in the presence of family and friends from the industry, including Amitabh Bachchan, son Abhishek, Akshay Kumar, Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Gulzar and Danny Denzongpa.

Khanma's memorable films as a solo lead were in Gular's *Apne* in 1971, *Anthony, Parvaaz, Hera Pheri* and *Mugdhar Sikandar*. He was last seen on screen in *Hema Malini-starred Ek Thi Rani Aisi Bhi*, which released on April 21.

Khanma was also an active politician, and a Member of Parliament from Gurdaspur, Punjab. The sitting BJP MP had won the seat four times. - PTI

Around the WORLD



Robot chef draws long queues at China varsity

BEIJING, April 27: A noodles-making robot, decked in a chef's hat and a hygiene mask, has been introduced at a university in China to encourage students to eat at the canteen instead of going elsewhere.

The robot chef at the South China Agricultural University uses a swift slicing technique – reminiscent of the eponymous here in the '90s – to slice up hand-rolled, hand-cut, hand-shredded noodles, news portal ThePaper.Cn reported yesterday. It has been drawing big crowds and long queues at a university canteen in southern Guangdong province.

Knife-shaved noodles, known as "dao xiao mian" in Chinese, are a Shanxi specialty.

Traditionally, the noodles are made by slicing a large block of noodle dough at an angle with a meat cleaver and letting the sliced pieces fall directly into a boiling pot of soup.

The robot is armed with two sharp knives and can slice up to 340 cuts a minute, the People's Daily, which showed a video of the machine in action reported.

The machine costs about 5,000 yuan (USD 725), Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted the canteen manager, surnamed Dong as saying. – PTI

Aussie firefighters contend with pet crocodile



DARWIN, April 27: Firefighters who fought a blaze at a house in the tropical Australian city of Darwin today contended with the added distraction of being watched by a 4-metre-long saltwater crocodile.

The fire destroyed the two-story house in the upscale suburb of Fannie Bay but did not harm the huge reptile that lives in a backyard enclosure, firefighter Bill Gleeson said. "Thankfully the crocodile didn't affect our operations at all," Gleeson told reporters.

Wildlife ranger Tom Nichols said crocodiles were rare in the Darwin suburbs. The pet had been living at the property since before crocodiles became a protected species under federal law in 1971. Gleeson said the croc was also one was in the house by the time firefighters arrived. The cause of the fire was under investigation. Authorities have yet to decide whether the croc will be moved.

Crocodile numbers have exploded across Australia's tropical north since they became protected after decades of hunting. Because saltwater crocodiles can live up to 70 years and grow throughout their lives reaching up to 7 meters (23 feet) in length the proportion of large crocodiles is also rising. – AP



Actor Noel Correia poses at the premiere of How to Be a Latin Lover in Los Angeles, on Wednesday. – UNI



A military drill marking the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the Korean People's Army (KPA) is seen in this handout photo by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) made available on Wednesday. – UNI

China has 'fundamentally altered' landscape in South China Sea

WASHINGTON, April 27: China has fundamentally altered the physical and political landscape in the strategic South China Sea through militarisation and large-scale land reclamation, a top American admiral has claimed.

Chinese military modernisation is focused on defeating the US in Asia by countering US asymmetric advantages, Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of US Pacific Command told lawmakers during a Congressional hearing.

"North Korea continues to disregard UN sanctions by de-

veloping and threatening to use intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons that will threaten the US Homeland," Harris said.

"China has fundamentally altered the physical and political landscape in the South China Sea through large scale land reclamation and by militarising these reclaimed features," Harris said.

He said China continues to press Japan in the East China Sea, stepping up diplomatic and economic pressure against Taiwan, and methodically trying to

supplant US influence with "our friends and allies in the region".

"Furthermore, China is rapidly building a modern, capable military that appears to far exceed its stated defensive purpose or potential regional needs. China's military modernisation is focused on defeating the US in Asia by countering US asymmetric advantages," Harris alleged.

China's military modernisation cannot be understood, especially when one considers the Communist regime's lack of transparency and apparent

strategy, he said, adding that China is committed to developing a hypersonic glide weapon and advanced cyber and anti-satellite capabilities that present direct threats to the Homeland.

"China's near-term strategy is focused on building up combat power and positional advantage to be able to restrict freedom of navigation and overflight while asserting de facto sovereignty over disputed maritime features and spaces in the region," the top American commander said. – PTI

Pope in balancing act in Egypt over security fears

VATICAN CITY, April 27: Pope Francis is facing a religious and diplomatic balancing act as he heads to Egypt this weekend, hoping to comfort its Christian community after a spate of Islamic attacks while seeking to improve relations with Egypt's Muslim leaders.

Security has been tightened, with shops ordered closed and police conducting door-to-door checks in the upscale Cairo neighborhood where Francis will stay Friday night. His only public Mass is being held at a military-run stadium.

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said Francis wasn't overly concerned and wouldn't use an armored car, as his predecessors did on foreign trips. Francis insisted on going ahead with the trip even after twin Palm Sunday church bombings killed at least 45 people and a subsequent attack at the famed St Catherine's monastery in Sinai.

Francis has insisted that Christian-Muslim dialogue is the only way to overcome Islamic extremism of the kind that has targeted Christians and driven them from their 2,000-year-old communities in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East.



The highlight of the two-day trip will be Francis' visit Friday to Al-Azhar, the revered 1,000-year-old seat of learning in Sunni Islam. There, he will meet privately with grand imam Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, and participate in an international peace conference.

Francis has insisted that Christians and Muslims dialogue is the only way to overcome Islamic extremism of the kind that has targeted Christians and driven them from their 2,000-year-old communities in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East.

While condemning extremist attacks against Christians, he has said he is traveling to Egypt as a messenger of peace at a time when the world is "torn by blind violence."

But his message of dialogue and tolerance has been rejected as naive by even some of his fellow Jesuits, for whom Islam remains "the sword of the word" that has failed to modernize. Even ordinary Egyptian Christians see his visit as a nice gesture but one that ultimately won't change their reality. – AP

New South Sudan fighting displaces 25,000 people

NAIROBI (Kenya), April 27: At least 25,000 people were displaced after fighting in the town of Kodok, according to a spokesman for the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders, on day after the top United Nations official in South Sudan warned of a government offensive on the town.

The fighting has caused a reduction in humanitarian services and a shortage of water for the displaced, Philippe Cart told The Associated Press. Civilians are fleeing to the nearby South Sudanese town of Aburoc, Cart yesterday said.

On Tuesday, there were reports of shelling in the town of Kodok and yesterday the town was feared deserted with military helicopters sighted nearby.

South Sudan's government troops were on an offensive in Kodok and the Upper Nile region, head of the UN mission in South Sudan David Shearer told members of the Security Council on Tuesday. He warned that 70,000 civilians could be displaced.

"Virtually no part of the country is immune from conflict," Shearer told the 15-member body at the UN. He added there "has been no concerted effort by any party to adhere to a ceasefire."

The government offensive in Kodok appears to be one of the most significant so far this year, causing disarray among rebel leader Johnson Olony and his Shilluk forces. It is also expected to create a flow of civilians fleeing into neighboring Sudan.

Shearer told a press conference at UN headquarters in New York yesterday that "there are increasing numbers of people crossing into Sudan" from Kodok and he thanked the Sudanese government for opening borders from the north of South Sudan. – AP

US pledges to force N Korea to resume talks

WASHINGTON, April 27: The US today vowed to step up economic sanctions to force North Korea to resume talks over its nuclear programme, underlining that its past efforts had failed to halt Pyongyang's "unlawful" weapons programmes.

Briefing senators at the White House, top Trump administration officials said President Donald Trump wanted to use diplomatic measures and tighten sanctions to pressure Kim Jong-Un's regime.

The senators earlier were ferried in a bus from the US capital to the White House for an unusual detailed briefing by the Trump administration officials on the current situation in North Korea.

President Donald Trump himself dropped by at the briefing, which was addressed by his top national security aides – Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defence Secretary James Mattis, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Joe Dunford.

"Past efforts have failed to halt North Korea's unlawful weapons programmes and nuclear and ballistic missile tests. With

Nuclear arms each provocation, North Korea jeopardises stability in Northeast Asia and poses a growing threat to our allies and the US homeland," the three top officials – Tillerson, Mattis and Coats – said in a joint statement after the meeting.

North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons is an urgent national security threat and the top foreign policy priority, they said, adding that upon assuming office, Trump ordered a thorough review of US policy pertaining to the North Korea.

"The president's approach aims to pressure North Korea into dismantling its nuclear, ballistic missile, and proliferation programmes by tightening economic sanctions and pursuing diplomatic measures with our allies and regional partners," the statement said.

It said the Trump administration is engaging responsible members of the international community to increase pressure on North Korea in order to convince the regime to de-escalate and return to the path of dialogue.

"We will maintain our close coordination and cooperation with our allies, especially the Republic of Korea and Japan, as we work together to preserve stability and prosperity in the region.

"The United States seeks stability and the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. We remain open to negotiations towards that goal. However, we remain prepared to defend ourselves and our allies," the three top Trump administration officials said in a statement.

Top American Senators, who had a rare bus ride from the Capitol to the White House, acknowledged that this was an unusual briefing. – PTI

Israeli missiles hit area near Damascus airport



DAMASCUS, April 27: A huge blast which struck near Damascus airport early today was caused by Israeli missiles hitting a "military position", Syria's state SANA news agency reported.

"A military position southwest of Damascus International Airport was targeted at dawn today by an Israeli aggression using several missiles fired from occupied territory, sparking explosions in the area," SANA said, citing a military source.

In the terminology of the Syrian regime, occupied territory can refer to Israel inside its internationally recognised borders. – AFP

Lanka's Tamils protest in north and east provinces

COLOMBO, April 27: All the major towns in Sri Lanka's war-ravaged northern and eastern provinces today observed a shutdown after the Tamil and Muslim political parties held a protest demanding the release of military-occupied land.

Offices, businesses, schools and public transport came to a halt after the two provinces observed a shutdown.

"We hope the government would respond after looking at this protest action. All Tamil and Muslim political parties in these areas are observing the protest," MK Shivajilingam, a hardline Tamil provincial councilor from the Tamil-dominated northern province said.

In some Muslim-dominated areas in the eastern province, life remained normal with all services operating.

The Tamil and Muslim people in the North-East are demanding the government to release the lands that are still occupied by the military, justice to the disappeared persons and provide employment to the war-battered.

"People have been protesting now for over two months yet the government has failed to address the issue," Shivajilingam said.

Some of the lands held over three decades have been released since 2015. But Tamils complain of slow progress.

Commenting on the protest yesterday, government spokesman and Minister of Health Rajitha Senaratne said the relatives of the disappeared people in some cases had provided photographic evidence that they had been seen under government care since the end of the conflict in 2009.

"We will investigate such cases but we are unable to issue death certificates in respect of the disappeared as we have no proof," Senaratne said. – PTI

US test launches unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, April 27: An unarmed *Minuteman 3* intercontinental ballistic missile was launched from California in a test of the weapon system that is part of the US nuclear force.

The missile blasted off from a silo at 12:03 am early yesterday from Vandenberg Air Force Base and delivered a single re-entry vehicle to a target approximately 4,200 miles (6,759 kilometres) away at Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the Air Force Global Strike Command said.

The launch command was issued via a air launch control system aboard a Navy E-6 Mercury jet.

"Tonight's launch was an important demonstration of our nation's nuclear deterrent capability," Col John Moss, commander of Vandenberg's 30th Space Wing, said in a statement. "Test launches like this one are vital to validating the effectiveness and readiness of our operational nuclear systems, so it is critical that they are



successful." Operational tests of *Minuteman 3* missiles are conducted regularly but the timing of yesterday's launch amid US tensions with North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs drew criticism from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, which has advocated against nuclear weapons for

more than 30 years.

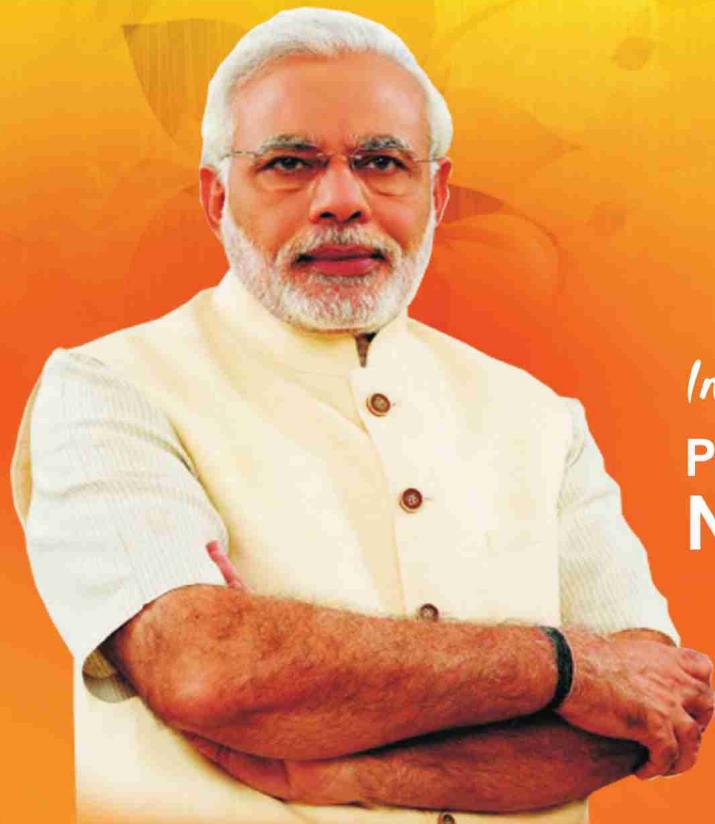
"When it comes to missile testing, the US is operating with a clear double standard: It views its own tests as justified and useful, while it views the tests of North Korea as threatening and destabilising," David Krieger, president of the organisation, said in a statement on February. – AP

its website Monday. "What is needed is diplomacy rather than military provocations. Threats, whether in the form of tweets, nuclear-capable aircraft carrier groups, or nuclear-capable missile launches, only increase the dangers to us all," he said.

President Donald Trump has in recent weeks ordered an aircraft carrier and other Navy vessels into the region in a show of force to deter North Korea, which on Tuesday conducted large-scale, live-fire artillery drills.

Yesterday, the White House hosted all 100 senators for a classified briefing on North Korea by Trump's secretary of state, defence secretary, top general and national intelligence director.

The briefing team was to meet later with House members in the Capitol. The most recent previous *Minuteman 3* launch was in early February. – AP



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Common household vinegar may help protect Australia's iconic Great Barrier Reef by effectively and quickly killing the coral-munching crown-of-thorns starfish, scientists said today.

The innovative method of killing crown-of-thorns starfish (CoTS) is safe to other marine

The iconic Great Barrier Reef

Vinegar may help protect Great Barrier Reef, say scientists

life and will now be introduced on the reef.

The Great Barrier Reef has been exposed to multiple disturbance events in recent years, including the 2016 and 2017 mass coral bleaching, three severe tropical cyclones in the past three years, and the ongoing CoTS outbreak. CoTS are breeding at epidemic levels and are one of the primary reasons for the decline in live coral.

Researchers at James Cook University in Australia led a large-scale assessment using vinegar to inject CoTS at four sites on the reef over six weeks. They had previously shown that the simple household chemical was just as effective at killing the reef-eating starfish as much more expensive chemicals with complicated processes.

The latest tests show vinegar has no ill-effect on other organisms in the sea.

"We recorded live coral cover, abundance of coral disease, fish abundance and diversity, fish diseases and the abundance of closely related invertebrates before, during and after the six-week study period and found no detrimental

effects," said Lisa Bostrom-Einarsson from James Cook University.

"There are millions of starfish on the Great Barrier Reef and each female produces around 65 million eggs in a single breeding season.

"It would take a massive effort to try and kill them all individually, but we know that sustained efforts can save individual reefs," Bostrom-Einarsson said.

"Given the diverse range of disturbances that are currently affecting the reef, we need to give it the best possible chance to recover," she said.

The safety of vinegar had previously been assessed in an aquarium setting where species known to feed on or associate with CoTS were placed in a tank with starfish injected with vinegar.

This study confirms the previous findings that the weak acetic acid in vinegar is quickly diluted on the reef and poses no threat to other marine organisms. All injected CoTS die within 48 hours.

Pred Nisifora, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Director of Tourism and Stewardship, said the organisation is targeting those reefs identified as having high conservation and tourism values.

"Culling crown-of-thorns starfish is a critical management activity to protect coral cover and boost reef resilience, particularly in the wake of coral bleaching," he said.

Bostrom-Einarsson said the method is also widely applicable to remote communities and developing countries where access to boric acids, the current substance used to kill CoTS, is limited.

(Source: PTT)



Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY Birthday for Friday, April 28, 2017.

This year you see the results of your ingenuity. If you are an artist, a writer or otherwise involved in a creative field, you'll enter one of the most productive periods of your life. If you are single, you attract many admirers who make it clear that they would like to be yours. Truly. Date until you find Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, make sure you have enough money to support your mate's money. Consider opening separate checking accounts, especially as you are likely to consider making a major purchase together. GEMINI can irritate you at times.

The Stars Show What Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may grow, not because of the impending weekend, but because of a planetary change that will last for several weeks. Your ideas will be well-received. Confusion surrounds communication with someone who is not as creative as you are. Tonight: Hand out with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might be spending a bit more than you would like to be. This fact isn't likely to bother you until later, when you assess the damage. An insight about someone you care about opens up a new opportunity to him or her more intensely. Tonight: Time to have some fun!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You're in for a day of fun, and will embrace the good times, as long as you can let go of an underlying matter that seems to be irritating you. A friend adds to the present communion by doing something unexpected. Maintain your sense of humor. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You're in for a day of fun, and will embrace the good times, as long as you can let go of an underlying matter that seems to be irritating you. A friend adds to the present communion by doing something unexpected. Maintain your sense of humor. Tonight: Where the action is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You could be overwhelmed by your friends all counting on you to join them sooner or later. You might decide to take off later in the afternoon and explore a favorite haunt that's not too far from you. As a result, you'll be able to clear your head. Tonight: Among the crowds.

VENUS (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might be asked to work on what's happening in your immediate circle. Someone you care about could be quite difficult. Use care with your spending. Your sense of direction might be clouded, which is likely to confuse a loved one as well. Tonight: A Must appearance.

JUPITER (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You don't have to be a knowledgeable friend to discuss something that is outside your realm of understandings. You'll discover just how caring a lone is one who witness her or her softer side emerge. Enjoy it! Don't often see this side. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SATURN (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) You might be asked directly if you want a stronger connection and deeper conversation. You will also come to understand a key person in your life better. This person could be an associate or a special friend you've seen several times in a new light. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You are direct in how you handle a personal matter. A loved one could be contentious without realizing it. Try to stay levelheaded when dealing with this person; ultimately, his or her mood will change. Understand where someone else is coming from. Tonight: Let your heart down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might be focused on completing what you want to get done. Efforts to clear your desk will prove worthwhile. See what happens when you remain focused. A family member or a domestic matter adds some excitement to your day. Tonight: Make it early, if possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are direct in how you handle a personal matter. A loved one could be contentious without realizing it. Try to stay levelheaded when dealing with this person; ultimately, his or her mood will change. Understand where someone else is coming from. Tonight: Let your heart down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 18) What goes on at home will make a big difference to those in your inner circle. Be careful when dealing with mechanical equipment or any item that could cause a cut or fire. You might be holding back some feelings that are likely to come out in odd ways. Tonight: At home.

Thought for the day:

A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck.

- JAMES GARFIELD

effects," said Lisa Bostrom-Einarsson from James Cook University.

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(Source: PTT)

Kids

CN

13:00 Roll No. 21

14:00 Hornd Henry Special

15:00 My Knight and Me

16:00 The Powerpuff Girls

17:00 Ben 10

18:00 Land of Go

18:30 Roll No. 21

19:30 Roll No. 21

20:00 Dragon Ball Z

21:00 Telephoning

22:00 Ben 10

23:00 Star Plus

23:30 Colors

13:00 The Tom And Jerry Show

13:30 Chhota Bheem

14:00 Yo-Kai Watch

15:00 Chhota Bheem

16:00 Chhota Bheem

17:00 Chhota Bheem

18:00 Yo-Kai Watch

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26th *Convocation*

GAUHATI UNIVERSITY
28 APRIL, 2017

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Madrid hit Deportivo for six, Barca relegate Osasuna



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a goal against Osasuna during the La Liga match at the Camp Nou in Barcelona, on Wednesday.

BARCELONA. April 27: Real Madrid again made light of the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo as they crushed Deportivo la Coruna 6-2 to maintain the upper hand in the La Liga title race on Wednesday.

Madrid and Barcelona are locked on 78 points at the top of

the table, but Real have a game in hand over their title rivals.

Barca remain top thanks to their better head-to-head record as Lionel Messi struck twice to relegate Osasuna in a 7-1 thrashing.

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane made nine changes in all from

the side that lost 3-2 to Barca on Sunday to relegate the title race.

Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and the injured Gareth Bale were left out of the Madrid squad for a third straight away league game, but again their absence wasn't missed.

"It is the hardest job for a

coach. When they play like they did today and then maybe they won't play in the next game," said Zidane.

"We know I have a phenomenal group of players and all of them are ready for the challenge between now and the end of the season."

Álvaro Morata smashed home at the near post to give the visitors the perfect start after less than a minute.

Jámes Rodríguez then added a second from Lucas Vázquez's cross as Madrid threatened to run riot inside the first 20 minutes.

However, the European champions have now kept just one clean sheet in their last 15 games and their defense was breached once more when Florin Andone turned home Gökhan Rakitic's cross to make it 2-0 on the half-hour.

"We had the chance to use a lot of players that have played fewer minutes. It is a game that boosts those individuals, the team as a whole and gives us hope for the end of the season," said Barca boss Luis Enrique.

Roberto Torre's free-kick briefly brought Osasuna back into the game three minutes into the second half.

Barca, though, simply went through the gears with a four-

header, but fittingly Real had the final say when Casemiro's pile-driver slipped under Deportivo's keeper Przemysław Tyton.

At the Camp Nou, Barca fans paid homage to Messi's brilliance against Real in scoring the winner and his 500th goal for the club with the last kick of the game in Sunday's El Clásico.

The five-time World Player of the Year responded by opening his scoring as he pounced on an error in the Osasuna defense to stroll through on goal and lift the ball over the advancing Salvatore Sirigu.

André Gomes has been the scapegoat for many of Barca's most disappointing defeats this season. But the Portuguese had arguably his best night in a Barca shirt as he drilled home Ivan Rakitic's cross to make it 2-0 on the half-hour.

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Real Madrid's Isco (2nd right) celebrates with his teammates after scoring against Deportivo la Coruna during the La Liga match at the Riazor Stadium, on Wednesday.

goal burst in 10 devastating minutes. Firstly, Gomes slotted home his second of the night after Gerard Piqué's initial effort came back off the post.

Messi then curled in his 49th goal in 47 appearances this season from the edge of the area. The Argentine instantly made

way for 19-year-old Carles Aleñá to keep him fresh for Saturday's Catalán derby at Espanyol.

Paco Alcacer also grabbed a goal for Barca's fifth and seventh. And in between times Javier Mascherano bagged his first goal in 319 Barca appearances by blasting home from

the penalty spot.

Osasuna's relegation was confirmed after Leganes beat Las Palmas 3-0 to move six points clear of the drop zone.

And Real Sociedad boosted

their chances of qualifying for the Europa League with a 3-2 win at Valencia. — AFP

Aizawl FC coach worried over absence of two key players

SHILLONG. April 27: The thought of entering the field without two key players has left Aizawl FC coach, Khalid Jamil, worried ahead of the team's final and decisive I-League game against Shillong Lajong FC.

A win or a draw against Lajong will be enough for Aizawl FC to claim the I-League, in only their second season, and Khalid didn't deny it would be tough without Ashutosh Mehta and Alfred Jaryan, both of whom are suspended after receiving four yellow cards.

"It will be very tough without Ashutosh and Alfred. But we can't just sit and think over their suspension. We have to find out how we would overcome this. I trust my entire team," Khalid said.

His players standing on the cusp of glory, Khalid is willing to soak in all the pressure himself.

"To accomplish something you have to lose something else and I have lost a lot till now," Khalid said.

On being reminded of his counterpart Thangboi Singto's remark that "Lajong won't allow Aizawl FC to walk away with the title," Khalid quipped,

"Yeah, that's football. Why will they allow us to run away with the title? We have to fight for every inch and we will." — PTT

Bopanna, Cuevas bite dust in Barcelona

BARCELONA. April 27: After the high of Monte Carlo Masters title triumph, India's Rohan Bopanna and his partner Pablo Cuevas suffered a first round exit at the ATP Barcelona Open here.

The unseeded Indo-Uruguayan pair lost 6-7 (3), 6-2 to the top seeded combination of Henri Kontinen and John Peers.

En route to their title win in Monaco last week, Bopanna and Cuevas had defeated the World No. 1 pair in doubles – Kontinen and Peers – in the quarterfinals. The Finnish-American pair thus avenged its defeat in Monaco.

Bopanna is now ranked 18 in the world while Cuevas is ranked 24 in the doubles and 26 in the singles. — PTT

Unstoppable Kolkata Knight Riders face Delhi Daredevils

KOLKATA. April 27: A rampaging Kolkata Knight Riders team in the way of Royal Challengers Bangalore for a tournament record low 49, KKR thrashed Rising Pune Supergiant by seven wickets last night.

Having suffered a hat-trick of losses, Daredevils, on the other hand, will be playing their first match in six days and the captain-memoir duo of Zaheer Khan and Rahul Dravid would hope that they return rejuvenated against an in-form team enjoying a 7-11 win-loss record.

Delhi have 12 points from eight matches at commanding net run rate of +1.153 while Mumbai Indians, the other in-form team have +0.514.

Time is running out for fast bowler DD, who are languishing at seventh in the eight-team standings with four points from six matches.

Gautam Gambhir's men have been living out of a suitcase but far from being affected, they have been ruthless on the field and would look to consolidate their position atop the standings and inch closer to playoff.

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KXIP eye revival at home, take on Sunrisers Hyderabad

MOHALI. April 27: Defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad will start as favourites when they take on the struggling-for-survival Kings XI Punjab in an Indian Premier League match here tomorrow.

The David Warner-led Hy-

derabad have won four out of eight games so far and have shared the points in a rain-abandoned outing against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The visitors are placed third with nine points and would certainly have the upper-hand against Kings XI Punjab, who have managed to win just three of their seven games.

KXIP's head of cricket operations Virender Sehwag has said that all the upcoming matches are going to be crucial for his team.

Between April 28 to May 9, KXIP will be playing four games, including against table-toppers Kolkata Knight Riders here and will look to exploit the home advantage.

Hyderabad have clashed

with Punjab at their home ground on one occasion this season in which they secured a five-win run while defending a modest total of 159 runs.

Manan Vohra's 50-ball 95 run knock did not prove sufficient for Punjab and rest of their batting collapsed as Sunrisers' bowlers mainsay Bhuvneshwar Kumar produced a magical spell of 4-0-19-5.

KXIP will take solace in the fact that opener Hashim Amla is in good form and can take the attack to the opposition camp.

KXIP scored a near 200 total (198) against the Mumbai Indians with Amla scoring a terrific hundred and skipper Glen Maxwell also hitting some lusty blows. — PTT

MATCH STARTS AT 8 PM

Sharapova would 'play juniors' for Wimbledon, French Open shot

STUTTGART. April 27: Maria Sharapova says she would "play in the juniors if I have to" in order to compete at the French Open and Wimbledon, but has no interest in building bridges with her rivals after making her comeback from a doping ban.

The Russian superstar marked her return from a 15-month ban on Wednesday with a 7-6, 6-3 first-round win over Roberta Vinci at Stuttgart's WTA tournament after being cleared of a world anti-doping agency ban.

"Everyone in this room knows what a competitor I am and if there is an opportunity to be in the draw, I will take it.

"I have been offered wild cards and I am accepting them."

"I am getting a trophy, a golden platter, I have to win these games and that is my job."

The organisers' decision to parachute Sharapova into the main draw in Stuttgart, where she has been champion three times, drew criticism from rivals, who believed she was receiving preferential treatment.

But she brushed off any personal remarks.

"I can't control what people say, all I can is what I do out there, they are my words and I prefer to walk

what matter in life. I have learnt that very well in the last year."

"I'm coming back. There have been 200 credentials given at this event, and there's news around it, but all that matters is what happens on the court."

The Russian says there is no lingering anger about her ban.

"I am not an individual who is angry about things. I let things go quickly," she said.

Vinci was one of those who said Sharapova should not have been given a wildcard in Stuttgart, but the Russian made it clear she will make no effort to build bridges in the locker room at tournaments with anyone who criticised her.

"I don't spend too much time there (locker room). I do my job, which con-

tinues to preoccupy me and I will go in there, I'll change, get my stuff and I'm out of there," she said.

"I have a great amount of friends at home, all over the world, who I speak to and those friends matter to me with my family and friends."

The Russian used the cliché 'one step at a time' when asked about her feelings on whether or not she will play at the French Open in a month's time.

"I think my mind is there yet," she said with a smile and Madrid to follow Stuttgart.

"Coming from someone who hasn't competed for 15 months, the importance of this tournament, and the next and the next, is crucial as well. I can't get ahead of myself."

"I know Grand Slam tournaments are important, Paris is an incredible stadium and I have been able to win two Grand Slams, it would be amazing to be a part of it, but my focus is on this tournament and the next three." — AFP

Arsenal were also in action on Wednesday, keeping alive their hopes of finishing in the top four for a 21st successive season with a crucial 1-0 victory over Leicester City courtesy of Robert Huth's late own goal.

Left-back Nacho Monreal proved decisive for the second time in four days as Arsenal snatched a late 1-0 victory over champions Leicester City at the Emirates Stadium.

With a largely sterile game drifting to a goalless draw, Monreal let fly with a shot that was arrowing wide before it struck Robert Huth and diverted past Kasper Schmeichel for an own goal.

Monreal had volleyed in a fine equaliser in Arsenal's 2-1 FA Cup semifinal win over Manchester City at Wembley on Thursday.

The Gunners move to the sixth position, above Everton, three points behind Manchester United and four points behind fourth-place Manchester City, United face City on Thursday.

Leicester meanwhile, are still not yet safe from relegation, despite their six-point cushion above the drop zone.

The goal triggered a lively and tetchy finish to a game that had previously meandered along at a soporific rhythm.

A series of contentious incidents included a 90th-minute clash between Christian Fuchs and Alexis Sanchez, who attempted to prevent the Leicester man from launching one of his trademark long throws. — Agencies

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Tottenham refuse to give up Premier League title chase

LONDON. April 27: Christian Erik森 reigned Tottenham's bid to catch Premier League leaders Chelsea as the Dame's late blast sealed a vital 1-0 win against Crystal Palace on Wednesday.

Chelsea's already profitable week looked like getting a whole lot better as Palace doggedly kept Tottenham Hotspur at bay for 78 minutes but Erik森's unstoppable blast meant they once again looked living over their shoulders.

His sumptuous long-range strike closed the gap on Chelsea to four points after their title rivals had moved seven points clear with a win over Southampton 24 hours earlier.

With five games remaining, Tottenham remain in the hunt to crowned champions for the first time since 1961 as they look to avenge Sunday's agonising FA Cup semifinal defeat against Arsenal – probably the last one ever at their historic White Hart Lane stadium.

Mauricio Pochettino will hope his players are revitalised by their eighth successive league win, but the Tottenham boss must know they have to improve to beat Arsenal in Sunday's crucial north London derby.

"It was good to get the three points and be alive in the race for the title," Pochettino, aiming to deliver a first title since 1961, said.

"The challenge is to keep going."

Tottenham Hotspur's Christian Erik森 celebrates after scoring the winner during the Premier League match against Crystal Palace at the Selhurst Park, on Wednesday.



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Govt mulls jail term for doping under new law

NEW DELHI, April 27: Athletes and coaches found guilty of doping could be slapped with jail terms as the Sports Ministry is trying to generate a consensus on making the menace a criminal offence.

Laws of countries such as Germany and Australia are being studied for the purpose.

Interestingly, a few days back, Sports Minister Vijay Goel had said that criminalising doping was not required since the system was to catch the offenders and the enforcement that athletes face on being caught is itself a punishment.

However, the minister today

said his fears that doping may fast spread to the junior level and it needs to be curbed by creating fear in the minds of athletes.

"We are deliberating if athletes can be sent to jail by introducing a new legislation which will make doping a criminal offence," Goel said on the sidelines of a seminar on "Consultation meeting for drafting Anti-doping legislation".

Flanked by Navin Agarwal, Director General, National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), Goel said, "Even though the measure will spread to Universities and school competitions, earlier, it was limited to only the national level."

He said his fears that doping may fast spread to the junior level and it needs to be curbed by creating fear in the minds of athletes.

"Sometimes, the athletes unknowingly take banned substances. Due to the mistakes of their coaches, the athletes pay a price but the coach goes scot-free. Everyone who aides in doping will be brought into the law net."

NADA DG Agarwal said the effort to introduce a "new legislation" have produced good results since detection rate has gone up from 2.5 to 3.5 per cent. India had featured in top-3 for

the third successive year in a report published by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for 2015.

A total of 117 athletes from the country were punished after testing positive for banned substances. India topped Russia (176) and Italy (129), the same position as in the reports of 2013 and 2014.

Agarwal also said the number of tests have touched 7000 per year and it was a challenge for NADA to make sure that the coaches do not misguide their wards.

Goel said there was no time-frame to come up with a legislation.

U-19 football talent hunt tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: The curtain raiser function for the Oorja-CAIF's U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament was held here today.

OJGK team Mukesh Sahay was the chief guest in the function where noted footballers Gilbertson Sangma, Debasish Roy, Jewel Bera, international athlete Taibun Nesa among others were present.

More than 1200 matches will be played in next three months where over 12,500 players will take part. In Assam the tournament will be organised by the Sasthra Seema Bal (SSB) and the tournament will be played at the Sasthra Sports Complex here from May 1 to 15.

Altogether eight teams (both boys and girls), two each from KVS, SGFL, IPSC and local clubs will vie for the title in this group. The teams will be divided into two groups and top two teams of each group will qualify for the final. The champion team will be awarded the Babul Phukan Memorial Trophy. Babul Phukan, who died on December 14, 2013 was an international footballer who also represented Assam and now his medals and trophies are on several occasions.

International footballer Gilbertson Sangma has been made the Brand Ambassador for the championship.

Chairman of the organising committee Bhuma Upadhyay welcomed the gathering on the occasion where senior CRPF officer Javed Akhter was also present.

Armwrestling championship

GUWAHATI, April 27: Primit Singh and Sunita Singh were champion of champions title in the men's and women's section respectively in the 41st State Armwrestling Championship held at Duliyan on April 23.

A 45-member State team was selected from the meet for the national championship to be held in New Delhi from May 18 to 21.

State roller skating teams named

GUWAHATI, April 27: The Assam Roller Skating Association announced the State teams for the 6th All India Gold Cup to be held in Shima from May 5 to 7 and the Battle on Wheel Championship to be held at Duliyan from May 6 to 7.

The teams (Puri, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Kamrup, Kreidyash Das, Krishnangshu Das, Anyush Singh, Abhijan Sonowal, Tanhi Bhargav, Apoorva Singh, Kongkona Buragohain, **[For Shima]** Prapti Medhi, Reet Choudhury, Jaishwan Sharma, Hirani Choudhury, Anuran B Madhuram, Prachi Bhattacharya, Arunabha Sarma, Arnab Mazumdar and Mridang Patwary. Coach: BA Kargil, Biswajit Baishya. Manager: Manabendra Medhi.

anarkar Das 29, Sankaryoti Borah 26, Dimpankar Nath 21; Sanjib Barman 3/8, Chinnamoy Sarma 2/15). Result: City Cricket Coaching Centre won by 92 runs. MoM: Sanjib Barman.

Silchar girl in jr nat'l kabaddi team

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, April 27: For most budding sports enthusiasts of Barak Valley and Silchar in particular, cricket is still the favourite sport to dream about. But, Jhuma Das, a young athlete is an exception. This budding kabaddi player has given a huge reason to rejoice to her parents and for the people of this valley by securing her place in the Junior National Kabaddi team.

Danish Das, Jhuma's Das, a roadside vendor and Manisha Das, residents of Rongpur, Jhuma said, "I am happy to be selected for the national squad. But I am also a little worried about my studies."

Meanwhile, overwhelmed with this achievement, secretary of Silchar DSA Babul Horo said that Jhuma has been an evolving athlete from Barak Valley who has been performing consistently well in the recent past.

"We are happy at Jhuma's achievement. She has represented the State at an event at Haryana and has also performed well in the 3rd State Games in 2016. We hope that the budding player does well for the national team," Horo added.

Big win for City CCC

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: City Cricket Coaching Centre posted a facile 92-run victory against BR Cricket Academy in today's match of the 7th Sitaran Agarwal Memorial Inter School/Organization Cricket Tournament.

Putting up a healthy total of 218 for nine in 50 overs, City boys restricted the opposition to 126 in 39 overs.

Brief scores: City CCC 218 (Hrishikesh Das 33, Surendra Singh 30, Rohan Hazarika 24; Manash Bhawali 231, Nayannomi Sun 231, Dhrubajyoti Gogoi 2/50); BR Cricket Academy 126 (Sas-

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Living the Indian dream

A lot of water has flown through the mighty rivers of India and so many things have changed since the country woke up to freedom, making a tryst with destiny almost seven decades ago. But despite all the visible change and transformation, one thing still remains: the great American dream or should I say the overseas dream of most Indians. Most Indians grew up with the notion that a successful career is all about a degree from a premier Indian institution like the IITs and IIMs, higher education in USA or Europe and a seven to eight digit salary job overseas. We also keep reading about great stories of successful Indians who graduated from a ration card to the illustrious Green Card.

When we look at how Indians have also done well for themselves in the Middle East with references like the 'Kerala Gulf Boom' coined around 2010, the fact remains that for highly skilled and educated Indians, overseas job opportunities provided a golden opportunity for financial security and access to a higher standard of living. Today, the roughly 25 million people of Indian origin scattered all over the world is recognised as a soft power which can help in influencing a pro-India foreign policy.

However, in recent times, especially after Donald Trump came to power, Indians pursuing the great American dream have reasons to feel threatened. The steps undertaken by the Trump administration to review the country's high-skilled visa process to fulfil his election campaign pledge to put American jobs first, creates uncertainties for Indian IT firms. It is not only USA but even the Australian government will be scrapping the skilled migrant visa to protect the interest of Australians looking for jobs. Two new, shorter and closed-ended temporary visas will replace the 457 skilled migrants' visa programme. Unemployment is also a concern in European countries which are also struggling with the refugee problem. In short, the world is fast losing its global village status as countries seek to protect the interest of its citizens.

Perhaps, as a species, we have excelled only when pushed to the corner. I think it is time to look inwards and realise that India has enough resources and opportunities for every Indian. In fact, it will not be farfetched to say that people abroad will soon talk about the Indian dream. With the government pushing with great earnest the 'Make in India' initiative, I believe, we have enough scope and possibilities to create great opportunities for a very successful life in our own country.

Kernan Pecker, the Australian media baron had first introduced professional cricket with the World Series Cricket in the late '70s, which attracted a lot of cricketers from world over for the lucrative offers, although the established international cricketing fraternity didn't give it recognition. Today, the Indian Premier League is one of the most happening professional sporting spectacles in the world with the best cricketing superstars actually living the great Indian dream of playing the IPL. In sports alone, thanks to the power of satellite TV and big money in the form of ad revenue, other sports like kabaddi, badminton, basketball, etc., are creating huge opportunities for a lot of young domestic talent.

With the right environment in place for rapid industrialisation, development of infrastructure and construction industry, growing access to digital connectivity in remote corners of the nation, emphasis on primary as well as higher education, India can and shall provide similar opportunities which once were only possible overseas.

Yes, there will be more competition if talented young people are not in a position to seek greener pastures abroad. But at the same time, the best of brains and skilled human resources can also help bring in innovative approaches in diverse sectors that drive the economy, helping create sustainable opportunities for everybody. Despite all the war mongering and socio-economic turmoil in the world, Indians can change the balance of power and for a change create the great Indian dream, when the world looks towards India for material as well as spiritual dividends.

- tridiv@gmail.com

Prafulla Samanta, an iconic leader of social justice movements in India, has won the 2017 Goldman Environmental Prize for his historic 12-year legal battle that affirmed the indigenous Dongria Kondh's land rights and protected the Nyamgiri Hills from a massive, open-pit aluminum ore mine. In this battle, Prafulla has been kidnapped, assaulted and attacked several times by the mining company for his activism and continues to receive threats for his 'anti-development' stance. The other 2017 recipients are Mark Lopez (United States), Uros Macel (Slovenia), Rodrigo Tot (Guatemala), Rodrigue Muganga Katembo (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Wendy Bowman (Australia).

The Goldman Environmental Prize honours grassroots environmental heroes from the world's six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America. The Prize recognises individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk. The Goldman Prize views "grassroots" leaders as those involved in local efforts, where positive change is created through community or citizen participation in the issues that affect them. Through recognising these individual leaders, the Prize seeks to inspire other ordinary people to take extraordinary actions to protect the natural world.

Meanwhile, keep writing to us with quiz reports, questions (with answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizone, Horizon, C/O The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati. SMS: 98640-26322 and e-mail at tosallen@gmail.com or quizonesallen@gmail.com. To read Quizzone online, you can log on to exper.assamtribune.com.

MASTER'S CHOICE

- Vulcan, the Roman God is more familiarly known by his Greek name. Which name is it?
- In Indian television, the first colour advertisement was broadcast in 1982. What was the advertisement about?
- Captain John Smith put his name on which World Heritage site when he rediscovered it?
- Who was the only actress to be nominated for an Oscar in the Best Actress category before her 14th birthday in 2004?
- Which is the only planet that takes longer time to rotate once around its axis

Inhumane

I was there.
She was on the ground with her child; helpless, crying.
He came and thundered upon her.
I was there.
Her elder son held her and he beat her with a wooden stool.
They say he didn't beat his mother but grasped her,
For his father to attack.
I was there.
He called her a slut in front of her child.
Her eyes only shed tears.
She said she was pentient.
I was there.
Her relatives arrived and muttered.
She could barely walk or protest.
Just wept and grabbed her child.
She might be promiscuous,
I don't know.
If I were in his sandals,
I'd certainly not have abused her.
I'd have left her with riches,
Enough to live with her child.
Not wallop her.
Women are to love,
Not to beat, thrash or wallop.
Understand;
Respond, not react!

Nahid Ahmed,
Silchar

O' Ramana!

I get lost in the labyrinth of mind,
I am lost in the samsara,
Come to my rescue,
O' Ramana, my eternal master!
Initiate me into your silence,
Illuminate my heart,
With your encompassing,
All pervading sacred presence.
Let this fruit of yours ripen.
In the divine right time,
Everything does happen.
Shall I weaken my patience?
In spite of divine assurance!
I prostrate myself at thy holy feet.
Come to my rescue,
O' Ramana, my eternal master!
Let this flower of yours blossom!

Siddhartha Bordoli,
Golaghat

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Gitartha Roymedhi



The darker and bitter the chocolate, the healthier it is. Few pieces or 100 grams of dark chocolate can be consumed daily

Health benefits of dark chocolate

Dark chocolate is loaded with nutrients that can positively affect your health. Made from the seed of the cocoa tree, dark chocolate is considered as one of the best antioxidants as it contains organic compounds like polyphenols and flavonoids.

The darker and bitter the chocolate, the healthier it is. Few pieces or 100 grams (600 calories) of dark chocolate can be consumed daily, which is much beneficial than having sweet meats or dishes high in calories. Dark chocolate too contains sugar but in a moderate amount. The fats present in dark chocolate are saturated which makes it easily digestible.

The medicinal qualities of dark chocolate helps reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, mental disorder, obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.

The organic compounds—polyphenols and flavonoids—present in dark chocolate suppress the free radicals in the body which can cause diseases like cancer. They also help clean and flush out blood clots, plaques, metallic ions, etc., from the arteries and veins that harm blood circulation. The compounds in dark chocolate are highly protective against oxidation of Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) or 'bad cholesterol' that reacts with the free radicals to form polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Flavonoids enhance the synthesis of High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL) or 'good cholesterol' that is heart friendly. Flavonoids also help produce Nitric Oxide gas in the body that sends signals to the arteries to relax, lowers resistance of blood flow and reduces blood

pressure. Moreover, flavonoids can protect the skin against sun induced damages and maintain the tone and density of the skin by improving the blood flow to the skin. It also aids in brain functioning by improving the blood flow to the brain and reducing stress and depression. Flavonoids also reduce the risk of developing diabetes and obesity. It assists in reducing insulin resistance by helping the cells to function normally and regaining the ability to use the body's insulin efficiently.

Dark chocolate is a store house of nutrition. It contains high quantity of fibre which increases the absorption of fats in the stomach, thus preventing obesity. The richness of copper and potassium in dark chocolate prevents against stroke as well. The iron in dark chocolate protects against iron deficiency.

The magnesium present in dark chocolate helps reduce the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and many other heart diseases. Plenty of manganese, phosphorus, zinc and selenium improves immunity. Dark chocolate also contains cholorophyll that makes tooth enamel strong and hard.

- gitartharoymedhi83@rediffmail.com

Picture clue:

19. Identify the logo of this famous Asian organisation. (Rubul Kalita, Nalbari)



ANSWERS

- Hephaestus, the God of Blacksmiths, 2. Bombay Dying, 3. Ajanta Caves, 4. Keisha Castle Hughes (for the movie *Whale Rider*), 5. Venus, 6. Gamma, 7. The 88th Battalion of CRPF, known as Mahila Battalion, 8. Operation Vijay, 9. Honeymoon, 10. Dag Hammarskjöld (Former UN Secretary General), 11. Environmental and Climate Literacy, 12. Muralidhar Devdas, 13. Lord Ripon, 14. Norway, 15. Mazagon Dock Limited, 16. The Wizard of Oz, 17. Vishnu, 18. Lord Chamberlain's Men, 19. SAARC, 20. In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of the thumb'.

Crossroads

I stand at the crossroads of life, wondering,
Which road will take me closer to life's meaning?
As I see in front, multiple avenues meandering,
Each, somewhat scary, somewhat endearing.
One is along which, for a while, I've been treading;
Making memories, some rewarding, others grumbling;
While, its promise of comfort and familiarity, is enticing,
I fear the prospective regret of not enough exploring.
The second avenue takes me closer to my kind.
To the place of love that is elsewhere hard to find;
While, its promise of proven tranquillity is alluring,
I fear the prospective remorse of prematurely retreating.
The third takes me farther away, from my kind and place,
To new shores to discover, new challenges to embrace;
The prospect of being catapulted
Into new heights, is exciting,
Yet, the prospect of being plummeted,
Is no less overwhelming.

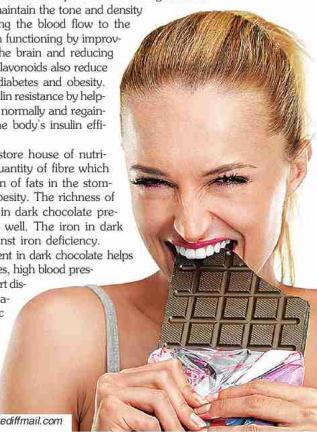
There are other smaller roads as well emanating,
Some seemingly familiar, others seemingly intimidating;
I find not yet an avenue,
Pointing clearly towards life's meaning.
Hence I looked inwards, and started humbly meditating.
The universe spoke to me as I sat contemplating,
A voice resonated deep within,
"It is important to keep walking."
You are not the one who decides, so rest in glee;
The avenue does not matter, as all avenues lead to Me."

Bedanta Choudhury,
New Delhi

All over again

Take me back to your womb,
Let me be safe amidst your soft flesh and blood,
Let me sleep wearing your warmth,
Let me feed on you...
And let me be born once again,
Let me be pampered,
Walk those first baby steps
Holding your fingers...
Let me start it all over again!

Simantika Saikia,
Barpeta Road



that to travel once around the sun?

- Born Ghulam Mohammed of Datta, which wrestler never lost a bout in his life and won the 'Rustum-Hind' title at Allahabad's Industrial Exhibition in 1910?
- Name the world's first paramilitary force comprising entirely of women, which was commissioned on March 30, 1986?
- What is the name of the operation by the military of India that led to the capture of Goa, Damman and Diu, and Doda and Nagar Haveli from the Portuguese colonial holding in 1961?
- This word, related to marriage was first used by Jane Austen in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*. Name the word.
- In 1961, which European statesman became the first person to win the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously?

READERS' CHOICE

- What was the theme of World Earth Day observed on April 22, 2017? (Manash Jyoti Borali, Guwahati)
- What was the real name of Baba Amte, the Indian social activist known for his work on leprosy? (Geetali Das, Guwahati)
- Which Governor-General was called the 'Father of Local Self-Government' in India? (Ningombam Duhita, Guwahati)
- Name the country which recently became the first to ban FM radio broadcasting. (Marisha Devi, via SMS)
- Which company carries the construction of submarines, missile-boats and destroyers for the Indian Navy and offshore supply vessels and well-head platforms? (Partha Jyoti Banuah, Tengnaf)
- In which popular fictional work would you come across the lion, the scarecrow and the tin man? (Bullock Mahanta, Jorhat)
- According to the Hindu mythology, Rama is an avatar of which God? (Ayesha Masooma, via SMS)
- With which theatrical company was Shakespeare intimately connected with for most of his professional career as a dramatist? (Mridul Das, South Kurnool)

- QUESTION OF THE WEEK
What is the origin of the phrase 'the rule of the thumb'? (Dr Hemanga Kumar Kalita, Barpeta Road)

Most of us would agree that we are living life at a dizzying speed. There is a mad rush everywhere from dawn to dusk, in public places, at homes, in our lives. Most of us don't come home on time in the night, instead, we come home staggering tired, worn out, exhausted and drained because we live too fast. But what is this race all about? Many people ask, is it a sin to live life in the fast lane? No, it is not, but we need to understand that speed is not a sin, but neither is it neutral. Fast living used to

thing to make hay while the sun of youth shines over them. They are no longer looking for stability but bigger, quicker jumps. This fast-paced life, in fact, gives them a kick. Today's children behave like wannabe youths and the old are struggling to look younger. At the end of the day, nobody really has the time to slow down. There is a perception in the society that you can't get noticed unless you are running. Since walking is out of fashion, walkers are at a risk of being discarded as 'outdated or unenthusiastic'.

Today, most people around us are manipulat-

Living on the fast lane



mean a life of debauchery; now it just means fast – but the consequences are even more serious because speeding through life, according to psychologists, endangers our relationships and our souls. Hence we need to ponder over it and spend some time talking with self.

We all know that people around us are in a hurry to grab seats in public vehicles, to jostle their way through a crowd, to break queues to take away their due first. The youth today wishes to taste everything too soon, chase success at any cost. So they do not mind doing overtime at work or waking up at nights to meet the ends. It does not bother them if they are putting their health at stake, for they would do any-

thing to make hay while the sun of youth shines over them. They are no longer looking for stability but bigger, quicker jumps. This fast-paced life, in fact, gives them a kick. Today's children behave like wannabe youths and the old are struggling to look younger. At the end of the day, nobody really has the time to slow down. There is a perception in the society that you can't get noticed unless you are running. Since walking is out of fashion, walkers are at a risk of being discarded as 'outdated or unenthusiastic'.

Today, most people around us are manipulat-

ing old age homes are all the result of this use-and-throw culture. The greatest irony is that when people take breaks to escape this mad rush, even their interludes are full of noise. Either they end up watching the idiot box or indulge in loud entertainment and socialising. So in the absence of silence in our lifestyle today, the mind and the body hardly gets time to de-stress, to get healed. As a result of this driving in the fast lane, there are frequent emotional accidents, physical and mental damages in the form of lifestyle diseases.

One must understand that the biggest tragedy of living in the fast lane is that it deprives us of our birthright to go inwards and make peace with ourselves, something that builds the foundation of our life. Our fast pace hicks our vision. There is no time to pause, recollect and evaluate things. People are clueless about the direction they are heading into, for their only aim is to squeeze in the maximum now. They are running because others are doing the same. Hence, it is high time that we change for our own sake, if not for anyone else. Remember, spiritual growth happens when we slow down our activities, not when we increase it. So, if we really want to stay safe on the road of life, then we have to hit the brakes, pull over to a rest area and stop, or else we might meet with a fatal accident. The ugly truth, however, is that many of us do not know how to rest! Actually, most of us simply refuse to choose rest, because we don't want to come out of this mad race of living in the fast lane. But we need to understand that rest is choosing to do nothing when we have too much to do, slowing down when we feel pressure to go faster, stopping instead of starting. It is like listening to our weariness and responding to our tiredness, not to what is making us tired. Rest is what happens when we say one simple word: No! In order to rest we must admit that we are not indispensable, that the world can get along without us. Once we understand how small we are, only then might we find the right reasons to say yes. Only then might we find the right reasons to decide to be with our inner self. So what are you waiting for, let us begin the process of change now!

(nikunjji@gmail.com - www.brahmakumaris.com)

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(nikunjji@gmail.com - www.brahmakumaris.com)

Starting school

Unmana Dutta



Just as a new session is about to start, children will be seen getting up early and leaving for school, some crying and some in a very happy mood to go to a new place. Leaving a child in a nursery or a pre-school is a traumatic experience for the child as well as for the parents. The parents are often in a dilemma of whether they are leaving their child in the right hands. It is a mixed bag of emotions, where both the child and the parents are in a predicament.

Preparing your child for school is a challenge in itself. These are some ways in which the parents can prepare the child for nursery school:

Introduce the child to the teacher

Even before school starts, introduce the child to the teacher and tell him/her about how that teacher will take care of them for a few hours of the day from now on.

Organise a trip to the school

Take your child to the school and tell him how that place will be his/her next home from now on, where they can stay and play and learn new things. This exercise will also make the parents sure about the school, by checking the infrastructure of the school in greater detail.

Teach a rhyme

Take the names of the parents who have also admitted their children in the school this year and meet them up with the kids. This will help the child know the children before they meet them as strangers in the school.

Prepare your child

Teach them how to eat on their own and pack their own stuff. Start waking

them up early a few days before actual school starts so that they get adjusted to the new timings. Start giving them some snacks in the timings that his/ her new school gives lunch break at. Most importantly, teach them the basics through play, like a little rhyme, the alphabets, numbers, remembering mother's and father's phone number and names and if possible, the address. Also, visit the school website and show them pictures of what happens in the school and encourage them that school will be a life-changing experience for them.

Make a list of dos and don'ts

Tell them what they should do and not do in a school setting. Like listening to the teacher and taking care of their own belongings are things that the parents need to brief their child about.

Ensure safety

Before sending the child to the school, ensure that the school is safe from all aspects, be it from the aspect of infrastructure, transportation, hygiene, etc.

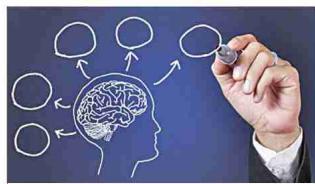
Teach them about 'good' and 'bad' touch

Brief them about how a good and bad touch feels like and from whom it may come from. Teach them that they must be careful of strangers and how they should not travel or communicate with strangers who ask them personal questions.

Communication

Communicate with your child every day after school; about what they did in school and what they have learnt. Ask them if they like the class and the activities, school and the friends.

- msud1289@gmail.com



Global psychiatry: a LAMIC perspective

The Open Journal of Psychiatry and Allied Sciences (OJPAS) has been publishing mental health-related research since 2010. Throughout these eight years, the journal has gone through many changes, including renaming from *Dysphoria* in 2015. OJPAS is trying to tap the new ideas that come from young minds before they are bogged down by conventional thinking. It also attempts to understand mental illness from a cultural viewpoint in order to develop appropriate preventive and therapeutic measures.

Of late, the team has been striving to bring a 'new-look' OJPAS! This approach necessitates some more changes. That is what highlighted in the editorial, titled 'Global psychiatry: a LAMIC perspective' by myself, Bornali Das, and Mythili Hazarika. The new approach is to work for the promotion of psychiatry in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC).

OJPAS prepares to be a platform where researchers from around the world will contribute to this end. Formation of a global consortium by these research contributors shall aim to bridge the existing gap between LMIC and non-LMIC as far as mental health-related work and care is concerned, thus bringing them at par.

The editorial is available on the homepage of the journal (www.ojpas.com).

MIND MATTERS

Dr Shyamanta Das

- dr.shyamantadas@gmail.com

Your childhood dream of flying a car may not be all that from realising. Last week, German start-up company Lilium Aviation did the first test-flight of such a car, which is an all-electric, two-seater, vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) prototype. The prototype was piloted remotely during the tests and the vehicle's first manned flight will happen soon, its creators say.

Describing the electric car, Lilium Aviation announced in a recent press release that altogether 36 separate jet engines have been mounted on 12 movable flaps on the Lilium Jet's 10-metre long wings to power the craft. The flaps point down at the time of take-off to provide vertical lift, and then they tilt gradually into a horizontal position for forward thrust.

The electric battery of the Lilium Jet enables the aircraft to reach a maximum cruising speed of 300 kmph and achieve a range of 300 kilometres. This vehicle, Lilium says, "consumes around 90 percent less energy than drone-type aircraft".

The startup, which wants to build a five-passenger version of the jet, envisions its product being used in an on-demand capacity in dense, urban areas – the Uber of flying cars. Uber itself, however, is working on

its own flying model. Patrick Nathan, co-founder of Lilium Jet, said the company's ultimate goal is to make the technology accessible for everyone, replacing expensive ground taxi trips in urban areas with flights at a fraction of the cost.

Although electric-powered aviation is not yet highly developed, this prototype's design makes it far more efficient in terms of power consumption than other electric aircrafts. And although electric cars with the same 1,000-pound batteries used in this aircraft are typically limited to a range of about 482 kilometres per charge, Nathan says that is enough for their jet.

This jet and all other similar innovative futuristic vehicles in development right now will run on renewable energy. Tesla vehicles will soon be as affordable as standard vehicles, and their semi trucks and pickups are on the way. This kind of electric-powered aircraft is the next step in truly getting clean energy off the ground while leaving fossil fuels on it.

The fantasy flight takes off now!

- devlonath@hotmail.com

Electric aviation



TECH TRENDS

Devol Kumar Nath

to preserve and conserve them. They are also accorded the rights akin to fundamental rights/legal rights.

The ruling followed an earlier order on March 20, 2017, in which the Uttarakhand HC had declared the Ganga and Yamuna rivers as legal entities based on the fact that they are considered sacred to Hindus. The order dealt primarily with the state of Uttarakhand had the powers, under a federal Constitution, to direct the central government and whether rivers, as sacred entities, could be considered legal entities under Indian law. The March 30 order is focused on the ideas of *parsons patriae* jurisdiction, the concept for the states within a federal structure defending their environment, and cities, in a comprehensive manner the idea that nature has rights.

The judgement, apart from quoting important UN Declarations and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, as well as the Bali Action Plan, also acknowledges the passage of New Zealand's Te Urewera National Park, whereby the park has been given the legal entity.

The Uttarakhand HC further put the Chief Secretary, Director of the Namami Gange Project, Legal Advisor of Namami Gange Project, Advocate General Director (Academics), Chandigarh Judicial Academy and Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court as persons in charge to protect the natural entities and to promote their health and well-being.

- newflowers@gmail.com

Nature as legal entity

SEEDS OF CHANGE

Mubina Akhtar



In such a backdrop, a landmark ruling came from the Uttarakhand High Court on March 30, 2017, that stated: "We, by invoking our *parsons patriae* jurisdiction, declare glaciers, including Gangotri and Yamunotri, rivers, streams, rivulets, lakes, air, meadows, dales, jungles, forests, wetlands, grasslands, springs and waterfalls, legal entity/legal person/juristic person/juridical person/moral person/artificial person having the status of a legal person, with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person, in order



STICKLER

THIS word is based on the now obsolete term 'stickler'. The first recorded sense is found in 1530s to mean the 'referee' or 'umpire'. From this, the word stickler came to use to denote a person who insists on certain quality or behaving within some laid down rules and limits and following a strict way of life.

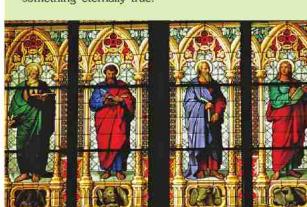
UMPTEEN

SOME claim the word originated in India. The story goes like this: signal regiments in Army once used the umptu to indicate the dash in the Morse code and iddy for the dot to teach the Morse system to Indian troops. As dash (umpty) was used in

a very large number, it was first used by the British Military officers in the late 19th century to mean something that is repeated multiple times, which slowly percolated to common use with the same meaning.

GOSPEL

GOSPELS are those portions of the New Testament that deal with life, death, resurrection and teachings of Christianity. The gospels were compiled by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the later part of 1st century AD. Mark started the exercise and John held up the rear. Mark is credited to be the most reliable source of knowledge on the life of Jesus. Everything written there is considered to be ultimate truth and none question it. From this, the common usage 'Gospel truth' came into modern parlance to mean something eternally true.



WORDSPK

The story behind words

Bibekananda Choudhury



Eye talk

Our eyes are formidable communicators of feelings, including comfort and discomfort, which help us decipher the emotions of others from a very tender age. Our eyes reveal excitement at seeing our mother walking into the room but also reveal concern when we are troubled. Often what is not spoken out loud is expressed exquisitely in the eyes.

While a mother's eyes will reflect the hopelessness she may feel when her baby is hospitalised, they conversely reveal the joy having found that the child is healthy and fine. Few things reflect our emotions as well or as rapidly as the eyes. Babies, just several days old, already respond to the eyes of the mother and can tell the difference between a squint and wide-opened dilated eyes. Babies can tell the difference between a happy and contented mother and one who is stressed, just by looking at the eyes.

The eyes serve as conduits of information that we

CHARISMA CHRONICLE

Anjan Chowdhury

have relied on for thousands of years. We rely on them because of their accuracy. The man who is asked to help someone move will cover his eyes with his fingers rubbing them as he answers – “Yes, I will help you” – when no doubt this will be an inconvenience. This blocking behaviour authentically reveals how we feel even though he will assist.

Eye blocking behaviours such as: covering of the eyes, shielding the eyes, lowering the eyelids for a prolonged period, delays in opening of the eyes is so hard wired in us that children who are born blind, when they hear something they don't like will also cover their eyes. This behaviour represents an adaptation to stress or other negative stimuli, which has served us well over millennia.

When interpreting eye behaviour, many misconceptions exist. Little or no eye contact is erroneously perceived by some as a classic sign of deception, especially during questioning, while the truthful should ‘lock eyes’. Eye contact is, in fact, a socio-cultural phenomenon that is practised differently around the world. Eye aversion is practised in many cultures, including Latin Americans and African-Americans, to show respect to those in authority. So when a black child looks down as he or she is being chastised, that looking down is actually a sign of respect and deference, which is often misinterpreted as disrespects or worse, deception.

– anjanchowdhury74@gmail.com

WEST SIDE STORY

Drake to host NBA Awards

DRAKE recently tweeted that he will be ‘Hosting the first-ever NBA Awards on TNT, June 26th,’ encouraging his fans to ‘tune in’. The show will air live from Basketball City at Pier 36 on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, a stone’s throw from the Manhattan Bridge, according to the Associated Press.

Garlanded that night will be the Most Valuable Player, Coach of The Year, Rookie of The Year, Most Improved Player and Defensive Player of The Year, among others.

Watson fears failure

EMMA Watson has revealed that though she has been a child icon since the first *Harry Potter* film hit theatres in November of 2001, there is a title she isn’t a fan of: role model.

“When people call me a role model it puts the fear of God into me, because I feel like I’m destined to fail,” the 27-year-old told Jessica Chastain who was interviewing the *Beauty And The Beast* actress over the phone for the May cover of *Interview Magazine*.

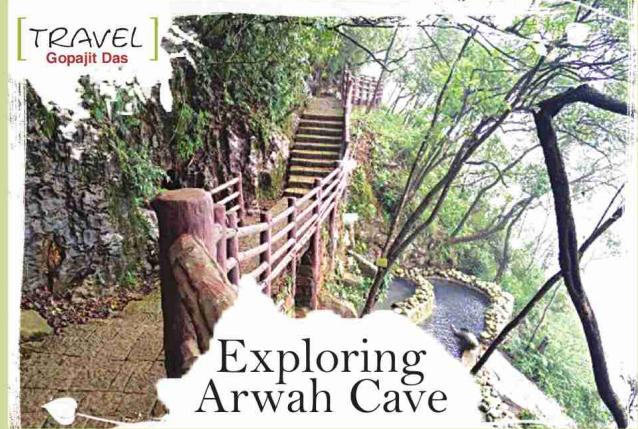
Madonna slams biopic plan

MANY Madonna fans erupted in joy at news that a biopic of her early career is percolating at Universal, but Madge herself isn’t pleased with the news.

“Nobody knows what I know and what I have seen. Only I can tell my story. Anyone else who tries is a charlatan and a fool. Looking for instant gratification without doing the work. This is a disease in our society,” the 58-year-old fumed alongside a throwback Instagram photo of herself.

Universal has snagged Elyse Hollander’s 2016 *The Black List*’s top-ranking screenplay *Blond Ambition*. *The Hollywood Reporter* has revealed. Its title comes from that of Madonna’s legendary 1990 world tour.

AGENCIES



Exploring Arwah Cave

Natural caves have always fascinated me. Apart from being a source of awe and curiosity, it is the fear associated with caves that makes it even more exciting. Meghalaya is blessed with many caves, some of which are still unexplored or are partially explored. In fact, Meghalaya houses some of the deepest and longest caves in India.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit one of the partially explored caves in Meghalaya – the Arwah Lumsynshai cave – along with my uncle and aunt from Delhi.

Arwah cave is located in Sohra, around 60 kilometres from Shillong. The cave is located on a hill top and the vehicle has to pass through a gravel road. The deep gorge along the way provides a spectacle of the blue mountains, with the clouds playing hide and seek. The greenery is mesmerising and the town is also visible on the other side of the mountain. I would suggest people to go straight to the cave as the road is beautiful and you might be tempted to halt to breathe in some fresh air and click a few pictures. But this can be done on your way back as the cave has many marvels to offer and you must have suffi-

cient time in your hands.

From the car parking we walked around 500 steps to reach the cave. The route is surrounded with greenery, a hillside on one side and deep cliffs on the other. A carefully constructed natural-looking concrete barrier separates you from the deep cliffs. We met Bado at the ticket counter who informed us that the cave was discovered by some local men and has now been opened for tourists.

A signboard offered us two choices to get to the cave – rugged trail or pleasant walk. We decided to be less adventurous and took the pleasant walk.

Walking through the fog-covered route, with the soothing sound of stream waters flowing below, chirping of the birds and insects, we reached the starting point of the cave. The cave, though was fitted with lights, was dark at many places. Mustering our courage we marched ahead through the limestone cave. Clear stream waters were constantly flowing along the floor of the cave and the water was sweet in taste.

Inside the cave was a surreal world of speleothems – secondary calcium carbonate deposits within limestone cave, including stalactite, which hung from the roof of the cave, and stalag-

mite – built up above the floor of a cave. The path inside the cave was quite narrow at certain places, forcing us to crawl our way ahead. We spotted preserved fossils in different forms in great abundance engraved on the slimy walls and roof. It took us around half an hour to get around the cave. The cave had dark passages where tourists are not allowed to enter. The cave is an excellent place for adventure freaks and archaeologists. Bado informed us that it may take an entire day to explore the whole length and breadth of the cave.

We were very excited to have explored the part of the cave which was open for tourists. Hopefully in the near future more parts of the cave will be explored and who knows, many interesting facts may come to light. My uncle, who has travelled to many countries and had recently visited Mount Titlis, claimed that he has never experienced the awe and wonder associated with this mysterious cave anywhere else in the world.

I would suggest all adventure loving readers to make a trip to this wonderful place. This cave is accessible throughout the year and one can also hire a guide from the ticket counter – gopajidas@gmail.com



Spirit of the law

During India’s 1947 Test series Down Under, legendary all-rounder Vinoo Mankad ran out Australian batsman Bill Brown at the non-striker’s end, as the latter, while backing up, had left the crease well before the ball was released. This sparked off a huge controversy, with the Australian media coming down heavily on Mankad for “breaching the sportsman’s spirit”, despite the fact that Mankad had warned the batsman twice, and this was also the second such occasion involving the same batsman during the tour. The Australian press coined the term ‘Mankaded’ to describe the dismissal, and since then it has remained a part of cricketing terminology.

It is always the bowler that runs the non-striker out in this way who has to face the flak. Vinoo Mankad was heavily criticised. But neither the Australian captain at the time, the legendary Donald Bradman, nor the batsman in question, Bill Brown, had any problem with it and they fully backed the great Indian left-arm spinner. What often escapes our notice is the fact that non-strikers often try to take undue advantage by going down the pitch so that they can reach the opposite and comfortable in the event of a run being taken. But since the bowler is always accused of being unsportsmanlike in such a situation, Sunil Gavaskar feels that the term ‘Mankaded’ amounts to an insult to the legendary all-rounder and it should rather be called ‘Browned’.

His reaction came after the MCC, the custodian of the laws of cricket, updated some rules and among them was a bowler-friendly alteration to the Mankad rule. The new changes to this rule are clearly aimed at putting the ball in the batsmen’s court instead of the bowler. The batters now run the risk of being run out in this fashion if they leave the crease early, and the bowlers would not have to be blamed for that.

SPORTPOURRI

Debashish Bezbarua

When the rule itself seems to justify the action of the bowler, and removes the stigma associated with the manner of dismissal by putting the onus on the batsman (non-striker), then why fret over the rule being named after Mankad? The MCC’s alteration to this rule is another way of saying Mankad was right in doing what he did.

Therefore, every time a non-striker gets out in this fashion, it is Mankad whose name the dismissal will remind everyone of. If it is named ‘Browned’ – it is unlikely MCC will do that, despite Gavaskar’s opposition – then it will only end up immortalising Bill Brown.

Another important rule change that the MCC has effected relates to players’ on-field behaviour, which was deemed extremely necessary following the level of acrimony witnessed during the recent India-Australia Test series. The ban on big bats aside, what has really grabbed attention is the full-level rules meant to keep players within their limits on the field.

The provision of sending off a player that tops the new set of rules is by far the strictest norm formulated by the MCC, because a football-like red card was unthinkable in this so-called gentlemen’s game. The MCC has done well in segmenting this behaviour-related punitive action into five levels, and this new set of rules will no doubt make the aggressive players think twice before resorting to cowardly histrionics at the cost of their opposition.

– deba.b555@gmail.com

Articles for *Horizon* should carry the address and contact number of the contributor. Articles can also be e-mailed at - horizon@assamtribune.com

NOOR

DIRECTOR: SUNIL SIPPY
STARRING: SONAKSHI SINHA, KANAN GILL, PURAB KOHLI, SHIBANI DANEKAR, MANISH CHAUDHARY

Noor is based on Pakistani writer Saba Imtiaz’s debut novel, *Karachi, You’re Killing Me!* It could have been an absorbing film but for its leisurely pace. There is no urgency and hence, there are no thrills. The main plot of monologue in the first half even as the audience see the heroine struggling with the ‘lows’ of her work and love life is not very effective too.

Noor Roy Chaudhary (Sonakshi Sinha) wants to do “issue-based broadcast journalism”, but her boss (Manish Chaudhary) makes her go through the routine grind like interviewing Sunny Leone. The 28-year-old journey – desperate to carve a niche for herself – is really just to break a story on an organ harvesting racket when her friend Ayan Banerjee (Purab Kohli) ‘plagiariases’ the news for his channel. In all those moments of self-doubt, Noor’s constant companions are Zara (Shibani Dandekar) and the London-based Saad (Kanan Gill).

Sonakshi Sinha has every expression in the acting manual, which sits perfectly on her face. In fact she is the sole reason to see the film. Newcomer Kanan Gill also looks fine. Amaad Mallik’s music goes with the flow.

MAATR

DIRECTOR: ASHTAR SAED
STARRING: RAVEENA TANDON, ALISHA KHAN, RUSHAD RANA

Maatr sets out to be a hard-hitting film, but its undoing is that it takes the beaten route of routing vendetta to justice. Nevertheless, it brings out the very real horrors of gory crimes against women and the ineptitude of the legal machinery.

School teacher Vidya Chauhan (Raveena Tandon) and her teenaged daughter Tia (Alisha Khan) are raped on a secluded street on their return home from a function. Though the mother survives the ordeal, the daughter succumbs to her pains. When Vidya approaches the police, there is a bid to hush up the crime as the chief minister’s son is involved in the case.

To add to Vidya’s woes, her husband Ravi (Rushad Rana) also walks out on her. This leaves her with no other option than taking the law into her own hands. She kills all the wrongdoers one after another in the most brutal manner.

Raveena Tandon, who earned the sobriquet ‘rausing’ for her looks during her heyday, has often been overlooked for her acting abilities. But she is a very competent actress, and showcases her true potential in this movie. In fact, if one remembers, her jazz act was the only saving grace in *Bombay Velvet* (2015).

ARCHIE

FACE IT, VERONICA! YOU’RE GOING TO GOSPEL ME WITH ALL THOSE NASTY WORDS!

I PREFER THE TASTE OF IT AS IS, THANK YOU!

JACK! ARCH TOLD ME YOU’RE GOING TO GET ME OUT OF HERE! I DON’T WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

FINISHED! DID YOU FINISH? I DON’T WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

HAI! I KNOW YOU COULDN’T KEEP A SECRET! I TOLD HER JACK’S GONE!

THEY’RE LEAVING. SEE HOW NO ONE MAKES FRIENDS AND LEARN, LEARN, LEARN...

THERE’S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET THEM TO LEAVE... BOY HER'S ME...

WITH ALL THIS TIME AND EFFORT I PUT IN...

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORK!

beetle bailey

Mort Walker’s

beetle bailey

I DO BETTER TO GET UP AND GET THINGS GOING!

I SHOW THEM THE BASIC WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES AND GOOD HABITS!

BATHING, SHAVING, ETC. ETC. ETC.

THEY LEARN TO BE ON TIME, GET THINGS DONE, AND HOW TO WORK TOGETHER!

THEY SEE HOW TO EAT WELL AND TAKE CARE FOR GOOD HEALTH!

I CAN’T GET THESE GARBAGE JERKS TO ENJOY IT!

THOSE GUYS NEED ME!

WITH ALL THIS TIME AND EFFORT I PUT IN...

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORK!

THEY SEE HOW TO EAT WELL AND TAKE CARE FOR GOOD HEALTH!

I CAN’T GET THESE GARBAGE JERKS TO ENJOY IT!

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORK!

THEY SEE HOW TO EAT WELL AND TAKE CARE FOR GOOD HEALTH!

I CAN’T GET THESE GARBAGE JERKS TO ENJOY IT!

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORK!