



NEWS CAPSULE

Four ULFA(I) linkmen held

MANGALDIA, April 17: The Darrang police today arrested four suspected ULFA(I) linkmen from Darrang, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Mangaldoi. They have been identified as Bipul Deka (30), Dimbawar Nath (26), Raju Deka (28) and Timok Saharia (52). No arms and ammunition or any incriminating document, however, could be recovered from their possession, sources said. — Correspondent

Nepalese Prez

NEW DELHI, April 17: Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari arrived here today on her first overseas tour during which she will hold talks with top Indian leadership to strengthen bilateral relations. — PTI

FEMA case

NEW DELHI, April 17: The Enforcement Directorate has issued a show cause notice to Karti Chidambaram, son of senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, and a firm reportedly linked to him, for alleged violations of the FEMA laws to the tune of Rs 45 crore. — PTI

True violation

JAMMU, April 17: Pakistani troops fired from automatic weapons and shelled mortars on forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir today, in the sixth instance of ceasefire violation this month. — PTI

Telecom cos

SRINAGAR, April 17: The J-K police has directed telecom companies to shut their 3G and 4G services in the Kashmir Valley as the strike continues there has been an attempt to spread fear and show security personnel in a bad light through online videos. — PTI

Cong on EVMs

NEW DELHI, April 17: The Congress demanded that the EC revert to the old system of paper ballots till the time all EVMs were linked to VVPAT machines providing paper trail of votes. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that the opposition "fabricated" the issue of alleged EVM tampering. — PTI

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



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal with the Chinese Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui in Guwahati on Monday. — AT photo

CM, Chinese envoy discuss vital issues

GUWAHATI, April 17: Chinese Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui today called on Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the latter's office at Janata Bhawan and discussed various issues of mutual interest, according to an official statement issued here today.

Stating that both Assam and China must explore opportunities of business and economic activities, Sonowal said since there is geographic proximity of the State with the neighbouring country, they can be natural allies in furthering business interests that can be beneficial to the peoples of Assam and China.

Seeking cooperation from the Chinese Ambassador in sending a delegation from the State to study the successful

management of the Huang Ho river, the Chief Minister said that managing the Brahmaputra has been a big concern for Assam and the State would benefit a lot by learning from the Chinese how the Huang Ho has been turned into a resource from a problem.

Responding to the Chinese Ambassador's request to re-open the Stilwell Road and thereby re-establish historical trade links with China, Sonowal said the Central Government has taken keen interest developing the Northeast as major trade hub of South East Asia under the Act East Policy and opening roadways with neighbouring countries is high on the Centre's agenda.

The Ambassador urged the Chief Minister to consider setting up ties with the Kunming and Yunnan provinces as both are geographically closer to the State and he extended invitation to the Chief Minister to the Trade Summit to be held in Kunming in June this year.

Accepting his invitation, Sonowal informed the Chinese Ambassador that the State Government is going to organise a Global Business Summit in November this year and urged the Ambassador to facilitate participation of Chinese companies in the Summit in a big way.

Saying that the Guwahati-Kunming road link would open up huge opportunities for the region as well as the country to achieve high growth in trade and business, Sonowal said (See page 7)

Explosives scare in Mahanta's car

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: The State's security machinery went into a tizzy after an explosive sensor "detected" TNT in former Chief Minister PK Mahanta's official bullet-proof vehicle. Though police, after several checks ruled out the presence of any explosive in the vehicle, the AGP leader was provided with another vehicle.

The sensor reportedly "detected" explosives during a routine check by NSG personnel.

Drug kingpin hailing from State arrested

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 17: The Delhi police on Sunday arrested the alleged kingpin of an inter-state drug cartel, Nazir Hussain alias Nizamuddin, who hails from Assam and was carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 against his name.

The 45-year-old was quizzed by the Special Cell of Delhi police after five drug traffickers were arrested and 69 kg of high grade opium worth crores of rupees recovered from their possession.

Nizamuddin used to collect opium and heroin from various small cultivators in the Northeast and supply them to midlemen across Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR through his (See page 7)

(See page 7)

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Revamp move caught in legal wrangles

Brahmaputra Board

KALYAN BAROOAH

Arunachal Pradesh government sources said.

NEW DELHI, April 17: The move to restructure the ailing Brahmaputra Board is caught in legal wrangles, with the Ministry of Water Resources now opting to make changes within the ambit of the Brahmaputra Board itself to make it more efficient, while trying to evolve a consensus on the issue.

The proposal to create North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA), brainchild of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, has been given a quiet burial by the Centre following stiff opposition from the

Highly placed sources disclosed that it was initially felt that an "Authority", titled "Northeast and Brahmaputra River Rejuvenation Authority (NEBRERA)" may be created to replace the Board. However, it was later thought that a "Corporation" may be set up in place of the Board, with the title "Brahmaputra Barak Northeast River Development Corporation (BRNERDC)".

The Ministry was working closely with all stakeholders, such as the eight NE States, West Bengal as well as the Central ministries, to effect necessary changes. The process of creating a different organisation, especially to replace an organisation set under an Act of Parliament requires quite a few steps, provided all the stakeholders come to a consensus, said sources.

The Brahmaputra Board is a statutory authority set up under Section(4) of the Brahmaputra Act, 1980. Its main function is planning and implementation of measures for the control of flood and bank erosion in the Brahmaputra valley.

The Ministry has been considering restructuring of the Board since 2004.

Sources admitted that the

(See page 7)

Brahmaputra dredging may lessen flood woes in State

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, April 17: The proposed exercise to dredge the Brahmaputra river bed is mainly aimed at providing the river a navigable channel and thus developing it as a major waterway of the country. However, it is expected that this ambitious plan will indirectly help in doing away with the recurring problems of flood and erosion caused by the mighty river, highly placed officials sources here said.

Elaborating, the sources said the project envisages creation of a deep channel of the mighty river by dredging its silted bed and building two express highways along its banks by using the silt and sand dredged up from its bed. The shallow river bed is considered as a major cause behind the recurring incidence of flood. The deep channel of the river is also expected to deter it from eroding its banks.

Again, the 1,300-km long express highways proposed to

be built along the banks of the river have been envisioned as all-weather roads and hence they are expected to be provided a height that is higher than the high flood level of the mighty river. Thus, they would automatically serve as embankments and prevent the river from flooding the countryside, sources said.

The State's Water Resource Department (WRD) has, by this time, surveyed an about 300-km long stretch of the area (See page 7)

CBI books top TMC leaders in Narada case

NEW DELHI, April 17: Twelve Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders, including MPs and ministers in the West Bengal government, and an IPS officer have been booked by the CBI for corruption in the Narada sting case where they were allegedly caught in camera taking money.

The agency has registered case of alleged criminal conspiracy and corruption against Rajaya Sabha MP Mukul Roy, Lok Sabha MP's Sultan Ahmed, Saurabh Roy, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Arapura Podder, among others, CBI sources said.

An IPS officer has also been booked in the case, the source said. The case has been registered on the completion of preliminary enquiry (PE) by the CBI, they added.

The PE was registered on directions of a division bench of the Calcutta High Court, comprising acting Chief Justice Nitisha Bhattacharya and Justice T Chakraborty. — PTI

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Required 25 Customer Support Officer. Qualification : HS/ Graduate (M/F) Salary : Rs.6000/- Rs. 12,000/- Contact: 07867347722. (N) 97067310551.

H&P/P/7777/1

Required 25 Customer Support Officer. Qualification : HS/ Graduate (M/F) Salary : Rs.6000/- Rs. 12,000/- Contact: 07867347722. (N) 97067310551.

H&P/P/7778/1

Required 25 Customer Support Officer. Qualification : HS/ Graduate (M/F) Salary : Rs.6000/- Rs. 12,000/- Contact: 07867347722. (N) 97067310551.

H&P/P/7779/1

Required 25 Customer Support Officer. Qualification : HS/ Graduate (M/F) Salary : Rs.6000/- Rs. 12,000/- Contact: 07867347722. (N) 97067310551.

H&P/P/7780/1

Required 25 Customer Support Officer. Qualification : HS/ Graduate (M/F) Salary : Rs.6000/- Rs. 12,000/- Contact: 078



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On 20th April from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

at Hotel Landmark, Dr. B. Baruah Road, Near Nehru Stadium, Ulubari, Guwahati, Assam - 781007.

Tel: 0361 - 2462963 / 8011000700 & 9957031827

In case you are not able to attend Walk-in Interview, you may also send your resume to: reestar@sfoids.com

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Contact for registration:

09435594530 / 7638826770

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TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI 3

UP CM slams parties over triple talaq

LUCKNOW, April 17: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said today the politicians maintaining silence on the issue of 'triple talaq' were equally responsible those practicing it as he linked the Muslim practice of divorce to the desecration of Draupadi in the Mahabharata.

"These days there is a new debate in the country. Some people are maintaining a silence on this issue. This reminds me of the scene in the Mahabharata in which Draupadi is being desecrated in an assembly and she asks a question to the gathering as to who is responsible for this?" he said.

"...No one was able to utter even a single word. At that time Vidur said people who have committed the crime, those who are the accomplices and those who maintained silence on this issue are equally responsible," Adityanath said, referring to the practice of 'triple talaq'.

He made these remarks at an event to mark the 91st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chandrashekhar.

Modi breaks security protocol to meet young fan

SURAT, April 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today broke his security protocol and stopped his convoy mid-way to meet a four-year-old girl here during his Gujarat tour.

Nancy Gondalia rushed towards the Prime Minister's car when thousands of people were waiting on both sides of

In Loving Memory



Birth: 01/07/1956 Death: 08/04/2017

KHIRA BORAH

You have left us forever on the 8th of April 2017. Your death was so shocking and saddening for all of us! Today on the occasion of your Adya Sharad-Purnima pray to the almighty for the eternal peace of your soul.

Bereaved family Members:
 Sri Lohar Ram Borah (Husband)
 Dr. Mousumi Borah (Son)
 Shilpi Borah Sharma (Daughter)
 Alankrita Borah (Daughter-In-Law)
 Pankaj Sharma (Son-In-Law)
 Pariksha Sharma (Grandson)
 Grandchildren: Aryanpanna, Niriksha Kashyap Panorama Apartment, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003

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Call : 0361-710 1800

E-Tender Notice No. IRNP/CH/04 of 2017 (Item No. 1 & 2) Date: 12-04-2017
 Works tenders through E-Tendering system for and on behalf of the President of India are invited for the following:-
S1-1. Brief Description of Item:
 At location - Proposed extra connection of line No. 3 is including extension of line No. 3 and connection of existing track of FC siding. Tender Value: ₹ 777.56.40/-, Earnest Money: ₹ 11.55.13/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 100/- Completion Period of the work: 12 Months
S1-2. Brief Description of Item:
 At Nagara - Supplying and installation of R.O. drinking water plant including filter media and tube well. Tender Value: ₹ 22.13.03/-, Earnest money: ₹ 44.27.00/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 100/- Completion Period of the work: 6 Months
Date and time of Closing of Tender: 15:00 hrs. of 23-05-2017
Date and time of Opening of Tender: 15:00 hrs. of 23-05-2017
 The complete information with tender documents of above-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 23-05-2017 at website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Divisional Railway Manager / Lumber
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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US Vice-President Mike Pence looks toward the north from an observation post inside the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in Paju, South Korea, on Monday. — UNI

Russia warns US against unilateral strike on N Korea

MOSCOW, April 17: Russia today warned Washington against launching a unilateral strike on North Korea, after US Vice President Mike Pence said the era of "strategic patience" with Pyongyang was over. "This is a very risky path," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a news conference in Moscow.

"We do not accept the reckless nuclear missile attacks of Pyongyang that breach UN resolutions, but that does not mean that you can break international law," he said. "I hope that there will not be any unilateral actions like the one we saw recently in Syria."

Pence today warned North Korea not to test President Donald Trump's resolve, declaring that "all options are on the table" for curbing its missile and nuclear weapons programmes.

Defying international pressure, the North on Sunday tried to test another missile in an attempt that failed, but which fuelled fears that it may be preparing for its sixth atomic weapons test.

Pence said that the era of US "strategic patience" in dealing with the North was over, after more than a decade. — AFP

South Korean soldiers watched from a short distance away, taking multiple photographs of the American visitor.

Pence told reporters near the DMZ that President Donald Trump was hopeful China would use its "extraordinary levers" to pressure the North to abandon weapons program, a day after the US failed missile test launch. But Pence expressed impatience with the unwillingness of the regime to move toward dismantling itself of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Later Pence reiterated in a joint statement alongside South Korean Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn that "all options are on the table" to deal with threat and said any use of nuclear weapons by Pyongyang would be met with an "overwhelming and effective response." — AFP

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Pointing to the quarter-century that the United States first confronted North Korea over its attempts to build nuclear weapons, the vice president said a period of patience is over.

As the brown bomber jet-clad vice president was briefed near the military demarcation line, two North

Korean soldiers had followed.

"But the era of strategic patience is over," he declared. "President Trump has made it clear that the patience of the United States and our allies in this region has run out and we want to see change. We want to see North Korea abandon its reckless path of the development of nuclear weapons, and also its continual use and testing of ballistic missiles is unacceptable."

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Era of strategic patience is over: Pence warns N Korea

PANMUNJOM, April 17:

Viewing his adversaries in the distance, US Vice-President Mike Pence travelled to the tense zone dividing North and South Korea and warned Pyongyang that after years of testing the US and South Korea with its nuclear ambitions, "the era of strategic patience is over."

Pence made an unannounced visit to the Demilitarized Zone today at the start of his 10-day trip to Asia in an US show of force that allowed the vice president to gaze at North Korean soldiers from afar and stare directly across a border marked by razor wire.

As the brown bomber jet-clad vice president was briefed near the military demarcation line, two North

Korean soldiers had followed.

"But the era of strategic patience is over," he declared. "President Trump has made it clear that the patience of the United States and our allies in this region has run out and we want to see change. We want to see North Korea abandon its reckless path of the development of nuclear weapons, and also its continual use and testing of ballistic missiles is unacceptable."

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Pence said that the era of US "strategic patience" in dealing with the North was over, after more than a decade. — AFP

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Tender paper will be available at the office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, NJP & Railway Diesel Loco Sheds, Ghatshila and CMEN/MLG P.O.-Majuli- Guwahati from 10-04-2017 to 23-05-2017 upto 15:30 hrs. Date of closing of tender: 15-05-2017 upto 15:30 hrs. Date of opening of tender: 24-05-2017 at office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, NJP & Railway Diesel Loco Sheds, New Ghatshila.

Detailed tender notice and tender paper are available at www.nrif.indianrailways.gov.in.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Singh
(Diesel), New Ghatshila

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TENDER NOTICE NO.NGCD/P/LC/DTT/14/16-03-2017

Open tenders are invited from interested contractors for the following work:

Contractor: BTGCO, NGC, N.F. Railway Diesel Loco Shed New Guwahati on any working day from 10-04-2017 to 13:00 hours of 23-05-2017.

Tender paper will be received at: the office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, NJP & Railway Diesel Loco Sheds, Ghatshila and CMEN/MLG P.O.-Majuli- Guwahati from 10-04-2017 to 23-05-2017 upto 15:30 hrs. Date of closing of tender: 15-05-2017 upto 15:30 hrs. Date of opening of tender: 24-05-2017 at office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, NJP & Railway Diesel Loco Sheds, New Ghatshila.

Detailed tender notice and tender paper are available at www.nrif.indianrailways.gov.in.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Singh
(Diesel), New Ghatshila

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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Tender Notice No. 06 of 2017

Dated: 13-04-2017

Open tenders are invited for the following works which will be opened on 19-05-2017 at 10:00 hrs. Manual offers are invited against these tenders and any such tenders offered received shall be ignored.

Tenderer: MLG132017

Name of work & Location: Name of work & Location: ZONE No. A At MLG - Repairs and maintenance to bungalows, transits at Nambam, Goshala, Assam, Maligaon, Bokakhat, Assam, Cachar Colony, Adarsha colony, NPP colony falling under the jurisdiction of SSEW/ NPP, Assam. Includes supply of labour, tools, materials, spares, equipment and other maintenance works.

Tender value: ₹ 1,74,57,058.96

Ernest Money: ₹ 1,74,57,058.96

Completion Period: 730 days

Date of closing of tender: 18-05-2017 at 10:00 hrs.

Tender No.: MLG132017

Name of work & Location: Name of work & Location: ZONE No. A At MLG - Repairs and maintenance to all structures, buildings, roads, water supply works, drainage works, water tanks, wells, etc. falling under the jurisdiction of SSEW/ NPP colony, Assam, Bokakhat, Assam, Cachar Colony, Adarsha colony, NPP colony, Assam.

Tender value: ₹ 3,90,65,542.02

Ernest Money: ₹ 3,90,65,542.02

Completion Period: 730 Days

Date of closing of tender: 18-05-2017 at 10:00 hrs.

Tender No.: MLG132017

Name of work & Location: Name of work & Location: ZONE No. 1 At MLG - Repairs & maintenance to all staff Quarters at Nambam, Goshala, Assam, Maligaon, Bokakhat, Assam, Cachar Colony, Adarsha colony, NPP colony, Assam.

Tender value: ₹ 3,43,42,790.00

Completion Period: 730 Days

Date of closing of tender: 18-05-2017 at 10:00 hrs.

For details please visit

www.reps.gov.in

Mr. Deepak Kumar Singh
(Engineering/Co-ord.)

Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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Joint military drills with Nepal is to fight terrorism: China

BEIJING, April 17: China today said its first-ever joint military exercise with the Nepalese army is aimed at addressing terrorism threats and restoring peace and stability in the region.

"China and Nepal are two good neighbours. Practical cooperation between the two sides, especially cooperation which can promote development of both sides and maintain peace and stability in the region, is a good thing," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

The 10-day military drill "Sagarmatha Friendship 2017" that will last till April 25 is being organised by the two countries as part of their preparedness against terrorism that has

posed as a serious security

threat globally, the Nepalese Army had said yesterday.

Sagarmatha is the Nepali name of Mt Everest, the world's highest peak. When asked about the significance of the current round of military exercises between the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Nepalese army, which also raised concerns in India, Lu said, "Actually, there are other examples of cooperation between neighbours of this kind.

It maintains that the drill is a part of its regular bilateral and multilateral military exercises aimed at sharing experiences, skills and professional knowledge which it has been doing regularly with the nations that Nepal's diplomatic ties.

Both sides agreed to a joint drill and the aim of this drill is to fight terrorism. This is the part of the annual joint exercise between China and Nepal. It will help to address the issue of terrorism in the region and

also help to preserve peace and stability in region," Lu said.

The joint training with China marks Nepalese Army's extension of military diplomacy. The Nepalese Army has long been conducting joint military drills with India and the US Army.

The Nepalese Army has said the joint military exercise with China is a step towards preparations against the possible threat from terrorism.

It maintains that the drill is a part of its regular bilateral and multilateral military exercises aimed at sharing experiences, skills and professional knowledge which it has been doing regularly with the nations that Nepal's diplomatic ties.

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Rongali Bihu celebrated with fervour

GUWAHATI, April 17: The Bihatter Paltan Bazar Rongali Bihu Sammilan celebrated the 39th edition of Bihu in a colourful manner from April 14 to 16. The programme included sports and art competitions along with different traditional cultural programmes, said a press release today.

On the opening day, *smriti tarpan* was done by Prantosh Roy, president of the Sammilan. The cultural function was inaugurated by Pabitra Margherita, Chairman, Jyoti Chiribhan Shringar, Hema Kalita, general secretary of the Sammilan opined

that Paltan Bazar is mini India and people from different languages, castes and religions participated in the celebration spontaneously.

GMC Mayor Mrigen Sarania appreciated the Bihu dance performed by non-Assamese girls and observed that this would help in forming a greater Assamese society and also appealed to the organisers to hold Bihu workshops from next year before the celebrations. Noted artiste Bhrigu Kashyap, Mt Amin, Tripti Kashyap among others enthralled the audience with

their performances. On the occasion, a souvenir *Lohari Gagan* was inaugurated by Damburbaru Talukdar, president, Noomati Sahitya Sabha. Pranay Bordoloi, editor-in-chief, DY-365 also spoke. Prizes to the winners were presented by Debashish Sengupta, working president of the Sammilan.

The programme was organised by Anil Deka and Jayanta Kalita, along with Ravi Mishra, sports secretary.

Bihu at Christianbasti:

Rongali Bihu was celebrated with a three-day programme

at Udayachal, Christianbasti from April 14 to 16. It also coincided with the golden jubilee of Bihatter Christianbasti Udayachal Sanskrity Sangha.

The celebrations began with hoisting of the Bihu flag by socialist activist Dilip Chandra Baraldoi. The first day programme featured a cultural function in which celebrated artists of the State including flute maestro Dipak Sarma performed. The function was inaugurated by Dr Amaryoti Choudhury, former Vice Chancellor Tezpur University.

The second day's programme

included a public meeting, a quiz contest, release of souvenir, and competition on modern dance.

Inaugurating the cultural evening, senior journalist DN Chakravarthy observed that Bihu is a unique festival and can be accepted as the festival of mankind and world, as the first day of the festival is devoted to the animal and plant kingdom, while the second day's festivities are entirely dedicated to mankind irrespective of caste, creed and national boundaries.

The last day's celebration was highlighted by an art contest, and as seminar on contribution of Bihu

in the promotion of a healthy society, where Haider Hussain and Udayaditya Bhattacharya participated as distinguished panelists. A cul-

Leadership and beyond

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Tender No.: NERO/ESTB/PREMISES/2017/001 Date: 18.04.2017

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Online offers in the form of **TWO BID** Tendering are invited from interested parties to hire commercial space on lease rent with the following general terms and conditions, located preferably on the 1st floor of the building. The building is situated near the customers, in the vicinity of Ulubari Flyover (Bishnu Ram Medhi Flyover), G S Road, to Farm Gate, Khampara, Guwahati-781022.

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Floor: Entire Space should be preferably on a Single Floor, excluding Mezzanine Floor.

Preference: 1st Floor (First Floor).

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Interested parties may visit our Company's E-Procurement website <http://newindia.eproc.in> or www.newindia.co.in to download the Terms and conditions of the tender. However, the Technical Bid as well as Price Bid are to be submitted online at <http://newindia.eproc.in>. Scanned copy of relevant documents are to be uploaded along with the Technical Bid. For any clarification/query, Mr. D. Bhattacharjee, Manager, Phone No. (0361) 2529946/9435337622 or Mr. Amresh Motta, Admin. Officer, Mob. No. 9619056977 may be contacted during office hours from 10.00 am to 05.30 pm (Monday to Friday) or working day) over phone or in person at The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., North East Regional Office, G S Road, Bhangarh, Guwahati-781005. For procurement of digital Certificate interested parties may contact Mr. K. Gurunathan of C1 India Pvt. Ltd. on his Cell No. 09172517163.

The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the offers in full or in part without assigning any reason thereof.

CHIEF REGIONAL MANAGER



Memo to CM over pay disparity

STAFF REPORTER

pay disparity among the a certain section of employees.

The association alleged in the memorandum that the employees in the offices of the heads of departments were given differential treatment in terms of pay and oth-

er allowances in the wake of the notification of The Assam Services (Revision of Pay) Rules, 2017.

According to the association, there is a huge difference between the salaries of the staff of the heads of departments and their counterparts in the Secretariat. Former CM PK Mahanta had agreed to a policy of equal work, equal pay, it said.

"We are an integral part of the State's overall development and we have never compromised on our responsibility. But we regret that despite being apprised about our grievances, neither the Finance Minister nor the Chief Secretary came up with anything to console us," the association stated, adding that the aggrieved employees had also staged demonstrations recently.

Dacoity at Geetanagar

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: The residence of an 80-year-old woman located in Geetanagar area in the city was looted by a dacoit last night.

Police said the woman, Ranjana Sarma, was tied up by the dacoit and even assaulted before he decamped with cash and valuables. Sarma lives in Rodale Apartment near Geetanagar Police Station.

Her younger son lives in the same building, but on a different floor. Police said the dacoit looted Rs 30,000 cash, ATM cards, a ring, earrings and other valuables.

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- পাথিৰ বিষ
- ঘৰৰ বিষ
- মাদে পেশীৰ বিষ
- চৰুৰ পিশকাল বিষোৱা

পানী থকা পোতাবোৰ মহে কলী পৰাবিৰ নোটাৰাকৈ ঢকি বাধক

অলাগতীয়াল বাটন-বৰ্তন কোজৰৰ কাপ-প্লেট, টায়াৰ, নৰিকৰলো মো৳া আদি য'তে ত'তে নেপেলোৰ। এইবৰেতত পানী জামা হ'লে হৰ্ব বৎ বৃঞ্জি হয়

ডেংগু মহে দিনত কাবোৰে: মেয়েৰে দিনত শো'ওঁতেও আঠুৰা বাৰহাৰ কৰক

সম্পূর্ণ শৰীৰ ঢকি বাধা বৰ্ত পৰিধান কৰক

জৰু ই লেই তড়কানাত উগ্মযুক্ত ঢিকিমৰৰ বাবে ওচৰৰ ঢিকিমোলালৈ লৈ যাওক।

ঢিকিমোলৰ পৰামৰ্শ অবিহুনে কোনো ঔৰৰ সেৱন নকৰিব

ঘৰৰ বাহিৰে ভিতৰে ঘৰৰ বৎ বৃঞ্জি বোধ কৰক, ডেংগুৰ পৰা বৰ্জা পাওক

সকলো জিলা, সদৰ ঢিকিমোলৰ আৰু চৰকাৰী ঢিকিমোল

মহাবিদ্যালয়সমূহত এই বোগৰ বিনামূলীয়া পৰাধাৰ উপলক্ষ



বাঙালী স্বাস্থ্য অভিযান, অসম

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

I hope that I may always desire more than I can accomplish.

— MICHELANGELO

The Assam Tribune

Taken for granted

As the result of a mass movement in Assam in the 1980s, the then Central Government had entered into an 'Accord' with the leadership of the anti-foreign infiltration agitation. It is an index of how much Delhi takes the people of this State for granted that very few core provisions of the Assam Accord have been implemented despite the passage of three decades. A clause in this Accord provides for identification, detection and deportation of illegal migrants from Bangladesh and 'sealing' of the India-Bangladesh border in order to stem further infiltration. While little progress had been made on the detection and deportation front, it is surprising to learn that even less progress has been made on the most doable of the provisions — total sealing of the border. According to the Centre, since the signing of the Accord, only 3,006.48 km of the total of 4,096.7 km of India-Bangladesh border have been fenced with physical barriers. Given the plethora of pledges in the past, including the ones made by the leaders of the current NDA Government which has completed three years in office, the pace of sealing the border has been moving at a snail's pace. No less a body than a parliamentary panel has expressed its displeasure at the slow progress, noting with concern that the Union Home Ministry has been able to complete only 17 km of fencing since July 2015.

Not only are the people of Assam alarmed at the parliamentary panel's observation that the India-Bangladesh border even today remains "highly porous" thereby facilitating illegal migration, cattle-smuggling and human trafficking, more startling is its revelation that the Centre has reduced the number of border outposts from the sanctioned 509 to 422. Since this would increase inter-outpost distance, it would make patrolling more difficult, thereby infringing on the security of the nation. The Home Ministry has offered the plea of difficulty in acquisition of land as the cause for the delay as well as reduction, but the panel has correctly observed that this should have been foreseen and a more proactive stance taken. The Ministry has revised the date of completion of the sealing to March 2019, but the panel expressed scepticism as to whether this target would be achieved while pointing out that delay inevitably leads to increase in construction costs. Equally alarming is the panel's noting of the reality that 423.34 km of the India-Bangladesh border has remained unfenced because of the absence of physical barriers, and that deployment of non-physical barriers is still in a testing phase. It is ironical that Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had to plead before Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sealing of the border. Given that the people of this State has long been taken for granted by Delhi, it is moot whether even his appeal would actually work.

Bimonthly monetary policy

The first bimonthly monetary policy of the fiscal 2017-18, enunciated by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank India, headed by its Governor, Dr Urjit Patel, as widely expected, has kept the key policy repurchase (repo) rate, i.e., the short-term lending rate that the apex bank charges on borrowings by commercial banks, unchanged for the third consecutive time at 6.25% on April 6, 2017. The chief reason for the MPC to stick to the unchanged repo rate for the third time in a row is cited as an upside risk of inflation when wholesale price index has recently shot up to a 30-month high of 6.5% in February last as rising global crude oil prices spiked the domestic fuel cost and production prices, even though the food prices have experienced a moderate market. However, the MPC decided to narrow the policy rate corridor by 25 basis points. It may be noted here that the policy rate corridor is expressed as the difference between the repo and reverse repo rate of the RBI. Thus, the RBI along with its unchanged benchmark lending rate (repo) has increased its reverse repo rate, i.e., the rate the apex bank pays to commercial banks for parking their funds with the former, by 0.25% to 6% from 5.75%. Thus, the policy rate corridor is narrowed by 0.25% from 0.50%.

The narrower corridor of liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) created between the repo and reverse repo rates will now explicitly check the undesirable money flow into the banking system and drain out additional liquidity. The adjustment automatically hiked the reverse repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility to 6%. Conversely, the RBI maintained the cash reserve ratio (CRR) or the quantum of liquid funds which commercial banks have to keep at 4%. Following the RBI announcement of status quo rate policy, most analysts are of the opinion that though another cut is not expected on the cards soon in the horizon, the RBI action will certainly get liquidity to neutral levels. This is because the decision of MPC is in consistency with a neutral stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of plus-minus 2%, while supporting high level growth. Economists are of the view that inflation developments have to be closely and continuously monitored with food prices pressure kept in check (because it is currently running at 3.6%) so that inflationary expectations could be properly dealt with. At the same time the output gap has to be gradually met. The industry chambers, however, want that the RBI should soon come up with a policy stance of rate cut to refurbish business sentiment and support domestic demand.

Quest for world class universities in India

■ Biren Das

The academic fame of an institution is the strength to attract students both in number and quality. The migration of international students to an institution in modern higher education is the indication of reputation of the institution concerned in international standard. GATS has already made higher education services an object of international trade. Advanced countries are exploiting the benefit out of it. At this point, international or global rankings of universities by established agencies like Times Higher Education (THE), Quacquarelli-Symonds (QS), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (ARWU), Thomson Reuters' Global Reputation Survey, US News World University Ranking etc., get reflected at least in identifying world class universities/institutions of higher education. Of course, many domestic/international ranking practices are also there in many countries like the US, UK, China, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, etc. Most of these rankings, which have been considered to be indicative of comprehensive performance of university institutions, are based on performance or achievements (excellence) of the institutions in teaching, research, publications, citations, industry-academia interface, resource generation from academic contribution (technology transfer, etc.), teacher-students ratio, number of international footfalls, reputation or public perception, etc.

In India also, a nationally-reputed magazine introduced the ranking of Indian institutions of higher edu-

cation in 1997 in the name and style of National Survey of Best College. The Government of India, Department of Higher Education, MHRD has also introduced national ranking of institutions of higher education since 2016 under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This ranking is based on the performance of the universities in five broad areas viz., teaching, learning and resources; research, professional practice and collaborative performance; graduation outcome; outreach and inclusivity; and public perception. In this NIRF ranking, institutions of Indian higher education are ranked in the categories of universities, technical institutions, medical institutions, management institutions, etc.

Though this ranking has been able to indicate academic performance or achievement level of academic institutions, this seems to have failed to assess the actual performance of an institution in a comprehensive way. However, the initiative must be accepted as a laudable step in encouraging the institution of higher education to perform as 'better late than never'. Though India has one of the world's largest higher education systems in terms of number of institutions and enrolment, but none of the Indian institutions of higher education have been able to find a berth within the top 100 in the ranking by reputed agencies like THE, QS, ARWU; the only satisfaction is that the IISc Ban-

galore and IIT Delhi could get into the top 200 in QS ranking; in other rankings, we are far away from the 200 group. So, the introduction of this NIRF ranking seems to put the ball in move to motivate the institutions to compete at world environment for which preparations of the universities to participate in the world university rankings have started with a new zeal.

It is pertinent to mention that after the seats of higher learning at

list when the concept was growing; many countries took to a mission mode to bring their selected higher education institutions to the world class level and succeeded. Russia has launched a project in 2013 called '5+100 Russian Academic Excellence Project' targeting at least five universities to be in the top 100 world class universities list by 2020. In this process, they first identified 15 universities with the potential to be

world class and these universities have performed to the expectation showing their presence in the group of leading universities of the world since then.

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has formulated necessary guidelines to identify/establish and promote 10 public and 10 private institutions to the level of world class universities. The rationale behind this project is that India contributes a significant share of human resources

in the form of both students and faculty, in the world's leading universities, although we have failed to have any representation among the top universities of the world. The proposed project is aimed at establishing 10 world class institutions in a given time frame by providing a regulatory environment like admission of additional foreign students up to 30% of its approved intake, fixing and changing fees from foreign students reasonably, keeping provision of scholarships/loan facilities, offering of newer programmes on market demand, de-

Behind the contemporary political narratives

■ Indrajit Borah

Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.

— Ronald Reagan

The electoral arithmetic is the culmination of the overbearing socio-economic forces and befitting political narratives in a modern democracy. While the socio-economic transformation has been a continuous process, the political narratives are the outcomes of the human ingenuity in grasping the naturalness of such historical processes. Now, whether the market liberalism of the yellow pages or defending the statist hegemony, there should be governmental technologies to resolve the inherent conflicts. The history of Indian democracy has also expounded that the dynamics of socio-economic forces contour the political economy in spite of the consensual political narratives.

Understandably, the popular public policies cannot be impeccably insulated from the prevailing socio-economic excesses. In that sense, the bureaucratisation process inherited from British India can also be regarded as a modern form of 'clericalism'. Indeed, the anecdotal affinity and capital phobia of feudal or

neo-feudal remains legitimised the crafting of wealth trap which prolonged the dilemma in identifying the productive forces of the economy. The alternative is certainly not limited just to the demagogic rhetoric of revivalist tendencies, rather the alternative lies in policy action that can unleash our productive forces. Certainly, the huge gap between the populism and collective action on the ground over the decades should not defeat the very ideals of public policies; rather it should only defeat the authoritarian vested interests.

Again, the economic liberalism is meaningful only when the 'wealth turns into capital'. The prevalence of fear psychosis for the capital hints at predominance of wealth over capital and liberalism is bound to be compromised. Conversely, if the capitalist development is a historical inevitability, then what are the aftermaths of the alternative regims just because of the fear psychosis? Contextually, in the former colonies, any kind of revivalism or egalitarian design that used to guard against the fear of capital is actually the products of colonialism itself. Undoubtedly, the western colonialists could mobilize their 'privileged wealth to capital in those primitive

days much before the advent of democracy and civil liberties.

Liberals should have the opposite polarity of the authoritarianism — conservatism or statist design — both are detrimental to productive forces, capital formation and, in turn, may create neo-feudal elements. Being just another brand of authoritarianism, the statist bureaucratic regime has failed to be an alternative to revivalist tendencies. Both these socio-political constructs inherit increased wealth to income ratio and monopolize the capitalistic development. This poses an obvious challenge for democracy to be fully functional and the policy-making becomes the handcraft of the authoritarian interests.

In this backdrop, there are three consensual imperatives across the political narratives in India today. Firstly, based on the experience of the industrial economies, no one can disagree that for the economy to work properly, we need to build the middle-class and make sure that everyone has an opportunity to succeed. A strong middle-class is critical to maintaining adequate demand and the decline of the middle-class is nothing but a manifestation of high level of inequality in an economy, undermining trust, driving poor government performance, and restrict-

ing human capital — all are harmful to the economy itself. Therefore, in case of a growing economy, the need for a strong supply side economic agenda should not undermine the necessity of a robust demand management, because 'trickle down' has already been proven to be a false paradigm. Along with policy imperatives to create opportunities for growth, the work towards social security ensuring the basic necessities for everyone is the crucial step for macroeconomic sustainability.

Secondly, in a growing economy, we cannot tolerate the systemic wastage as there has been an ever-growing demand on the public exchequer. The wastage of public money cannot incentivize any sector sustainably. A strong public delivery mechanism has to be in place, as we emphasize on the suitable government role and public policy. We cannot put a blind eye on the effectiveness on the implementation front and the need for a mechanism for timely review and adequate reforms of public policies. The incumbent formulation of inertial socio-economic excesses and vested interest groups has been the biggest stumbling block for necessary reforms in the public sector.

Thirdly, the cultural assimilation in social life is historically dynamic; pro-

cess and it cannot be inflicted administratively like an ordinance. Beyond the inexorable statist adjunct of nationalism, the impending conflict between the individualistic or communarian aspirations and unitary narrative of nationalism has widely been prevalent in democratic societies. It is undeniable that the equilibrium between the historical process of assimilation and cultural relativism can only be accomplished by the universal value of rights. Indeed, the cultural right has to be executed within the periphery of the objective necessity of collectivism. The very existence of nationhood cannot be without a firm foundation of collective conscience on the objective necessity attuned to the assimilative traits of our cultural values.

Amid contemporary political discourses, distinguishing the progressive elements ingrained in the socio-economic base is the biggest challenge. Certainly, the root of the contemporary political narratives has exposed the neo-feudal formulations in the parliamentary democracy. At the same time, there has also been unfounded concern that the substantial inequity by the monopolistic growth of capital is equally bewildering, whether due to the presence of neo-feudal remains or the impulses of the enterprising market forces.

Letters to the Editor

Sir, — Apropos the controversy

related to Zubeen Garg's insistence on singing Hindi songs and the Noonmati Bihu Committee disallowing him to do so on the night of April 14 last, I would like to say that the fact remains that certainly, some rules and regulations are required to conduct an organization. But the rules and regulations should be under some limitations, provided the organization is formed for the benefit of the general public of the society and constituted by the members of various castes, communities and religions. It cannot be beyond the Constitution of India; it shouldn't hamper other's constitutional rights. Bihu function is a public celebration in which all sections of people are involved. As an Indian citizen, no one can stop the performance of a Hindi song. The Bihu committee concerned has not been authorized by the people of Assam to bar an artiste from singing Hindi songs. The committee doesn't have the right to deprive the audience which includes people from all walks of

Of Bohag Bihu and Hindi songs

life and all language backgrounds. On the other hand, an artiste should possess a personality to be a role model for the society, which was not reflected in Zubeen's manners. Yours etc., BD BORAH, Nowbohcha.

(II)

Sir, — Since Bihu is the State festival of Assam, at a Bihu function Assamese songs should be given preference along with the songs of the ethnic communities. It can strengthen the amity and bonhomie among us. A Bihu function may be used as a platform to help create a greater Assamese society. It is unfortunate that it has become a platform of unnecessary controversies, whether a singer should be allowed to sing Hindi songs or not. Mumbai is the hub of Bollywood filmmaking, yet it has not been able to dislodge Marathi films from their avowed position because of the Marathi people's love for their language and culture. Yours etc., ANJAN CHOWDHURY, Pathsala.

(III)

Sir, — On the very first day of the Rongali Bihu celebrations, Zubeen Garg was compelled to stop his programme by the Noonmati Bihu

Committee as he sang a Hindi song. He sings his own songs, whether Hindi or any other language, which ultimately brings glory to Assam. We must be proud of his huge contribution in taking the State to the national and international levels. If the organizers are so strict then they should avoid displaying advertisements of consumer products, banners and posters in other languages all around the Bihu functions. They should look for local sponsors.

Moreover, almost all the instruments used by the artistes and their accompanists are western. Traditional instruments are rarely used. So, there is no point creating such hullaballoo over the singing of Hindi songs. Yours etc., MAYURI BAROOAH, RG Baruah Road, Guwahati.

(IV)

Sir, — Some sections of our society are currently pressurizing our artistes to sing only Bihu and Assamese songs during the Bihu functions, thus preventing them from singing songs of any other languages. In this regard, I would like to remind that Bihu is just another name of joy and merriment for the people of Assam.

Bihu is not for creating any anti-language situation. It would be better for all of us if the people concerned divert their attention from such issues to more serious and major problems that are plaguing the State at present.

Yours etc., NIHARIKA SHARMA, Biswanath Chariali.

Minister's Bihu offer

Sir, — While appreciating *The Assam Tribune* and the staff concerned in an extraordinary manner and praising largely with extensive words for the bold act of exposure of the news of offer cash to scribbles by a Cabinet minister in the name of Bihu gift (April 13) and the subsequent reaction of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal (April 14), we observe that the incident has exhibited, once again, the brazen refusal and the least concern of the Government functionaries to the Chief Minister's oft-repeated assertion of fight against corruption and restoration of ethical values in the government functioning. The news is so much

revolving and shocking that it speaks volumes in many directions in the matter of prevalent corruption in the Government. The intention of the minister attempting to lure the journalists through gifts and, that too, by offering cash can be interpreted in many ways.

We do not know how many daily newspapers in Assamese or in other regional languages have published this news. But it is a sign of great relief that the journalists including your staff reporter refused to accept the offer by upholding the ethical principles of journalism and maintaining the high level of dignity of the Fourth Estate.

People have already become sceptical about the genuine intention of the Government to fight against corruption and to strike it at its roots, the process of investigation into such corruption cases being not taken to its logical end at the earliest. It is here that the Fourth Estate has the moral responsibility to play the prime role of saving the public without fear or favour. Let this noble act of journalism be an eye-opener to all. Yours etc., KANAK CHANDRA SHARMA, Dispur.

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

Employees not happy with 7th pay panel, says SAKP president

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: Expressing unhappiness over the Seventh Pay Commission, Sadou Asom Karmachari Parishad (SAKP) president Basav Chandra Kalita said the new pay package has created resentment among the government employees.

Addressing the twentieth biennial conference of the Guwahati Medical College Employees' Union recently, Kalita said the pay commission was set up to benefit the employees.

"Though the salaries have increased a bit, certain allowances, like house rent, etc., have been decreased. Instead of making the employees happy

new pay commission has only resulted in resentment among the employees," he said.

The opening session of the conference, which was chaired by president of the GMC Employees' Union Kanuram Kalita, was inaugurated by GMC Principal Dr Atindra Kumar Adhikari. A souvenir titled *Jyotiromoy* was released by forensic scientist Dr Padmapani.

At the general meeting of the conference, a number of resolutions were adopted. A new 37-member executive body of the union was also elected for 2017-2018 with Kanuram Kalita as president, Fakaruddin Ahmed as general secretary and Dilip Sangma as treasurer.

Youth conclave held at city college

GUWAHATI, April 17: An event, Youth Conclave 2017 Ideas and Beyond, was organised recently by B Borooah College on its campus, stated a press release today. There were altogether 11 competitive categories and some non-competitive categories.

The conclave was inaugurated by Babul Sarma, Director of Higher Education at a meeting presided over by Dr SSN Barman, Principal of the college. Dr Abhigyan Prasad, one of the coordinators of the conclave, delivered the welcome address and also explained in detail the overall concept, including the events.

The conclave witnessed participation of students from different educational institutions and some even won first prizes. Abhijit Bora of Arya Vidyapeeth College was the best in single instrument playing and business idea. Probal Deka of State College of Music was the best in the

self-composed song category, while Mriganka Deka of Cotton College was the best performer in mime. The team from Gauhati University comprising Sayanika Saikia and Shubha Alamed was the winner in quiz. Abhra Das, a well-known quizmaster, conducted the quiz competition.

Prajna, a souvenir published to commemorate the conclave, was released on the occasion to pay floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar. Chahayat Ram, General Manager of NF Railway, inaugurated the programme by lighting the inaugural lamp and addressed the officials present.

The NF Railway Construction Organisation also organised a similar event. HK Jaggi, General Manager of NF Railway (Construction) paid floral tribute to Dr Ambedkar on the premises of NF Railway (Construction) at Maligonj.

The conclave ended with a cultural nite, the highlight of which was a cameo by Zubeen Garg, an alumnus of the college. His wife Garima Saikia Garg and singer Mahalaxmi Ayer were also felicitated on the occasion.

Children felicitate elderly citizens

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: As part of the ongoing Rongali Bihu celebrations, children in greater Anil Nagar area felicitated 14 senior citizens (octogenarians) in the locality today.

The children felicitated the octogenarians with *gamosas*, books and saplings of *neem* and *bokal*.

The octogenarians blessed the children and also gifted them books that included *Burhi Aair Sadhu* and *Dighi Bhumi*.

The felicitated octogenarians included Hirdas Kalita, Dr Umesh Chandra Dakua, Dr Rajendra Nath Pathak, Dalim Bayan, Amulya Chandra Das, Arati Kalita, Rancharan Pathak, Ambika Sarma, Dr Prabin Chandra Sarma, Bipin Chandra Hazarika, Jay Das, Parza Hasan and Asha Das. The felicitation meeting was conducted by the children themselves. Madhusudan Das from among the organisers spoke on the occasion.

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM

Walk in interview for the post of Assistant Project Engineer and Project Technician under a DST sponsored project in the Centre for Rural Technology, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>

xRTECPNxNST00296xxSK004 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM

Walk in interview for the post of Project Fellow / JPO under a MHRD sponsored project in the Department of Mechanical Engg., IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>

xxMESPNMHD00584xPMK004 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM

Walk in interview for the post of SRF Direct and Research Associate (3) under a DST sponsored project in the Department of Civil Engg., IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>

xxCESPNxDST00955xMKG005 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

ASSAM ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)

Industrial Estate, Barunimadhab, Guwahati - 781021
Ph. 0361 274222; Fax: 0361 274131

Tender No.: AEDC-ARBA-2017-1 Date: 17th April, 2017

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from qualified bidders for supply of approximately 17000 nos. Laptop Computers to be awarded to students securing Star Marks (75%) and above in the High School Leaving Certificate Examination, High Madrasah Examination, F.M. Examination and Sanskrit Pall & Praveshika Examination, Assam in the year 2017.

Submission of bid shall be through e-procurement portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.

Further details and subsequent communication may be seen at <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

The last date for submission of bids is 3rd May, 2017 at 2:00 PM.
Sd/- Managing Director
e-mail: arbas@amtron.in



Noted singer Priyanka Bharali performing at a Bihuoli late Sunday night. — UB Photos

Tribute to Ambedkar at NF Rly HQ

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: The 126th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar was observed in the NF Railway headquarter complex, Dalgama, today.

A large number of officers and staff were present on the occasion to pay floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar. Chahayat Ram, General Manager of NF Railway, inaugurated the programme by lighting the inaugural lamp and addressed the officials present.

The NF Railway Construction Organisation also organised a similar event. HK Jaggi, General Manager of NF Railway (Construction) paid floral tribute to Dr Ambedkar on the premises of NF Railway (Construction) at Maligonj.

Regarding the Stilwell Road, "the Chinese Ambassador expressed his concern over the possible adverse impact on the flow of river water."

To this, the Ambassador replied that the Chinese government continues to share important hydrological information from its Indian counterpart. He, however, assured that he would look into such concerns.

According to sources, currently the Board is Guwahati-centric and 95 per cent of the works that are taken up by the Brahmaputra Board relate to Assam. The immediate change being contemplated included shifting of surplus staff to other places.

At least 45 employees of the Board have been posted to other places. The problem with the Brahmaputra Board is that there were no senior-level officers in it and the initial plan was to fill up the post from the Central Water Commission (CWC) staff. "We'll make efforts to see to it that the person should be posted within the State. Now we have advertised the same and the post is likely to be filled in the next couple of months," said sources.

Keeping in view the functional need of the Brahmaputra Board and to revamp the existing structure to make it more efficient, the Board is working on a plan to create four new posts of Deputy Chief Engineers, while the number of posts in Junior Engineer (JE) grade may be reduced and the number of posts of Assistant Engineers (AE), which is the next higher level of JE and also the number of posts of Assistant Executive Engineers, which is the next higher level of AE, may be increased.

In order to infuse new talent and cope with the need of immediate manpower, it was felt that there could also be an element of direct entry at the Assistant Engineer level.

It was suggested that at least 50 per cent of the posts in the AE level could be recruited through Direct Recruitment basis, while the remaining 50 per cent posts could be filled up through promotion of JE's, said sources, referring to plan for restructuring the Board.

Envoy denies China's links with NE ultras

STAFF REPORTER

gent groups within China. In reply, the Chinese envoy said that this is not true.

During the meeting, Gogoi raised a number of issues with the Chinese Ambassador. With regard to the construction of Chinese hydropower projects over the Brahmaputra, the former Chief Minister expressed his concerns over the possible adverse impact on the flow of river water.

The Ambassador said this when former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi raised the issue during the former's visit to Gogoi's Koinadhora residence yesterday. Zhaohui was accompanied by his wife, Counsellor Dr Jiang Yili.

Gogoi told Zhaohui that certain reports indicate that shelter is being given to NE insur-

gent groups within India. In reply, the Chinese envoy said that this is not true.

During the meeting, Gogoi raised a number of issues with the Chinese Ambassador. With regard to the construction of Chinese hydropower projects over the Brahmaputra, the former Chief Minister expressed his concerns over the possible adverse impact on the flow of river water.

The Chinese Ambassador expressed his concern over the state of affairs at the cemetery of Chinese soldiers at Lekhapani. He said the cemetery should be protected from encroachment and be further beautified.

"He was open to the idea of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor being expanded to the India-China-Kashmir Corridor," said the statement.

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Revamp move...

(Contd from page 1)

Ministry needed time to make the changes for setting up a new organisation in place of the existing one, which will involve substantial ground work. Meanwhile, it was felt by this Ministry that an attempt can also be made to make the Board more effective and efficient within the ambit of the existing Act itself.

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143 firms ...

(Contd from page 1)

its Medora capsules "would deliver weight reduction without lifestyle changes" was not substantiated with evidence of product efficacy, and is misleading by exaggeration.

Likewise, the Council found that in the education sector claims by 20 firms were not substantiated and were in violation of its guidelines. Among them were Vidyamandir Classes and Codd Centre Ltd.

In personal care, Nivea India Ltd and Hindustan Unilever Ltd were pulled up for misleading with ambiguity in their print and visual ads.

"With precious Nivea Creme ingredients is likely to mislead consumers that Nivea Protect & Care Deodorant has skincare ingredients of Nivea Creme when the common element of both products is the Nivea Fragrance. These claims are misleading by ambiguity," the Council said.

In case of HUL, it is Rin Antiacid as claiming to have "Ayurvedic extracts to remove germs" was misleading by implication and exaggeration as the product does not have the property to provide germ protection in wear conditions.

In Food & Beverages (F&B) category, SV Fruiti, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation and Coca-Cola India Ltd made false claims in their ads on their products.

The Gujarat milk body claimed its Amul butter being a rich source of Vitamin A with "Eat milk with every meal and live every day worry-free". But the ad's latter part is misleading as it encourages excessive consumption of milk, which is not advisable," it said. — IANS

Loot attempt foiled

GUWAHATI, April 17: At least five miscreants tried to loot Rs 10 lakh from a Shiv Charan Das, an ASTC fourth grade employee at Rupnagar while he was taking the money to deposit in the bank. Das displayed courage, bravery and resisted the attempt. As the public rushed to his aid, the miscreants fled on bikes.

The incident took place about 500m from the ASTC campus. Meanwhile, the ASTC is planning to award Das for his courageous act. — Staff Reporter

The incident took place about 500m from the ASTC campus. Meanwhile, the ASTC is planning to award Das for his courageous act. — Staff Reporter

Drug kingpin...

(Contd from page 1) carriers, using trucks and other heavy vehicles to avoid detection by law enforcement agencies, sources said. He was declared a proclaimed offender by a Delhi court as he evaded arrest when the police team had gone to Assam and its neighbouring States looking for him.

After months of investigation, information was received that he would be reaching Delhi by a train from Guwahati on April 14 and alight at the Anand Vilas railway station in east Delhi on Sunday.

Special cell sleuths arrested him after interrogating him on the spot. He allegedly disclosed during interrogation that illegal farming of opium is rampant in States like Manipur, Assam and Nagaland and they have become a major source of opium and heroin to Pimpri via UP and Delhi-NCR, police sources told newsmen.

For further details of tender, please logon to our website <http://tenders.ongc.co.in>. The e-Procurement portal can be accessed directly at <https://tender.ongc.co.in>.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
Walk-in-Interview for the post of Assistant Project Engineer under a SERB sponsored project at the Centre for Energy, IIT Guwahati. For details may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>
xCEESPNSERB01134xxPK003 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
Walk in interview for the post of Project Fellow / JPO under a DRDO sponsored project in the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>
xDESSPNDRD000814xxSK003 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
Walk in interview for the post of Research Associate (1), Assistant Project Engineer and Field Worker under a MHRD sponsored project in the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>
xENSPNMRD00821xxKS010 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
Walk in interview for the post of Assistant Project Engineer under a sponsored project in the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>
xENSPNxDST00619xxKM005 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
Walk in interview for the post of JRF (GATE) under a DST sponsored project in the Centre for Environment, IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>
xENVPNDxNST00302xxMP005 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
Walk in interview for the post of Associate Project Engineer under a SERB sponsored project in the Department of Mechanical Engg., IIT Guwahati. For detailed advertisement may please visit <http://www.itg.ernet.in>
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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI GUWAHATI - 781 039 : ASSAM
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xMESPNxR00302xxMP005 Dy. Registrar (R&D)

INDIA AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 (Tender ID : 2017_AAI_5_1)
SITC-ABG-Bound System at 10 Airports along with one set of SITC-ABG-Bound System. Last date & time refer CPP Panel <http://tenders.ongc.gov.in/procurement/> for further details. Tender Reference : CNS-P-05/2016-17. N-132017-18

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No.: APDCL/CGM (PP&D)-R/APDRP/Smart Grid Control Room/03; dt. 17.04.2017
Sealed Tenders from experienced and financially sound registered Civil Engineers and contractors having experience in the construction and maintenance of electrical works, other bidding are invited for supplying and commissioning of smart DG set, perforated cable tray etc at Smart Grid Control Centre in 1st floor of Data Centre, ASEB Campus, Six Mile, Dwarband, Guwahati under R-APDRP APDCL.

Tender paper can be purchased in all working days upto 4 PM w.e.f. 18.04.2017 to 24.04.2017 from the office of the undersigned.
Details may be seen in the website www.apdcl.org

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (PP&D)
APDCL, Bijju Bawhan
APDS/2017/00

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD. ASSAM & ASSAM ARAKAN BASIN, JORHAT, ASSAM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
ONGC invites percentage rate open tender in two bid system under e-Procurement through ONGC's e-Procurement portal from reputed/ experienced contractors for the following work as per the details given below:

1) Tender No.: LCIMC-17018 Name of Work: Repairing, carpeting and painting of walls and other structures at installation SUAA in Manipuri area. Estimated Cost: 70.00-105.33. EDM: 7/7/2010.00. Time limit: 03 (Three) months. Tender Fee: 15/00-. Start date & time of participation in <https://tender.ongc.co.in/jrf/>: 18-04-17 from 1000 hrs. . Last date & time of tender for payment of tender fee: 14-05-17 up to 2359 hrs. Last date and time of submission of bids in e-tender website (<https://tender.ongc.co.in/jrf/>): 15-05-17 up to 1400 hrs. . Date and time of opening of tender: 17-05-2017 at 1500 hrs.

ONGC invites sealed percentage rate tender in Single bid system from reputed/ experienced contractor for the following work as per the details given below:

2) Tender No.: LCIMC-17019 Name of work: Repairing existing CISF shed and allied works at Installation SUAA in Manipuri area. Estimated Cost: 74.75-80.33. EDM: 7/9/2015.00. Time limit: 02 (Two) Months. Tender Fee: 2/200-. Start date of tender: 18-04-2017 from 1000 hrs. . Last date of receipt of application: 15-05-2017 up to 1600 hrs. . Last date and time of sale of tender paper: 15-05-2017 up to 1600 hrs. . Last date and time of opening of tender: 17-05-2017 up to 1400 hrs. . Date and time of opening of Bid: 17-05-2017 at 1500 hrs.

For further details of tender, please logon to our website <http://tenders.ongc.co.in>. The e-Procurement portal can be accessed directly at <https://tender.ongc.co.in>.

NHPC LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise)

Dibang Multipurpose Project (DMP), Mayu Sector, District Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh - 792110.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NHPC (DMP), invites online electronic bid through <http://eprocure.gov.in/eProcure/app> from eligible Contractors for the following Two Works:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORK	NIT NO.	ESTIMATED COST OF THE WORK	EMD	COST OF BID DOCUMENT	ONLINE SUBMISSION DATE & TECHNICAL BID OPENING DATE
1.	Hiring of Services for Watch and Ward of Various Project	NH/DM/P/17/00/WANNIT/2017/08 dated 12/04/2017 (E-Tender No. 2017_NHPC_13635_1)	₹38,45,267/-	₹77,000/-	₹500/-	19.04.2017 till 11 AM
2.	Providing Assistance in Routine Hydro Monitoring, Laboratory Testing, Up- Keeping of Site Camps and Transfer Site cum Project Lot at Dang, Assam, India in Day Work and Assistance in other Miscellaneous Site Works at DMP	NH/DM/P/C/RAMNIT/2017/04 dated 12/04/2017 (E-Tender No. 2017_NHPC_13651_1)	₹35,80,034/-	₹72,000/-	₹500/-	19.04.2017 till 11 AM

For details please visit: www.nhpcindia.com

Manager (Civil), DMP Roing Tel. No.: 0363 223 407

SAVE ENERGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SELF & NATION



A felicitation function being organised by AASU on the occasion of Rongali Bihu celebrations, at Dergaon on Sunday. — UB Photos

1 killed in mishap

ANN Service

SONARI, April 17: Chandra Sekhar Baruah (28) of Sonari, who was appointed as a commercial pilot of Air India died on the spot on Sunday evening when his car Ford Ecosport (AS-01-BH-6211) hit a RCC post near Sonari Moran Road at Batamora under Moranhat PS.

Rongali Bihu at Silchar

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, April 17: The Silchar Rongali Bihu Celebration Committee of the Assam Sahitya Sabha, Silchar branch will celebrate the Rongali Bihu on May 13 and 14. Deshbhakta Tarun Ranjan Phukan School.

On the sidelines of the inaugural function of the Rongali Bihu celebrations on Saturday, Raju Borah, secretary of the Bihu celebration committee said, "The main celebrations will be held on May 13 and 14. Elaborate arrangements are being made to mark the two-day celebrations."

OBITUARY

Dhrubajyoti Choudhury

GUWAHATI, April 17: Dhrubajyoti Choudhury, a resident of Kundil Nagar, Belota Chariali, passed away on April 15. A cancer patient, he was 41 at the time of his demise.

Dhrubajyoti was a successful businessman. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers.

Deepak Agarwala

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, April 17: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has lifted its ban on Biswanath College, here. This was informed to mediapersons today by Amrit Jyoti Borthakur, Principal-in-Charge of the college. It may be mentioned here that the UGC had stopped sanctioning of its funds to the college after alleged misappropriation of funds came to notice earlier. The Principal informed that the UGC had already released around Rs 20 lakh to the college for infrastructure development, purchasing of books for the college library, educational development of

'Eviction drive against encroachers to continue'

CORRESPONDENT

BAIHATA CHARIALI, April 17: "The State Forest department has laid more emphasis on creating new forest plantations in vacant places of the existing forest lands and eviction drive against the encroachers will continue," said Pramila Rani Brahma, State Forest Minister in a meet with this correspondent.

The minister said that due to illegal occupation of forest lands and destruction of natural habitat of animals by encroachers, there has been an imbalance in the actual ratios among various living beings.

This has led to frequent man-animal conflict also. To mitigate the man-animal conflict, the Forest department has laid stress on plantation to generate food for elephant and other grazing animals in the vacant forest lands.

On the other hand, eviction against encroachers in wildlife sanctuaries will continue in co-operation with the administration. Already in Ancham Wildlife Sanctuary, the department has carried out eviction drives against the encroachers despite protest from them and some other persons. These protesters have even created obstructions in building forest

camps. But no compromise will be made with such people and the encroachers in this regard, the minister added.

Replying to a question about the illegal carrying of stones from the hills of Mandakola and its adjoining areas and river earth from Puthimuri and Brahmaputra, the minister said that she had information about that and strict action will be initiated against persons involved in those illegal activities. She had been informed by various sources that such activities are going on in the area under the leadership of a handful of persons, who are also employees of the Government.

APS, the newly-appointed Superintendent of Police (SP) of Biswanath, along with mediapersons of Biswanath Chariali recently at his office chamber. He had a three-hour discussion with them regarding various issues of the district and sought suggestions and cooperation in tackling these issues. Senior scribes Niranjan Hazarika, Basanta Borah, Hiranya Borthakur, Bhaskar Borah, Pulak Hazarika, Amit Khan, among others, spoke a few words in the meet and raised several problems being faced by common men. ASP Partha S Borah and DSP (HQ) Moushumi Kalita were also present in the meet.

Interaction programme: Diganta Kumar Choudhury,

UGC ban on Biswanath College lifted

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, April 17: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has lifted its ban on Biswanath College, here. This was informed to mediapersons today by Amrit Jyoti Borthakur, Principal-in-Charge of the college. It may be mentioned here that the UGC had stopped sanctioning of its funds to the college after alleged misappropriation of funds came to notice earlier. The Principal informed that the UGC had already released around Rs 20 lakh to the college for infrastructure development, purchasing of books for the college library, educational development of

the scheduled tribe and scheduled caste students and for implementation of Minor Research Projects (MRP). Moreover, Rashtriya Uchchcha Shiksha Abhyayan (RUSA) has sanctioned financial assistance amounting to Rs 2 crore, another Rs 25 lakh for a language laboratory and of late, Government of Assam has sanctioned Rs 1 crore for infrastructure development of the college. Several construction committees and purchase committees were formed in this respect for the speedy work. A regular principal would also be appointed in the college very soon, he added.

Interaction programme: Diganta Kumar Choudhury,

Kaithalkuchi students' memo to CM

A CORRESPONDENT

TIHU, April 17: The Uttar Dhamapur Anchalik Students' Union, an organisation of greater Kaithalkuchi area, submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal through the Deputy Commissioner of Nalbari on various educational problems facing the area.

The memorandum requested to pressurise the State

Government with their five-point charter of demands, which include: (1) Upgradation of Kamapeeth Junior College to the degree-level by introducing Science, Commerce and Arts streams in order to meet the tremendous pressure of students of greater Uttar Dhamapur and Pub-Nambarbag areas (2) Upgradation of one of the high schools of this area into the HS level (3) Filling up all vacant posts of the schools (4) provision of pure drinking water facilities in every school to mitigate the hardships of the students to some extent and (5) demand for establishment of school libraries along with infrastructure development.

Through this memorandum the student body expected a congenial atmosphere in the field of education in the greater Kaithalkuchi area.

Dr GC Baruah: a tribute

Demand to name hospital after Rudra Singh

ANN Service

The demise of Dr Golok Chandra Baruah, my younger brother on April 8, left me heartbroken. We were five brothers, he was the fourth one. My father was an employee of a tea garden some fourteen miles away from the Nagaon town.

His schooling, started at a primary school in that tea-garden. After completion of the lower primary course, he was admitted to the Dawson High School at Nagaon. He continued his studies in Commerce stream. He passed the Higher Secondary Examination in the year 1964 with highest marks in Commercial Geography. At this time most of the colleges in Assam were not running honours course in degree level. Then he got admitted in DHSK Kanoi College at Di-

brugarh with honours in Accountancy. After passing BCOM he joined Gauhati University for post-graduate study. After passing MCOM, he was appointed as auditor in the office of the Inspector of Schools of Nagaon. He then joined Garagon College, Sibsagar. While working here he also acquired the degree of PhD from Gauhati University.

He was married to Dr Minerva Saikia, who is a faculty member of Home Science in Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Later he became the vice-principal of Garagon College, till retirement. On the morning of April 8, 2017 he breathed his last, leaving behind his lone wife and many relatives and well-wishers. May his departed soul rest in peace.

— Purna Kt Baruah

He leaves behind his wife, a son and three daughters. State minister Ranjit Dutta, Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur, local BJP unit, Sahitya Sabha, among others, have mourned his death.

Hasna Ara Begum

GUWAHATI, April 17: Hasna Ara Begum, 83, wife of late Khaireur Rahman, the first Royal Air Force pilot of Assam and daughter-in-law of late Khareshwar Khalilur Rahman, proprietor of Oishi Market, Khalil Bazar passed away on April 13 at 10:50 pm.

She is survived by her nine children and a host of grandchildren.

— Purna Kt Baruah

Sonowal visits Namrup, appeals for peace and harmony

ANN Service

NAMRUP, April 17: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal visited Namrup on his first official visit on Saturday.

Arriving at this industrial town at about 5:30 pm, the Chief Minister paid his visit at Sarangar Bonranggar here where he was warmly welcomed with traditional gayan bayan and religious fervour amid a large gathering.

Addressing the people assembled there, Sonowal appealed to all to maintain peace, harmony, unity and brotherhood for the integral development of the State and the nation. He assured all possible assistance to modernise Namrup and to develop the three industries located here.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister visit-

ed Assam Petrochemicals Ltd here where he met party workers at its guest house first and then attended a brief meet with APL's top officials at its conference hall. He was accompanied by Member of Parliament Ramkeshwar Teli, five MLAs and Government officials. The APL management accorded warm felicitations to Sonowal.

Member of Parliament Rameswar Teli and the five MLAs while APLOA, APWU and other local organisations too felicitated the Chief Minister. Earlier, APL MD Ratul Bordoloi delivered the welcome address.

The people of Namrup expressed their profound joy over the visit of the Chief Minister during Rongali Bihu cel-

lentive address.

The daylong programme comprised flag hoisting, *smriti tarpan* etc. A colourful cultural procession was also brought out within the Namrup town-ship to mark the occasion.

After that a host of competitions like *koni-jiju*, Bihu dance, *dhol* and *pepa badan* among small children, *semonia husori*, *jeng Bihu* etc., were organised. The day-long programme ended with a grand cultural night titled, 'Bohagi Sandhya,' which was inaugurated by Palash Changmai, general secretary, AJYCP central committee. The performance of noted singer Kusu Koilash enthralled the audience.

Earlier, the Namrup regional com-

Nalbari Cong celebrates Bohagi Utsav

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, April 17: The Nalbari District Congress Committee on Sunday organised a daylong Bohagi Utsav at Rajiv Bhawan with Mukuli Bihu and felicitation to senior citizens.

The Mukuli Bihu was inaugurated by Abdul Khalek, spokesman of the APCC where senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Dr Bhumidhar Barman also attended. Dr Barman played dhol and participated in the Bihu dance with other Congress leaders like Anita Dutta, Partha Barbara, Preddy Usha Bhuyan and Basanta Das. About 200 senior citizens, artists, journalists were felicitated with *phulam gomosa* on the occasion.

Later talking to this correspondent, Khalek said that the BJP Government has been ignoring the developmental issues and instead spending time celebrating Gunotsav, Namami Brahma Festival etc.

Later talking to this correspondent, Khalek said that the BJP Government has been ignoring the developmental issues and instead spending time celebrating Gunotsav, Namami Brahma Festival etc.

In these three days of Bihu, the Vaishnavites of Sri Sri Aunati Satra and their bath with *mabhaloddi*, played *kodi* and *Boko khel* and performed some religious rituals in the satra's *naamghar*.

Dr Goswami also added that in the satras Bihu is not celebrated with Bihugeet or Bihu dance but with *naam kirtan*, *puja*, *goyan*, *nati* etc. With these religious beliefs, traditions and national sentiments are also associated with Bihu and all these unique features of Bihu show us its right path.

In these three days of Bihu, the Vaishnavites of Sri Sri Aunati Satra, the Garanam Satra and Benengenta Satra also celebrated Bohagi Bihu with these rituals. Along with these satras many villages of this island district also participated in the *boko khel* held in the satras.

On Sunday on the day of Gosai Bihu, a concluding meet-

Science Express Train welcomed



The Science Express stationed at Badarpur Railway Junction on Saturday. — UB Photos

ANN Service

Technology department of the Central Government, who came in this special train.

Talking to ANN Service, various officials as well as experts of the Environment and Climate departments informed that under the initiative of the Central Government, this special train will travel nearly 19,000 kms covering 68 important railway stations. The main purpose of this train is to increase environmental awareness among the people. To see this environment awareness special train, various sections of people, especially students from different schools and colleges thronged the Badarpur railway station.

With Gosai Bihu, Rongali Bihu concludes in Majuli satras

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULI, April 17: With Gosai Bihu or the Chera Bihu, the three-day Rongali Bihu programme of Sri Sri Aunati Satra and many other satras of Majuli concluded on Sunday.

Attending the concluding ceremony, the satradhikar of Sri Sri Aunati Satra, Dr Pitamber Dev Goswami, said that Bihu has always played a crucial role in the formation of a healthy society by spreading the message of harmony, unity and social values among the

people. Simultaneously with the folk elements, religious beliefs, traditions and national sentiments are also associated with Bihu and all these unique features of Bihu show us its right path.

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Besides the Sri Sri Aunati Satra, the Garanam Satra and Benengenta Satra also celebrated Bohagi Bihu with these rituals.

Along with these satras many villages of this island district also participated in the *boko khel* held in the satras.

On Sunday on the day of Gosai Bihu, a concluding meet-

ing was held in the *naamghar* of Sri Sri Aunati Satra, which was attended by the officials of satras, all the Vaishnavites, Satradhikar and the Deka Satradhikar of the Satra and the performance of gayan bayan, *kiyanam*, *dihanaam*, *ojhapadli*, *apsora nriya*, *chali nriya* etc., were performed by the artists of this satra.

In the afternoon, with religious tradition and rituals, the three-day Bohagi Bihu festival of Sri Sri Aunati Satra of Majuli concluded in the *naamghar* of the satra.

On Sunday on the day of Gosai Bihu, a concluding meet-

Stop harassing Koch-Rajbongshis'

CORRESPONDENT

KALAGAON, April 17: The AKRSU Dhalguri district committee has criticized the police and Army personnel stationed in the district for harassing innocent people of the community during operations against members of extrem-

ist outfits.

In a press release, Dibyajyoti Deka, president and Ananda Saikia, secretary of AKRSU, Dhalguri district committee have demanded the Dhalguri police and Army personnel stationed in the district to refrain from harassing innocent Koch-Rajbongshi people during op-

erations against ULFA or NDFB militants. They have also condemned arrests of several people of the community in many instances.

According to them, many youths had to flee their homes for fear of apprehension by the Army and police. AKRSU also urged the Army and police to

stop forcing innocent people to divulge information of extremist groups.

"If the harassment against Koch-Rajbongshi people continues, we will launch a democratic movement against Dhalguri district administration," the press release added.



A cultural procession, organised by Tangla Rongali Bihu Sammelani, being taken out at Tangla on Sunday. — UB Photos

COMBINED ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2017
[CEE-2017]FOR ADMISSION INTO 1ST SEMESTER CLASS OF B.E.
COURSE FOR THE SESSION 2017-18 IN THE STATE
ENGINEERING COLLEGES

Candidates desiring to take admission in the 1st Semester B.E. Course of State Engineering Colleges are to apply online at the Official Website of this Directorate (www.dteassam.in) for appearing in the Combined Admission Test (CEE-2017). The process online application will be opened from 20th April 2017 to 5th May 2017.

An Application Fee of Rs. 600/- (Six hundred only) [Excluding Bank Charge] is to be paid using "State Bank Collect" which facilitates payment through Debit Card/ Credit Card/ Net Banking. Payment may also be made at any Branch of State Bank of India after generating the Cash Deposit Form from "State Bank Collect" in final Step of on-line Application. Further instructions will be available during the online Application Process. Students need not require to submit any hard copy of the application.

Admit Cards/ Hall Tickets may be downloaded from the website [www.dteassam.in] by putting the Application Number and Date of Birth of the Candidate from 25th May 2017.

CEE- 2017 will be based on the NCERT Syllabus adopted by AHSEC, Assam. The examination will be MCQ Type and comprise of a single paper of 3 (three) hour duration with the following distribution

- a) Mathematics : 40 Questions
- b) Physics : 40 Questions
- c) Chemistry : 40 Questions

4 (Four) marks will be awarded for every right answer and 1 (one) mark will be deducted for every wrong answer.

For any other relevant information, students may refer to the Information Booklet uploaded in the Website [www.dteassam.in]

The CEE- 2017 will be held on 4th June 2017 (Sunday)

Sd/- Director,
Technical Education, Assam
Kahilpara, Guwahati- 19
Janasanayog/559/17

Poor Hindu couple from UP escort home 'lost' Muslim man to Assam

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, April 17: In a heart-warming incident, a poor Hindu couple from Uttar Pradesh borrowed money from villagers to accompany a Muslim man from Assam to his home in Goalpara after he was 'lost' while on his way back home from Ajmer Sharif.

Mr Hazrat Ali of Jaintupara under Bagan Police Station in Goalpara district had gone to Ajmer Sharif on March 20. On his return journey, because of some mental sickness, he disembarked from the train somewhere in Uttar Pradesh and subsequently went missing.

Later, Madan Lal, his wife Saraswati Devi and their daughter of Muraw village under Thariaw Police Station of Paltapur district in Uttar Pradesh found the man loitering in their village.

"The couple took good care of him and brought him to Baguan yesterday and handed

him over to his worried guardian," Goalpara Superintendent of Police Amitava Sinha told *The Assam Tribune*.

"The couple are extremely poor. In fact they came here on borrowed money to ensure that Hazrat Ali reached home safe. Goalpara police is arranging the return journey of the couple."

Sinha said. Today, the Nagarik Committee and Village Defence Parties of Bagan Police Station in Goalpara felicitated Madan Lal, his wife Saraswati Devi and their daughter for their humanitarian service and sense of selfless duty.

Various organisations, including AAMSU heaped praise and felicitated them.

"I am sure the couple will go back home and proudly tell their neighbours and other villagers of the honour they received in Goalpara, which will definitely inspire others in Baguan," the Superintendent of Police added.

Two DU students do their alma mater proud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBURGHARI, April 17: The World Federation for UNESCO and Zervas Art has invited Anjan Jyoti Kalita, a 3rd year student of Electronics and Communication Engineering Department of Dibrugarh University (DU), to the International Painting Symposium, '4th Athina Art Fair'-a dialogue through the language of art, scheduled to be held at Hotel Bomo Club of Athens in Greece from April 22 to 28 next.

Anjan Jyoti Kalita, who hails from Goalpara, happens to be one of the two candidates who have been invited from India. Kalita exhibited a passion for painting and art since childhood. He has won several awards in different stages of his academic pursuit like in school, college, university and in the State and North East

level. He also holds the current world rank of 218 in an online art contest of USA known as 'The Heart of Art'.

In the meantime, Dibrugarh University Vice Chancellor Professor Alak Kumar Buragohain while commenting on the achievement of the varsity student said that Anjan's art forms are commendable. "His arts are philosophical and have deep expression. It simply means the young generation can articulate their ideas and thoughts in an art form very clearly and emphatically", said the Vice Chancellor.

The Vice Chancellor further said that Dibrugarh University would extend financial support to any faculty or student of the varsity to attend international events if they get such invitations from credible agencies.

In another achievement, Samrat Bharadwaj, a student

of the Department of Commerce, fourth semester, represented Dibrugarh University in North India Students' Parliament on March 26 and 27 last and won the Best Parliamentarian Award in the national meet organised at the Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Katra in Jammu. The theme of the parliament was 'Inspiring Youth, Strengthening Democracy'.

North India Students' Parliament is a non-political platform set up for the purpose of sensitising the youth of North India towards nation-building.

The Vice Chancellor further said that Dibrugarh University would extend financial support to any faculty or student of the varsity to attend international events if they get such invitations from credible agencies.

In another achievement, Samrat Bharadwaj, a student

Scribe attack strongly condemned at Pathsala

ANN Service

incident.

PATACHARKUCHI, April 17: Physical and mental torture on three journalists of Bajali sub-division on the night of April 12 at Bongon by a section of workers of Rajnukumari Theatre at Bongon. A camera was also broken by the miscreants during the incident and the trio somehow managed to escape from the place with the help of police. The scribes were invited to the place by a section of the workers of the mobile theatre group as the producer allegedly failed to pay their wages.

The Additional SP of Barpeta Pinkaj Kaita, SDPO of Bajali A Natarajan and police from Patacharkuchi, Sarbari and Balpara outposts arrived at the spot to control the situation.

In the aforementioned protest, Krishna Roy, producer of Abahan Theatre informed that from the ensuing session, new mobile theatre groups will not be allowed to take membership of the producers' association for five years, and artists who work in the new mobile theatre groups will not be allowed to work in any mobile theatre group under the producers' association for five years.

In the meantime, various press organisations, besides some local producers of mobile theatre groups gathered at the Hari Mandir premises of Pathsala today and protested the incident by wearing black badges and demanding booking of the culprits who were still absconding after the

years. Tapan Deka producer of Kohinor Theatre and Duliam Dass, producer of Sirajnab Theatre also attended the protest and condemned the incident.

Earlier, the protest meet which began at 11 am ended at 2 pm. It was anchored by Samudra Patgiri, secretary of Barpeta district AASU, while the objectives were explained by Kalash Choudhury, president of Pathsala Press Club, where Pranab Kumar Goswami, a victim of the incident, narrated first hand about his experience.

Among others, Patacharkuchi MLA Pabindra Deka, Dhanjai Das, secretary of Journalists' Union of Assam, Sunil Das, president of Barpeta district unit of Journalists' Union of Assam, Priya Ranjan Das, president of Barpeta Press Club, senior journalist Harobor Barman, Nakul Talukdar, AJAU Barpeta district president, Krishna Roy, producer of Abahan Theatre, Tapan Lahkar, producer of Kohinor Theatre, Duliam Dass, Producer of Sirajnab Theatre, Phani Pathak, president of Bajali Zilla BJP, Mangmohun Roy, president of Pathsala Town Committee, among others, spoke on the occasion.

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the incident are still at large.

Chinese envoy visits Pobitora sanctuary

MORIGAON, April 17: China's Ambassador to India, Luohua Zhou visited Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary today and praised the bio-diversity of the sanctuary. A six-member high-level official delegation led by Luohua Zhou visited Assam and inspected the World War II memorials and monuments in Tinsukia district during the last two days, besides visiting Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary today. The Chinese Ambassador and his wife keenly observed the one-horned Indian rhino and migratory birds in their natural habitat in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, which is the densest habitat of one-horned rhinos in the world. - Correspondent

Bohagi Utsav at BHU

GUWAHATI, April 17: The Students' Society of Assam of Dergaon progressive farmer Kusheswar Baruah, who retired from Baruabamungam on Sugar Mill, besides being a noted *Bayan* as well as a prominent resident of Baruah Gaon near here, died on April 13 due to geriatric ailments. He was 80.

Being a *Bayan*, he was popular among the religious-minded people in and around Dergaon town. An animal lover, his demise was widely mourned. He leaves behind his wife, four sons, a daughter, three daughters-in-law along with a host of relatives.

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A number of teachers and students of BHU hailing from Assam were present during the event, said a statement issued by the BHU Students' Society of Assam. - Staff Reporter

No. CE/BLD/DECT/7693/Pt-II/18

PRESS NOTICE

Date: 10/04/2017

The Addl. Chief Engineer PWD (Elect.) Assam on behalf of Government of Assam invites re-bids in cancellation of Press Notice letter No. CE/BLD/DECT/693/Pt-II dated 7th March 2017 from registered APWD Electrical contractor for the following works. Details may be seen at www.assamgovt.gov.in and also in the office of the under signed during office hours.

The bidder shall be required to register with the E-tendering system using own digital certificate issued to the bidder. The last date & time for submission of copy of Technical bid will be same as online submission. Tender Documents will received in the O/o the Chief Engineer PWD(Bldg), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 as per Tender Schedule for the works.

The bidders shall have to submit their financial bid on line by e-tendering system using own digital certificate issued to the bidder.

The last date & time for submission of copy of Technical bid will be same as online submission. Tender Documents will received in the O/o the Chief Engineer PWD(Bldg), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 as per Tender Schedule for the works.

The Cost of Bid documents is non-refundable and should be in the form of Demand draft (Bankers Cheque from any Nationalised Bank payable in favour of "Assam State Road Board Maintenance(Roads) Fund", Ac No. 10566991479 Sd/- Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD (Elect) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed tenders inviting court fee stamp of Rs. 1.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only with a validity period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days is invited from the contractors firm registered under APWD (Building) for the following works -

No.	Name of Project	Approx. Value of Work	Cost of Bid Document	Bid Security pledged in favour of
1	Installation of Individual Digital Energy Meter to Govt. Quarters under GAD [Group - I]	Rs.1,36,36,967.00	Rs.4000.00	Executive Engineer PWD, Guwahati Electrical Division, Guwahati-3
2	Construction of District Judicial Court Building (G-3) at Sivasagar, Assam	Rs.16,00,524.00	Rs.5000.00	Executive Engineer, PWD, Johat Electrical Division, Guwahati-3
3	Construction of District Court Building (G-3) at Sivasagar, Assam	Rs.16,00,524.00	Rs.5000.00	Executive Engineer, PWD, Johat Electrical Division, Guwahati-3

The tender papers will be issued to the contractor authorized representatives on receipt of application along with registration certificate, PAN and bank account details in the form of Demand Draft (Bankers Cheque) drawn in favour of "Assam State Road Board Maintenance (Roads) Fund" payable at Dispur, Dibrugarh Division No. 1 at 10.30 am on 20-04-2017 and be opened at 2.00 PM on 21-04-2017 during office hours. The same will be accepted upto 2.00 PM-21-04-2017 and be opened at 2.30 PM on the same date. If any reason the last date of receiving / opening of Tender is decided as today, tender will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time as above. The tenderer or his authorized agent may remain present at the time of opening of tender papers.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD
Guwahati Bldg, Division No. II, Dispur, Guwahati-6

No. CE/PMGSY/122/2015-16/29
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA
(PMGSY, 2016-17, Batch-1)
Re-eProcurement Notice

Date: 17.4.2017

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 2016-17, Batch-1, in the districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia for 15 number of projects with estimated cost of ₹ 1,000.00 Crore/- for each project for five years, from eligible contractors registered with Public Works Department (Roads), Assam. Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 21/04/2017, 1600 hours

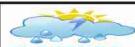
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <http://pmgsytendersassam.gov.in/>. The bidder is required to register to the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 10 of the tender documents. The bids will be evaluated by the Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3, on a date later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 28/04/2017, 1600 hours. Packagewise details are as follows:

District	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Total Cost (Rs. in lakh)		Period of Completion (in months)	Bid Submiss. Date	Bid Security (in Rs.)
				Construction	Maintenance			
Dibrugarh	AS-06-153	MN Road (T2) to Acharam No. 1	209.12	26.19	235.31	12	7/100	4,71,000
Dibrugarh	AS-06-155	Bajloni No. 2 to Bajloni No. 2	182.04	23.28	205.32	12	6,200	4,11,000
Dibrugarh	AS-06-171	Deshoi No. 1 to Metol Bhuruk	120.8	14.55	135.35	12	4,100	2,71,000
Dibrugarh	AS-06-178	1st KM of Khowangia to Khowangia road to Chongchong	226.42	23.82	250.28	12	7,500	5,01,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-57	Sukhani Langkishi to NLNU 320	113.05	11.63	124.68	12	3,700	24,90,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-74	Sukhani Langkishi Road to Rajgan TE 15NL	140.22	14.55	154.77	12	4,600	31,10,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-75	Haboda al to Tengnaga TE 10 to 10 NLGT	113.99	11.64	125.63	12	3,800	25,10,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-81	Ng 38lo Rokding Gaon	224.68	23.28	247.96	12	7,400	4,96,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-91	Tekken ME School to Tekken PHE	235.68	24.793	260.47	12	7,800	5,21,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-92	Bamrong Road	114.35	11.05	125.4	12	3,800	2,51,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-127	RTD Head Bozaili to Bozaili Ganglong	288.88	29.11	317.99	12	9,500	6,36,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-131	Sukhani Langkishi to Horkai	194.69	18.62	213.31	12	6,400	4,27,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-139	Baghjan gaon to Dighalharang Sunjan	283.19	26.76	309.95	12	9,300	6,20,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-147	Domomba Philitoli to No. Tengnani Sunjan	286.74	28.53	315.27	12	9,500	6,31,000
Tinsukia	AS-23-148	Kherjan to No.2 Ramuli Gehar	353.14	31.77	384.91	12	10,000	7,70,000

For further details please log on to <http://pmgsytendersassam.gov.in/>

Sd/-Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam

Chandmari, Guwahati-781003



**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Light to moderate Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Assam. Light rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on April 18. Thunder squall with wind speed exceeding 50/60 kmph is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya & Nagaland on April 19. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya & Nagaland.

Warning: Thunder squall with wind speed exceeding 50/60 kmph accompanied by lightning is likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on April 18. Thunder squall with wind speed exceeding 50/60 kmph is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya & Nagaland on April 19. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya & Nagaland. Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 18 and 20, also accompanied with hail at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 19. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya & Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 20.

Temperatures :

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	31.0	17.0
Tezpur	31.1	19.0
Silchar	35.6	20.0
Dhubri	30.9	21.0
Sorhat	30.6	17.3
N Lakhimpur	32.5	21.0
Shillong	24.0	10.6
Imphal	26.0	17.6
Aizawl	33.7	16.3
Agartala	31.5	11.8
Kohima	33.0	21.4
Pasighat	32.4	19.2
Cherrapunji	26.2	14.0

NORTH EAST

IT sends notice to Meghalaya MLAs

RAJU DAS

SHILLONG, April 17: Income Tax officials have issued notices to certain Meghalaya legislators seeking explanation on the sudden rise in their income.

The IT sleuths have issued the notices after analysis of the affidavits filed by these legislators in 2008 and 2013. "We have issued the notices to the politicians whose income has shown a sharp increase between 2008 and 2013," a sen-

ior IT official told The Assam Tribune here today.

Some of the legislators have shown a steep rise in their assets during a period of five years. Since the affidavit only gives details about the assets in terms of numbers, the source of the rise in income is not clear.

Therefore, as part of the notice, the IT department has given time to these politicians to explain their source of income. "These politicians would have to explain the source from

where they have generated their income, which seems disproportionate in certain cases," the official added.

The notices were served as part of a nationwide crackdown on black money. The IT department has been directed to probe into accounts which showed substantial deposit post the demonetisation policy of the Central Government.

According to sources, several bank accounts in the State have been identified and the IT department would be in-

vestigating into these cases too together with other Central and State agencies.

There are reports that several non-nominal individuals and entities have deposited "unaccounted money" into the accounts of tribals as the latter are exempted from paying Income Tax.

However, IT officials have reiterated on several instances that even accounts of tribals could be probed if the deposits don't match their known source of income.



United Democratic Party leaders at the Central Executive Committee meeting of the party in Shillong on Monday. — UB Photos

3 CMs of BJP-ruled States to visit Tripura

AGARTALA, April 17: Three Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States will visit Tripura in the next two months to strengthen party organisation and unseat ruling CPI-M, a party spokesman said.

"This is our tactical decision to unseat the CPI-M from power which has been ruling the State for over two decades.

"During our national executive meeting in Bhubaneswar, the party has decided to send three Chief Ministers — Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh and Raghuvan Das of Jharkhand to guide the State

unit. Within the next two months all of them would visit the State", State BJP spokesperson Victor Shon told reporters.

Besides, several Union Ministers would come here to help the party and boost the workers and party President Amit Shah would visit the State on May 6, Shon said.

Shah had taken strong note of the "attacks" on party activists in Tripura, he said. Shon said, BJP would emerge as the strongest party in Tripura and fight the election alone in the State where elections are slated to be held next year. — PTI

3000 cattle seized by BSF

SHILLONG, April 17: BSF has seized over 3,000 cattle and contraband items worth lakhs of rupees from the un-fenced stretches along Indo-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya this year, Meghalaya Frontier BSF Inspector General, PUK Dube said.

He said the BSF has seized contraband items worth more than Rs 23 lakh while being smuggled out from India to Bangladesh on the International Border along the unfenced sectors in last few days. — PTI

Buyer-Seller meet for organic products held in Imphal

SOBHAPATI SAMON

IMPHAL, April 17: A two-day Buyer and Seller Meet cum workshop for agriculture and horticulture products with special focus on organic products of Manipur was inaugurated at City Convention Centre by Minister for Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Forest and Environment and MAHUD Th Shyamkumar here on Monday.

The event has been organised by Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare since 2015-16 in the State. The scheme aims at promotion and production of certified organic commodities focusing on export oriented crops viz, Timenglong orange, Kacha lemon, pineapple, King chilli, ginger, turmeric and Chak-hao (Black aromatic rice) covering a total area of 5,000 hectare involving 5,000 farmers.

MOMA has been implementing the scheme Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Region under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare since 2015-16 in the State. The scheme aims at promotion and production of certified organic commodities focusing on export oriented crops viz, Timenglong orange, Kacha lemon, pineapple, King chilli, ginger, turmeric and Chak-hao (Black aromatic rice) covering a total area of 5,000 hectare involving 5,000 farmers.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh informed Lok Sabha recently in a written reply.

Of the IAS officers arrested, three were from Rajasthani cadre, two each from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Union Territories cadre, one from Gujarat, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Telangana.

Among the IAS officers, one each were from Tripura, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. — PTI

IPFT splits into two factions

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, April 17: Division in the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has become official when the dissident faction led by Budhu Debbarma formed a separate committee and declared that they are the real IPFT.

He said the IPFT since its formation veered only around one issue — a separate State comprising the areas of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council. But the conference has decided to give a new dimension to the party programme and to include different socio-economic issues like unemployment, opposition

to the proposed amendment of the Indian Citizenship Act, etc.

On the alliance for the upcoming Assembly elections, newly-elected general secretary Rajeshwar Debbarma said the party would keep its core demand of Tripurandhak for the sake of forming a grand alliance with any national party.

"Although, Tripuraland is our main demand but in the great interest, the party can compromise with it for the time being," he said.

The party wants electoral understanding with anti-Lift Front parties to ousted Left Front Government in the upcoming

higher secondary are female, 47 per cent of university students are women.

The study further revealed that people between 45 to 65 years of age constitute the major workforce in Mizoram. Only nine per cent of the workforce in Mizoram belong to 18-35 age group, while 58 per cent are aged between 45 to 65. Another 33 per cent are aged between 35 to 45, the survey revealed.

The participation of women in workplaces appeared to have increased, compared to Dr Lalhriputia recently. According to this woman researcher's book 'Economic Participation of Women in Mizoram', the weaker sex constitutes 43.98 per cent of the total work force.

Like in any tribal society, women were confined to household chores in older Mizo society. The significant increase of women's participation in the economy of the society may be attributed to the women empowerment propagated by women organisations, the most influential one being Mizo Hmeichei Insuikhawm Pawl or Mizo women federation, which has branches across the State.

While 51.5 per cent of students from middle school to chipping stones.

In the teaching profession, women are outnumbered by men with the fairer sex constituting 36 per cent of the total number of teachers from middle school to university.

While 51.5 per cent of stu-

dent population in the State is

Indo-Myanmar border trade through Mizoram halted

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, April 17: Chumphai district sub-divisional magistrate has put a halt on Indo-Myanmar border trade via Zokhawhar route in eastern Mizoram's Chumphai district following a disagreement between two groups of local traders.

Acting under section 133 (1) (ii), the sub-divisional magistrate ordered suspension of all trade activities between the two countries via the said route until further notice.

Official sources said two groups of traders in Zokhawhar have been fighting over the monopoly of loading and unloading import and export goods between India and Myanmar.

"As the disagreement between the local traders grew from bad to worse, the magistrate felt the need to impose suspension on the border trade to prevent further troubles," an official said.

2 IAS, IPS officers from Assam, Tripura arrested: Govt

NEW DELHI, April 17: Nineteen IAS and five IPS officers have been arrested in past four years (from 2014 upto March 2017) across the country for their alleged involvement in various wrong doings.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh informed Lok Sabha recently in a written reply.

Of the IAS officers arrested, three were from Rajasthani cadre, two each from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Union Territories cadre, one from Gujarat, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Telangana.

Among the IAS officers, one each were from Tripura, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. — PTI

Women dominate workplaces in Mizoram

ZODINSANGA

higher secondary are female, 47 per cent of university students are women.

The study further revealed that people between 45 to 65 years of age constitute the major workforce in Mizoram. Only nine per cent of the workforce in Mizoram belong to 18-35 age group, while 58 per cent are aged between 45 to 65.

Another 33 per cent are aged between 35 to 45, the survey revealed.

The participation of women in workplaces appeared to have increased, compared to Dr Lalhriputia recently. According to this woman researcher's book 'Economic Participation of Women in Mizoram', the weaker sex constitutes 43.98 per cent of the total work force.

Like in any tribal society, women were confined to household chores in older Mizo society. The significant increase of women's participation in the economy of the society may be attributed to the women empowerment propagated by women organisations, the most influential one being Mizo Hmeichei Insuikhawm Pawl or Mizo women federation, which has branches across the State.

While 51.5 per cent of stu-

dent population in the State is

ordination seems still a far cry.

In politics, only four women

have been elected to the State

Assembly since its inception in 1972.

The other two areas where

women hold their heads high

are education and competitive

examinations. Women have

held top positions in high

school board, university and

competitive examinations for

the last many years.

When the European Mis-

sionaries set up schools in

the early 20th century,

the women were mainly

boys as girls were not al-

lowed by their parents to

learn. Now, more and more

Mizo girls have joined profes-

sions like medical, engineer-

ing, mass media and com-

munication, management,

computer engineering and IT,

Many Mizo women have also

become contractors and sup-

pliers, doing brisk business

with the State Government.

However, there are still some areas where women empow-

erment does not work

— church and politics.

Though the Presbyterian

Church, the largest denomina-

tion in Mizoram, has many

women theologians, woman

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017

NOTICE

Application are invited for Registration and Renewal of Contract registration under Industries & Commerce Department, Govt. of Assam under category of Class I (A/B/C), Class-II, Class-III and Electrical for the year 2017-18. The Application Form and guidelines will be issued from 24.4.2017 and received in the office of the undersigned upto 24.5.2017 all working days and hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Industries & Commerce Deptt.
Assam, Guwahati- 21

MISSING PERSON

The above is the photograph of one Miss Pabi Bharali (14 years), Do/ Sr Junmoni Bharali of Khamlanga, PS & Dist:- Dibrugarh, Assam who is missing since 15.03.2017 from Khamlanga, Dibrugarh.

This refers to Dibrugarh P.S. Case No 304/17US 3664/IPC.

The Descriptive roll of the missing Person: Miss Pabi Bharali.

(a) Complexion : Fair.
(b) Age : 14 years.
(c) Hair : Long & black.
(d) Height : 4 ft.
(e) Wearing : Blue jacket, blue t-shirt and leggings.
(f) Language : Assamese.

All out efforts may be taken to trace out/recover the above noted missing/unseen person at the earliest and in that regard may be intimated to S.P. Office, Dibrugarh, over Telephone No. 0372-224242 for further necessary action.

Sd/- Superintendent of Police,
Dibrugarh, Assam.

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE

ADMISSION FOR GOVT. POLYTECHNIC OF ASSAM FOR THE SESSION -2017-18.

Online application process is going on for Polytechnic Admission Test (PAT)- 2017 for admission into the Govt. Polytechnics of Assam.

Name:

* Assam Engineering Institute, Chandmari, Guwahati.

* Assam Textile Institute, Ambari, Guwahati.

* Bongaigaon Polytechnic, Bongaigaon.

* Barpeta Polytechnic, Belguv Pathar, Barpeta.

* Dibrugarh Polytechnic, Lahawali, Dibrugarh.

* Diphu Polytechnic, Diphu.

* Dhemaji Polytechnic, Silapathar, Dhemaji.

* Goalpara Polytechnic, Goalpara East.

* Golaghat Polytechnic, Furkating, Golaghat.

* HRH the Prince of Wales Institute, Jorhat

* Kamrup Polytechnic, Bahata Chorai, Kamrup(Rural)

* Karimganj Polytechnic, Maizgaon, Karimganj

* Lakhipur Polytechnic, Bhupura, Lakhipur.

* Naibari Polytechnic, Chankuchi, Naibari.

* Nowrang Polytechnic, Nagaon.

* PCPS Girls' Polytechnic, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati.

* Residential Girls' Polytechnic, Golaghat.

* Silchar Polytechnic, Meherpur, Silchar.

* Sonitpur Polytechnic, Dehukaijuli, Sonitpur.

* Sibsagar Polytechnic, Demow, Sibsagar

For detailed log on to www.dteassam.in

Sd/- Director of Technical Education, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanayog/600/17

ADVERTISEMENT

The Govt. of Assam intends to start 5 Model Govt. Degree Colleges from the next academic session 2017-18. The Model Degree Colleges are located at the following places.

1. Tengnoupal, District Goalpara 2, Tengnoupal, District Bongaigaon.

2. Dibrugarh, District Dibrugarh 4, Dibrugarh, District Karimganj 5, Bihai, District Bishwanath.

Applications are invited from interested candidates for the Post of Principal of the Model Degree Colleges who fulfill the eligibility criteria. The Selected Person will be posted as Principal in Regency capacity. The tenure of the posts is permanent.

Age : Age of the candidates is maximum 55 years as on 1.1.2017.

Pay Scale : ₹37400.00-67000.00 + AGP 10000.00 and other allowances as admissible.

Qualification :

I. A Master's Degree with atleast 55% Marks (or an equivalent grade in a point Scale wherever grading system is followed) by a recognised University.

II. A Ph.D Degree in concerned allied/ relevant discipline(s) in the institution concerned with evidence of Published Work and research guidance.

III. Associate professor/ Professor with a total experience of fifteen years teaching/ research/ administration in Universities, Colleges and other Institutions of higher education.

IV. A minimum score as stipulated in the Academic Performance Indicator (API) based Performance Based Appraisal System (PBAS), as set out in Appendix III of the UGC Circular dated 10.10.2016.

A relaxation of 5% may be provided at the graduate and master's level for the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/ Differently-abled (Physically and visually differently-abled) categories for the purpose of eligibility and for assessing good academic record during direct recruitment to teaching positions. The eligibility of 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible, based on only the qualifying marks without including any grace mark procedures.

A relaxation of 5% may be provided from 55% to 50% of the marks to Ph.D Degree holders, who have obtained their Master's Degree prior to 19 Sept. 1991.

In service candidates must apply with the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer. The NOC will be valid for interview with due intimation. The Candidates have to apply in the prescribed format uploaded in the website of Director of Higher Education dheassam.gov.in. Only the Application form uploaded must be used for the purpose.

Last date of Receipt of Applications 4th May, 2017

Address to which the applications delivered : Director of Higher Education, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 19. Please visit our website for details and the application format.

Sd/- Director of Higher Education Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 19

Janasanayog/607/17

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Superintending Engineer, Tezpur Circle (Irrigation), Tezpur, Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites E-bids for the following work under Bishwanath Charaih Circle (Irrigation), Bishwanath.

Name of Scheme/Work

Group No

Group/Packaging

Approx. value of work (Rs)

Improvement of Pafu HS under State Plan of 2016-17

1 Removal of Head work, Bank Protection Work, Site Clearance in the u/s of river bed, Raising and Strengthening of Afflux Bund.

2 Providing CC lining in Canal

85.55Lakh

3 Construction of Brick Lined Canal (Right Side)

22.80Lakh

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 19.04.2017 to 18.05.2017 up to 3 PM.

Ed/- Superintending Engineer, Tezpur Circle(Irrigation), Tezpur, Assam

Janasanayog/208/17

CAPSULE**Figo, Aspire sports editions launched**

NEW DELHI, April 17: Automakers Maruti Suzuki and Ford India have launched sports edition of its hatchback Figo and compact sedan Aspire in the country. Diesel variant of Figo Sports edition is priced at Rs 7.21 lakh while the petrol trim is tagged at Rs 6.31 lakh (all prices ex-showroom Delhi). The new variants come with over dozen design and performance enhancements. The Ford Aspire in sports edition is priced at Rs 7.6 lakh for the 1.5-litre Petrol Titanium version and Rs 6.5 lakh for the 1.2-litre Petrol Titanium variant. Ford India said in a statement. - PTI

Eveready Industries

NEW DELHI, April 17: Eveready Industries (India) is looking beyond its traditional dry battery business and is banking on newly-entered electrical appliances segment along with LED lighting to become major growth drivers. The 110-year-old company, which forayed into fans and air-purifier segments earlier this year, expects around Rs 500-crore revenue to come from the appliances and the LED lighting segments this fiscal. - PTI

Suzuki Motorcycle

NEW DELHI, April 17: Suzuki Motorcycle India today said it has crossed the milestone of 30 lakh units of cumulative production in the country. The success of GSX-R 1000, New Access 125, in scooter and big bike segments has paved the way for this milestone. Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd (SMIPL) said in a statement. - PTI

Sony headphones

NEW DELHI, April 17: Sony today launched three new headphones to give users an immersive music experience. The new models – wireless MDR-XB950B1, wired MDR-XB550AP and MDR-XB10AS – are splash-proof, in-ear sports headphones. The headphones will be available starting April 20. – IANS

Jet codeshare

MUMBAI, April 17: Jet Airways and Virgin Atlantic today expanded their codeshare agreement between India and the US by enhancing connectivity via London.

"This partnership makes it even easier for guests to tailor their travel by combining flights from Jet, Virgin Atlantic and Delta Airlines," the airlines said. - PTI

RoohAfza Fusion

KOLKATA, April 17: Century-old FMCG company Hemonil and Laboratories has launched RoohAfza Fusion to harness the estimated Rs 7000-crore ready-to-drink beverage segment. The drink is a combination of its summer drink RoohAfza with pure fruit juice and is available in a 200 ml pack priced at Rs 20. RoohAfza Fusion comes in five flavours, namely Refreshing Lemon, Delicious Orange, Juicy Mango, Exciting Pineapple and Orange, and Luscious Litchi. - PTI

Videocool smartphone

NEW DELHI, April 17: Domestic mobile manufacturer Videocool today launched its latest smartphone, the V1+, that comes smarphone with Processor based on Android Marshmallow, for Rs 5,800. The Pro 360 OS offers a series of features, including security, privacy, efficiency and remote access. - IANS

Tantuja sarees

KOLKATA, April 17: Tantuja, the apex body of handloom weavers' society of West Bengal has tied up with online marketplace Amazon.com for selling sarees in the US. Tantuja would now become a seller under Amazon's global selling programme covering 10 countries of the world. Swapan Debnath, West Bengal Minister of State for Handloom and Textiles told reporters here today. - PTI

Lufthansa strategy

MUMBAI, April 17: Ruling out any plans to venture into India's domestic aviation business at this stage, German carrier Lufthansa said its cost of operations here is "very high." "We are not interested in being another player for domestic operations. Because we are not an expert in that," Lufthansa Group Airlines' Senior Director for South Asia Wolfgang Will said here. - PTI

RBL Hackathon

HYDERABAD, April 17: Private sector RBL Bank today announced the launch of a contest aimed at fostering the creation of new solutions in banking and financial services. The contest, 'RBL Hackathon,' is targeted at engineering students, IT professionals, tech enthusiasts, start-ups and app developers, the bank said in a statement. - PTI

Services sector needs to gear up for Industrial Revolution 4.0: Nirmala

GREATER NOIDA, April 17: India's services sector must gear up to take advantage of Industrial Revolution 4.0, which will create huge opportunities in high-tech manufacturing, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said today.

Emphasising the growing importance of the services sector, she said India has also relaxed its visa regime to facilitate movement of tourists and businesses.

At global platforms people are talking about Industrial Revolution 4.0 which would open huge opportunities for Indian companies in the services sector as there is a "servicification" of manufacturing, she said. In manufacturing of goods, "a huge degree of services" are involved, Sitharaman said.

The next level of industrial revolution encompasses use of robotics, artificial intelligence and increasing digitisation in which, according to experts, there is a big role of the services sector. The country is very strong in the segment and "there is so much opportunity for India," the minister said at the Global Exhibition on Services.

Talking about the importance of visa regime for the sector, Sitharaman said that from April 1 India has liberalised it for businesses, tourists and also for students.

Obtaining a visa in the country today is a simple process through on-



Citing a WTO report, she said that in 2014-15, there was a dip in global services trade but during the same period, India recorded two-and-a-half times more growth.

India's share in the global services

trade stood at 3.3 per cent and "government is facilitating the sector with its policies," she added.

Talking about the importance of visa regime for the sector, Sitharaman said that from April 1 India has liberalised it for businesses, tourists and also for students.

The sector is growing at CAGR of 9.2 per cent and during the year, "we will achieve at least 8.8 per cent" growth, Teota said. - PTI



Former Tennis World No 1 and triple Roland Garros winner Arantxa Sanchez (L), unveiling a new Longines watch, in New Delhi on Monday. - UNI

India achieved 12,200 MW of solar capacity: Goyal

BHOPAL, April 17: Stating that India has already achieved 12,200 MW of solar capacity so far, Union power minister Piyush Goyal today reiterated that the country is well poised to reach its target of 100 GW capacity by 2022.

"The country's solar power generation capacity was 2,600 MW and now it has jumped to 12,200 MW now," Goyal said at an event here.

He was in the city to attend the signing of power purchase agreements between Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and authorities concerned for buying power from the 750 MW Reva Ultra Mega Solar (RUMS) project in Madhya Pradesh. Goyal said the earlier UPA government had set a target to generate 20,000 MW solar energy by 2022.

"This mark, we are going to achieve by this year-end, five years ahead of the target set by the earlier government. We are confident that we will achieve our 100 GW target by 2022," Goyal added.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu said the DMRC will now get green energy for around Rs 3.30 per unit from RUMS.

"Right now, DMRC is getting power for around Rs 6 per unit. But now it will get green energy at a very cheap rate of just Rs 3.30 per unit," he said. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said providing clean and green energy was priority of the state and his government is promoting sustainable development keeping in mind the environment. - PTI

Stake sale in 7 PSUs Govt plans to raise Rs 34,000 cr

NEW DELHI, April 17: The government is looking at selling minority stakes in seven PSUs, including bluechip ones like IOC, SAIL and NTPC, which have a potential to raise over Rs 34,000 crore.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has come out with requests for proposal (RFPs) for appointing merchant bankers and legal advisors for stake sale in these PSUs.

The other companies which are on the radar include NHPC, NPCL, REC and NLC India Ltd.

DIPAM Secretary Neeraj Gupta said no time-frame has been fixed for these disinvestments and the RFPs are merely a decision to appoint merchant bankers.

"The process is currently done to explore the possibility of any disinvestment. There is no imminent disinvestment in any of these PSUs," Gupta said.

An official source said that these stake sales will take some time to happen as there are already 12 PSUs for which the government has secured approval from the Cabinet to go ahead with disinvestment. As per the RFP, the government plans to sell 3 per cent stake in Indian Oil Corporation, 10 per cent each in SAIL, NTPC, NHPC and PFC. Besides, a 15 per cent stake in NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) and 5 per cent in REC are proposed to be put on the block. - PTI

Airlines to increase summer capacity by over 15%

MUMBAI, April 17: Domestic airlines will operate over 17,170 flights every week during the on-going summer schedule, an increase of 15.5 per cent compared to the year-ago period.

The number of departures per week in the 2016 summer schedule were 14,869.

As per the official data, 13 domestic airlines of the total 15 submitted their flight schedules for the March-October period this year.

The carriers who did not file their summer schedule flight plans are newly launched Zoom Air and grounded carrier Air Pegasus, according to the data. Indian Airlines summer schedule commences from the last Saturday of March and goes up to the last

Friday of October every year.

As per the data, budget carrier AirAsia India and full-service Vistara airlines have increased their services by nearly 80 per cent during the summer schedule.

While Vistara will operate 600 flights during the summer schedule as compared to 334 flights during the last summer, AirAsia India has increased the number of its flights to 502 as against 280 during the last summer, it said.

Regional player Truetel, which is one among the five air operators chosen to kick-start Government regional connectivity scheme Udan, will have 238 flights this summer, up from 112 last year while Air India's regional arm Alliance Air will have 368 flights as against 234 flights operated during the last summer.

TRAI forms sub-groups to weed out outdated rules

NEW DELHI, April 17: Communication regulator TRAI has constituted three sub-groups in areas like licensing, tariff and service quality, to identify and weed out regulations and orders.

The entire exercise is likely to be completed in the next 2-3 months, a senior TRAI official said.

The official, who did not wish to be named, said that the three advisers of TRAI – Sanjeev Baral (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing), Vinod Kotwal (Financial & Economic Analysis) and Asit Kadayan (Quality of Service) – are heading the individual sub-groups.

"The idea is to identify obsolete regulations that have already outlived their purpose," the official said.

The sub-groups, which also include industry representatives, will jointly examine and identify regulations and tariff orders that are out of sync with the times.

One such area of this could be pricing where services and related regulations have become outdated and are no longer relevant. Similarly, there may be regulations related to technology, like CDMA, which may be looked at during the review.

Industry representatives from Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India, Reliance Jio, Idea Cellular, Telenor and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd are some of the members of the sub-groups. - PTI



The above is the photograph of one Smriti Muskan Salk (25 years), W/o Md. Yusuf of Village Rezon, P.S. Dognih, Dist. Uttar Pradesh who is missing since 07.03.2017 from Dognih town.

This refers to Milan Nagar O.P. G.O. Date No. 280/17 dated 12.03.2017.

The Descriptive roll of the missing Person: Smriti Muskan Salk.

(a) Complete roll - Fair.

(b) Age - 25 years.

(c) Sex - Female.

(d) Height - 4 ft. 9 inch.

(e) Hair - Brown.

All efforts may be taken to trace out/recover the above noted missing/untraced person at the earliest and result thereof may be intimated to S.P. Office, Dognih, over Telephone No. 0873-2244241 or further necessary action.

Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Dognih, Assam.

Janasanyog/582/17

GSC GUWAHATI SMART CITY LTD (CIN U45309AS2016SC017403)

Staffed Building, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005

E-mail: mdmsmartcity@gmail.com Website: www.gscdal.in

No. SPV/GSC DAL/GEN/7/2016/15 Dated 14.04.2017

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Guwahati Smart City Limited, a Govt. of Assam company invites applications from interested candidates for the following Key Managerial posts on contract basis for initial period of three years:

Sl. No. Name of the Post

1. Chief Executive Officer

2. Chief Urban Planner

3. Chief Technology Officer

4. Sewerage/Drainage/Water Supply Engineer

5. Structural Engineer

6. GIS Engineer

7. Chief Communication Officer/Public Relation Officer

8. Company Secretary

9. PPP Expert

10. Social Development Specialist

(Project Management Assistant)

The remuneration for the posts are negotiable. The interested candidates may submit applications along with CV and supporting documents mentioning the expected salary to mdmsmartcityhr@gmail.com from 20th April, 2017 to 20th May, 2017, further details about the advertisement can be downloaded from the website www.gscdal.in which will be available from 20th April, 2017.

Sd/- Manmendra Pratap Singh, IAS

Managing Director

No. XXVII/169/1

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Jorhat Road Circle, Jorhat, Assam on behalf of the Government of Assam invites bids in the district of JORHAT (JORHAT LAC & DERGAON LAC) Under "Assam Road Maintenance Fund (PRMF) for the year 2016-17". The bids should be delivered to this office on or before 14.00 hours of 08/05/2017. Tender papers will be sold on 18/05/2017 to 19/05/2017.

SL. No. Name of Works Approx. value of work (in Rs.) Time of completion Cost of Tender Papers (in Rs.) Bid Security 2% (in Rs.) percent

SL. No.	Name of Works	Approx. value of work (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Cost of Tender Papers (in Rs.)	Bid Security 2% (in Rs.) percent
1.	Under Assam Road Maintenance Fund (PRMF) for the Year 2016-17 PWD, Johat Road Division, State Road Division, Jorhat (JORHAT LAC)	Rs. 14,99,915.00	4(Four) Months	300.00	30,000.00
2.	Maintenance & Repairs of Sonari Gaon Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.195.00m) L=1.41Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/01	Rs. 13,99,980.00	4(Four) Months	300.00	28,000.00
3.	Maintenance & Repairs of Sonari Gaon Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.195.00m) L=1.41Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/02	Rs. 19,11,500.00	4(Four) Months	400.00	38,200.00
4.	Reparing & Rehabilitation of Langdiarpur Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.190.00m) L=1.30Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/03	Rs. 32,99,980.00	4(Four) Months	700.00	66,000.00
5.	Maintenance & Repairs of Rupnagar Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.320.00m) L=0.35Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/05	Rs. 10,99,961.00	4(Four) Months	300.00	22,000.00
6.	Reparation & Rehabilitation of No.1 Banum Gaon Borang Road (Ch.0.00m to Ch.130.00m) L=1.30Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/06	Rs. 20,00,000.00	4(Four) Months	400.00	40,000.00
7.	Reparation & Rehabilitation of Phongraona Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.180.00m & From Ch.400.00m to Ch.620.00m) L=0.38Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/07	Rs. 30,00,000.00	4(Four) Months	600.00	60,000.00
8.	Repair & Maintenance of TFR Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.100.00m) L=0.25Km Strengthening of existing Single Lane carriageway to Double Lane carriageway L=0.15Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/08	Rs. 26,99,926.00	4(Four) Months	500.00	54,000.00
9.	Repairing & Rehabilitation of KK Handiga Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.110.00m) L=0.25Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/09	Rs. 25,00,000.00	4(Four) Months	500.00	50,000.00
10.	Repairing & Rehabilitation of Parjat Nagar Road (From Ch.500.00m to Ch.760.00m) L=0.20Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/10	Rs. 16,20,206.00	4(Four) Months	300.00	32,400.00
11.	Repairing & Maintenance of No.2 Barrungach Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.100.00m) L=0.23Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/11	Rs. 34,32,000.00	4(Four) Months	700.00	68,600.00
12.	Construction of RCC Br. No.10 in Diganbaruk Road under Tukla Stream with approach Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/12	Rs. 56,92,000.00	4(Four) Months	1,100.00	1,13,800.00
13.	Construction of concrete asphalt wearing Course and inner drainage system for the construction of RCC Br. No.12 over river Bhopudi on Road No. 17/18/PWD, Jorhat	Rs. 11,40,941.00	4(Four) Months	300.00	22,800.00
14.	Repair of Gar-ti to Tribal Guest House (PWD Private), L=200.00m Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/13	Rs. 28,33,378.00	4(Four) Months	600.00	56,700.00
15.	Repair of Parang Pulan Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.700.00m) L=0.70Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/14	Rs. 33,05,000.00	4(Four) Months	700.00	66,100.00
16.	Repair of Mahila Udug Road (L=240.00m) Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/15	Rs. 11,71,000.00	4(Four) Months	300.00	23,400.00
17.	Under Assam Road Maintenance Fund (PRMF) for the year 2016-17 PWD, Johat State Road Division, Jorhat (DERGAON LAC)	Rs. 13,33,000.00	4(Four) months	300.00	26,700.00
18.	Repairing & Maintenance of Chokhoreha Road (From Ch.0.00m to Ch.190.00m) L=1.93KM Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/JORHAT/16	Rs. 21,99,659.00	4(Four) Months	400.00	44,000.00
19.	Repair & Rehabilitation of Tarijan Gayagon Road (From Ch.83.00m to Ch.120.00m) L=0.385Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/02	Rs. 24,99,047.00	4(Four) Months	500.00	50,000.00
20.	Repair & Rehabilitation of live Road from AT Road to 37 Km Pass (From Ch.850.00m to Ch.1000.00m) L=0.16Km Package No. ARMF/PRMF/JSRD/UDR/03	Rs. 23,00,000.00	4(Four) Months	500.00	46,000.00

Note : Tender papers may be purchased by depositing non refundable fees as stated in the table above in the form of Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque of a Schedule Commercial Bank drawn in favour of Empowered Officer, Assam State Road Board A/C No. 10566991479 and payable at Guwahati.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.

Jorhat Road Circle, Jorhat.

Janasanyog/157/17

Cong govt did not accord land rights to tribals: PM

SILVASSA (Dadra & Nagar Haveli), April 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today accused the previous UPA governments of failing to allot land to tribal people in those union territory areas "where it had a direct control."

He also accused the Congress-led UPA governments at the Centre of not fulfilling its duty of according land rights to tribal people and blaming the states instead for it.

Addressing a public meeting here, he said while it is the duty of the Centre to accord land rights to the tribal people, the previous Congress government always blamed the states for it.

"Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh saw best progress in giving land rights to the tribals. But the government of India and the Congress leaders used to instigate the tribals that the Modi government (who was then the Gujarat chief minister) was not giving land rights to the tribals," he

told the gathering.

He said when he became the Prime Minister, he realized it is the duty of the Centre and not the states to hand over the land rights to the tribals.

"When I became the Prime Minister, I was stunned to find out that they (the UPA government) had not given the land rights to a single tribal person in the Union territories, where they had a direct control," Modi said.

"They were in power for 10 years, but they always put the states on the dock (for not giving land rights). Not even a single tribal in the Union Territory was given the land rights," he said.

Modi said he was the first Prime Minister to visit this Union territory in the last 35 years. Earlier, erstwhile Prime Minister Morarji Desai had visited Silvassa.

Before this meeting, Modi handed over the land rights documents to the tribals,

gas connections to the women and other aids to the physically challenged people.

"After we came to power, we decided to give land rights to tribals. Tribals were tilling the land for years, but they did not get the land rights for years. Today, 2,325 families have been given land rights for the first time," Modi said.

Modi promised houses to tribals in Dadra and Nagar Haveli under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna,' by 2022.

"We have conducted a survey here in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. We found out that 6,234 people do not have houses in rural areas while 800 do not have houses in Silvassa town. All of them will get houses by 2022," he said.

On the occasion, financial assistance and distribution of equipment to the physically-challenged was announced for 21,000 beneficiaries of different Central schemes. - PTI



Renowned sand artist Sudarson Pattnaik creating a sand sculpture of Biju Pattnaik on his death anniversary, with message 'Tribute to a true legend Biju Babu, deserves Bharat Ratna' at Puri beach of Odisha on Sunday. - UNI

Heat wave sweeps Punjab, Haryana

CHANDIGARH, April 17: Blistering heat wave swept most parts of Haryana and Punjab today, with Narnaul sizzling at 45 degrees Celsius.

Narnaul in Haryana was hotter by seven notches above the normal, a MeT Department official said here. His record shows that during the last 10 days, temperatures have been six degrees more than the normal.

Ambala and Karnal recorded similar above normal maximum temperature at 39.2 degrees Celsius and 39.3 degrees Celsius respectively.

Chandigarh braved a hot day at 39 degrees Celsius, four degrees more than the normal limits. Intense heat prevailed in Amritsar, where the mercury touched 42.7 degrees Celsius, eight degrees above the normal.

Ludhiana also had a hot day at 40.9 degrees Celsius, up five notches while Patiala's maximum temperature settled at 40.6 degrees Celsius, also five degrees more than normal limits, the official said.

The MeT official said heat wave conditions were expected to abate for a few days from April 21 as a Western Disturbance was approaching the northern region.

"We expect light showers with dust storm on April 21," he said. - PTI

Modi in favour of generic drugs

SURAT, April 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today indicated that his government may bring in a legal framework under which doctors will have

of a charitable hospital here, exhorted the wealthy people to come forward and contribute towards health care of the needy people.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurating the Kiran Multispeciality Hospital, in Surat, Gujarat on Monday. - UNI

"We will bring in a legal framework by which if a doctor writes a prescription, he has to write in it that it will be enough for patients to buy generic med-

icines," he pointed out.

"It is the government's responsibility that everybody should get health services at minimal price," the PM said.

"We have recently declared a health policy. The health policy has been brought in after 15 years," he said.

"Earlier, the health policy was brought when Atalji (A Vajpeyi) was the Prime Minister. Nothing happened in between (in health sector), which I have to do now," Modi said targeting the previous UPA government led by the Congress.

"When I was in Gujarat, I used to attract the wrath of many (by my decisions). Now when I have gone to Delhi, I have been instrumental in making many people angry, everyday I do some work which makes some or other person sul."

"See these companies which are manufacturing medicines, they used to charge Rs 1,200 for an injection. We called everyone (pharma companies) and ensured that the prices are reduced."

"The prices of 700 medicines were capped so that poor people get medicines at reasonable rates when they face grave diseases," Modi said. - PTI

This country has not been built by the kings and leaders alone but by the power of the people, he said.

"In our country doctors are less, hospitals are less and medicines are expensive. If one person falls ill in a middle class family, then the financial health of the family gets wrecked. He cannot buy a house, cannot conduct the marriage of daughter,"

icine and he need not buy any other medicine," he said.

"In our country doctors are less, hospitals are less and medicines are expensive. If one person falls ill in a middle class family, then the financial health of the family gets wrecked. He cannot buy a house, cannot conduct the marriage of daughter,"

AIADMK leader booked

NEW DELHI, April 17: The Delhi Police today booked AIADMK (Anna) leader TTV Dinakaran for allegedly trying to bribe an Election Commission official for obtaining the party symbol for his faction following the arrest of an alleged middleman.

Dinakaran, who is a nephew of AIADMK (Anna) chief VK Sasikala and party's deputy general secretary, denied the allegation against him, calling it a false.

Dinakaran further said that he did not try to bribe anyone and that he had no knowledge of the alleged middleman.

The crime branch of the Delhi police claimed Dinakaran was trying to ensure that his party was allotted the AIADMK poll symbol of two leaves for the April 12 by-election to the R K Nagar Assembly seat in Chennai that has

since been cancelled over the issue of money power to influence voters. Dinakaran was the candidate of the SasiSakala faction.

An FIR against Dinakaran was filed following the arrest of Sukeesh Chandrasekhar, an alleged middleman, from a five-star hotel in Delhi in yesterday's election. A senior police officer said. - PTI

Cong accuses BJP of paying naxals

RAIPUR, April 17: The Congress today alleged that the ruling BJP had transferred "crates of rupees" to naxals ahead of the Jiram Valley attack in 2013, in which many top leaders of the opposition party were killed, and demanded an CBI probe.

Congress also demanded that the CBI should probe a "nexus" between the police and ultras in the state. Baghel said that the allegations had earlier been brought against the government that it had given money to secure release of IAS officer Alex Paul Menon from Maoists' captivity in 2012.

"But, so far no probe has been conducted to verify the accusations," he said, alleging that there is a "nexus" between the police and ultras in the state.

However, the BJP has termed "baseless" the allegations leveled by the Congress.

"We have received information that cash worth crores was given to naxals by the ruling government via some unknown person ahead of the Jiram Valley attack," the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Bhupesh Baghel said in a press conference here.

The crime branch of the Delhi police claimed Dinakaran was trying to ensure that his party was allotted the AIADMK poll symbol of two leaves for the April 12 by-election to the R K Nagar Assembly seat in Chennai that has

since been cancelled over the issue of money power to influence voters. Dinakaran was the candidate of the SasiSakala faction.

An FIR against Dinakaran was filed following the arrest of Sukeesh Chandrasekhar, an alleged middleman, from a five-star hotel in Delhi in yesterday's election. A senior police officer said. - PTI

treatment at a hospital in Gurgaon in June that year.

Baghel said that the allegations had earlier been brought against the government that it had given money to secure release of IAS officer Alex Paul Menon from Maoists' captivity in 2012.

"But, so far no probe has been conducted to verify the accusations," he said, alleging that there is a "nexus" between the police and ultras in the state.

Baghel said he recently met a purported police informer Abhay Singh in jail in Ambikapur district headquarter, who has "crucial details pertaining to alleged nexus between the police and Maoists in the state."

However, senior BJP leader and MLA Shantanu Sharma rejected the allegations, terming them "baseless".

"After the Jiram Valley attack, then UPA government at the Centre had ordered a probe by the NIA (National Investigation Agency) into the incident. But, nothing as such was found in the NIA probe," Sharma said.

He said the Congress was leveling such allegations as it has no issues to raise against the state government. - PTI

HRD launches app to track funding

NEW DELHI, April 17: Higher education stakeholders and institutional leaders will now be able to track the progress of projects under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiya (RUSA) with the HRD Ministry launching a "Fund and reform" tracker.

The Ministry has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for geo-tracking of the RUSA projects.

"To re-imagine our classrooms, be in sync with time and technology and engage stakeholders in constant conversation to do and achieve more, is the aim of this application besides being sort of a report card of states with details of their higher education policies, plans and best practices," Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said at the launch.

He said the interface would be available for the central government, the state higher education stakeholders, apart

from thousands of vendors panned across India.

"Each will get a varied level of access to the app depending on their role and functionality," he added.

RUSA is a centrally-sponsored scheme (CSS) of HRD Ministry aimed at providing central funding to state higher education departments and institutions to achieve the broad objectives of access, equity and excellence.

Javadekar also launched 17 projects under the scheme today including a cluster university in Jammu and Kashmir, solar power facility in Kerala's Shree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit and language laboratories in Jharkhand's Ghatshila College.

The app will capture the fund allocation as per the Project Approval Board, the installment-wise fund release by the Centre and the state, the institution-wise key project, vendors appointed and the payment made to them as also stage-wise photos and

time stamps of payments made and comments entered.

"Every initiative will be tagged with a unique ID number, thus providing the entire story of how an idea germinated and manifested," he added.

The dashboard will give an overall picture of the scheme and the state-wise performance of the impact that the programme has made.

"Component-wise details give a quick snapshot into the funding of RUSA projects. Whether it is infrastructure grants or equity initiatives, this window gives a peek into the funds approved, the amount released, the sum utilized and the percentage of work completed," a senior HRD Ministry official said.

"Stakeholders can also get granular details on the money released from the Centre and the state. The date stamps give a picture on the timeliness followed and the pictures provide the ground reality," he added. - PTI



Christians celebrating Easter by kissing the feet of Jesus Christ, at Infant Jesus chapel Church, Kharodi village Malad(w), in Mumbai on Sunday. - UNI

Forest dwellers to be relocated from tiger reserves

NEW DELHI, April 17: Forest dwellers and tribals living in critical tiger habitats or the core areas of tiger reserves may soon have to move out after losing their right to continue living there.

A letter from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has asked for references from the field directors of all the 50 tiger reserves, looking ahead to abolish rights of the tribals and forest dwellers as ensured by the Wildlife Protection Act.

"In the absence of guidelines for notification of Critical Wildlife Habitats, no rights shall be conferred in Critical Tiger Habitats which is duly notified under Section 38 V(4)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 under the Act cited next for est subject," says the NTCA letter dated March 28.

The step is aimed at better conservation of the tigers in India - home to over 2,500 or about 70 per cent of the world's tiger.

In 2016, at least 50 tigers and 127 leopards are said to have been poached - highest in the last 10 years.

Based on scientific studies, the Section 38 V(4)(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 says that the core or critical tiger habitat areas of national parks and sanctuaries shall be kept as "inviolate" for tiger conservation.

However, this section also lays down that this should be done "without affecting the rights" of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA),

move out "voluntarily". Under the voluntary shifting option, the forest dwellers are offered

two packages - Rs 10 lakh per adult of a family, or grant of equal land mostly situated in the forest re-

serve villages situated outside the reserves or national parks.

Experts, however, say the new

NTCA proposal would give offer them only one choice - accept one of the two packages and move out. So, the right of choice to continue living would not be there.

"Under FRA, tribals or the forest dwellers, whose families had been residing in the core region for at least 75 years, are entitled to claim the rights on land in their villages and on the minor forest resources..."

"The FRA is, however, subject to change in case dwelling continues in the Critical Wildlife Habitats, and the same is now being applied to the Critical Tiger Habitats as well," a senior forest official told IANS preferring anonymity.

The total land under the tiger reserves is over 37,761 km, as per the official data. This is, however, only one per cent of the total land mass of the country.

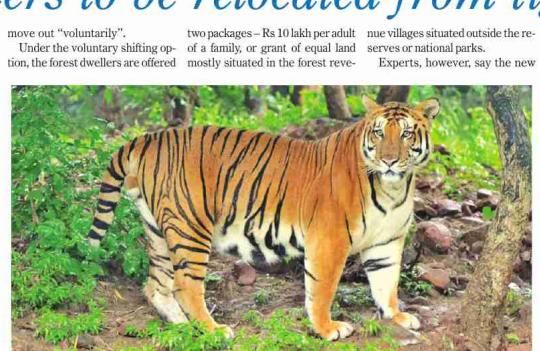
According to a 2005 report, as many as 3,80,535 people in 66,516 families were living within the 29 tiger reserves. Of this, about 1,01,077 lived in core areas of tiger reserves.

About Rs 20.7 crore was spent by the government over the relocation of families from five tiger reserves in 2005. This cost did not include land grants.

The relocation saw a rise with the passage of time.

According to a forest official, over 1,400 families from at least ten villages of Baiga and Gond tribes were moved from the core forest area of Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh between 2010 and 2016.

Despite nearly 36 villages shifted gradually since 1969, seven villages still exist in the core of Kanha. The number of people relocated remains uncertain. - IANS





For a healthy heart

Restricting trans fatty foods reduces heart attack risks, says a study

Hospitalisation for heart attacks and strokes is less common among people living in areas that restrict trans fats in foods compared to residents in areas without restrictions, new research has found.

"Our study highlights the power of public policy to impact the cardiovascular health of a population," said lead author Eric Brandt from Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, US.

Trans fatty acids, or trans fats, are commonly found in fried foods, chips, crackers and baked goods.

Eating even minimal amounts is linked to a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death worldwide.

Some communities in the US – most notably New York City – have eliminated the use of trans fats in restaurants and eateries in recent years.

To study the impact of restricting trans fats, researchers compared outcomes for people living in New York counties with and without the restrictions.

Using data from the State Department of Health and Census estimates between 2002 and 2013, the researchers focused on hospital admissions for heart attack and stroke.

They found that three or more years after the restrictions were implemented, people living in areas with the bans saw significantly fewer hospitalisations for heart attack and stroke when compared to similar urban areas where no limit existed.

The decline for the combined conditions was 6.2 per cent, said the study published in the journal *JAMA Cardiology*.

"It is a pretty substantial decline," Brandt said.

"The results are impressive, given that the study focused on trans fatty acid bans in restaurants, as opposed to complete bans that included food bought in stores," senior author Tamar S Polonsky, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago, added.

"If we enact a more complete restriction on trans fatty acids, it could mean even more widespread benefits for people," Polonsky said. – IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

This year you often test yourself about whether to do what you want or do what you know you should. You might not always be aware of this conflict. Trying to merge both views often won't be possible. If you are single, you meet a lot of people who could be potential suitors in the near future. You are likely to confuse someone with your mixed messages. If you are attached, you and your sweetie might want to spend more time alone together. If you notice a confused look from him or her, stop and find out what is going on. CAPRICORN responds to your effectiveness.

The Star Show that Day It'll Have! 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You jump from one situation to another. You might not realize just how much energy you are stirring up. Others often appreciate your enthusiasm and efforts; however, one person could be controlling in trying to get you to do what he or she wants you to do. Tonight: Change gears.

Taurus (April 20-May 18) Hand-to-hand combat. You know that people often say one thing, but really mean something else. Conform in your own way that your interpretation is correct. Sometimes acting on what is said is the best approach. Tonight: Head to the weekend, then make plans.

GEMINI (May 19-June 20) ***** You need to stick closely to certain individuals. Try to hang in there, even when you feel uncomfortable. You will gain perspective through the experience. Know that you don't have to be in control of a situation; in fact, let fate take the reins. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Differ in opinions, especially if you are not interested in the immediate situation. You can't seem to stay present in the moment. Your mind seems to be traveling to other times and places. You might want to make plans for a vacation in the near future. Tonight: Listen to suggestions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** You might be overwhelmed by all the calls, emails and requests that head your way. You'll want to shut out some of the activity or simply screen your calls. Know that following through will be difficult. Others could be upset at your unavailability. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Some may not take your ideas and make them even better. Tonight: Play as if there were no tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** What you say will have ramifications, perhaps even more than you might have anticipated. You know the power of saying less and allowing others' imaginations to take over. You might want to revise your thinking after you get some feedback. Tonight: Swap news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Be aware of your surroundings. You could be setting yourself up for trouble without realizing it. Slow down, and use more self-discipline.

You need to consider a recent conversation you have had with someone, as he or she may have made a good suggestion. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

***** You might have to be less confrontational around you. What starts out as an easygoing partnership could rapidly become a problem. Try not to let a bond develop so quickly in the future, at least until you know the other party better. Tonight: Head home early if you can.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** What you say will have ramifications, perhaps even more than you might have anticipated. You know the power of saying less and allowing others' imaginations to take over. You might want to revise your thinking after you get some feedback. Tonight: Swap news.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

***** You might be in a situation differently from how those around you are. A conversation with like minds will be rewarding and will allow you to open up to even better ideas. Others might not be as receptive. Say little for now. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

FEBRUARY 2017

***** Keep your distances from a friend who has a tendency to cause some upset. You might act as if the effects of this person's behavior are irrelevant, but you quickly will discover otherwise. Recognize what you can do and what you cannot. Tonight: Follow the fun.

* * *

Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan lied thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?... And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost.

— ACTS

Kids

CN

12:00	Crime Trans Go
12:30	Klepto Go
13:00	Roll No 21
13:30	Monsters Inc.
15:30	My Knight and Me
16:00	We Bare Bears
16:30	Despicable Girls
17:00	Ben 10
17:30	Crime Trans Go
18:00	Lana
18:30	Roll No 21
20:00	Crime Trans Go
21:00	Supernatural
21:30	Ben 10
22:00	Crime Trans Go
23:00	Ben 10

SONY

12:00	Crime Trans Satark
19:00	Yeh Moh Moh Ke
19:30	Monsters Inc.
20:30	Jaai Ki Jogi
21:00	Beyhadh
21:30	Kuch Rang Pyar Ke
22:00	Crime Trans 100

colors

12:00	Ek Shringar: Swabhumi
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Around the WORLD

Oldest rock art painted 5,000 years ago

JOHANNESBURG, April 17: Scientists have discovered the earliest rock art paintings in southern Africa, dating back to about 5,000 years, that include scenes of fish and animals and figures drawn on the walls of natural caves.

Researchers used a novel technique to isolate the paint fragments before dating them, as well as 13 other fragments from rock art sites across southern Africa, including in Lesotho and South Africa.

The new method "has given us the first really solid dates for the antiquity of surviving rock shelter art in southern Africa," said Adelaine Bonneau, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Cape Town.

The San or bushmen are native to southern Africa, and have some of the best-understood rock art traditions in the world, Bonneau said. However, the paint recipes and the ages of these paintings were less well-known, she said.

Dating rock art requires removing a chip of the paint as well as the original carbon from the painting.

Wind, rain, and pollution, as well as plant and animal interference can harm rock art, making whatever is left difficult to date. - PTI



Long March-7 rocket and Tianzhou-1 cargo spacecraft are seen as they are transferred to a launching spot in Wenchang, Hainan province, China, on Monday. - UNI

China to launch first cargo spacecraft

BEIJING, April 17: China's first cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1 is to be launched into space between April 20 and 24 to dock with the orbiting experimental space station. The cargo spacecraft was transferred with a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket from the testing centre to the launch pad in Wenchang, southern China's Hainan province, a statement from the office of China's manned space programme said today.

"The completion of the transfer signals the Tianzhou-1 mission has entered its launching stage," state-run Xinhua quoted the statement as saying.

China currently is in the process of building permanent station by 2022 to rival Russia's International Space Station (ISS). Technicians have performed several tests on board the assembly of the spacecraft and rocket since February, it said.

In the following days, technicians will continue testing the spacecraft and rocket and inject fuel before the launch, it said.

Tianzhou-1 is the first cargo ship independently developed by the country. It is expected to dock with the orbiting Tiangong-2 space lab and conduct in-orbit refuelling, the report said. - PTI

Man, fiancée kicked off UA flight

HOUSTON, April 17: A bride and groom headed for their wedding were booted from a United Airlines flight here after they relocated to seats three rows up without permission, the latest public relations headache for the major American company.

Michael Hohl and Amber Maxwell boarded Flight 1737 on Saturday, from Houston to their wedding in Costa Rica, along with friends to find a mapping man sprawled across their assigned seats, 24B and 24C, they were quoted as saying by the

local TV KHOU.com.

They relocated to empty seats three rows up, 21B and 21C, with Hohl saying they were "simply in an economy row a few rows above our economy seat" on the apparently half-full flight.

Hohl said after complying with the flight attendant's demand to return to their assigned seats, a US Marshalls came onto the plane and asked them to get off. They left the aircraft without incident, the report said.

United, however, offered a different account in a statement

KHOU obtained. "These passengers repeatedly attempted to sit in upgraded seating which they did not purchase and they would not follow crew instructions to return to their assigned seats," the airline said. "We've been in touch with them and have rebooked them."

"They said that we were being disorderly and a hazard to the rest of the flight, to the safety of the other customers," Hohl said.

They were rebooked for another flight the next morning, but Hohl said they won't be flying United

again and described the whole situation as "quite strange."

"I think customer service and the airline has gone real downhill," said Hohl. "The way United Airlines handled this was really absurd."

United Airlines recently made headlines and remains under scrutiny following its treatment to the Vietnamese-American passenger, David Dao, who was physically dragged off an "overbooked" flight when he refused to give up his seat for United crew members on a flight from Chicago to Louisville. - PTI



Smoke rises above Al-Nuri mosque in the old city as Iraqi forces fight Islamic State militants in Mosul, Iraq, on Monday. - UNI

US nudges Pak to 'confront' terror in all its forms

ISLAMABAD, April 17: The US today asked Pakistan to "confront" terrorism in all its forms as America's National Security Adviser held talks with the top civilian and military leadership here during an unannounced visit, the first by a top Trump administration official to this country.

US National Security Adviser (NSA) H.R. McMaster, who arrived here earlier in the day, had talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister's Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan NSA Lt Gen (rtd) Naseer Janjua and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi.

"McMaster expressed appreciation for Pakistan's democratic and economic development, and stressed the need to confront terrorism in all its forms," said a US Embassy statement on McMaster's meeting with the top civilian and military leadership here.

The two sides discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues, it said. During McMaster's call on Sharif, while talking about Indo-Pak ties, reiterated his "firm conviction" to sustained dialogue in

and meaningful engagement as the only way forward to resolve all outstanding issues, including the Kashmir dispute, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement here said.

Sharif welcomed President Trump's willingness to help India and Pakistan resolve their differences particularly on Kashmir and noted that this could go a long way in bringing sustainable peace, security and prosperity to the region, the statement said.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed his commitment to a peaceful neighbourhood and apprised the US of the steps taken by Pakistan to reach out to both India and Afghanistan, the statement said.

Sharing his concerns over the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and the continuing impasse, Sharif conveyed Pakistan's readiness to work with the international community to explore ways in which the Afghan crisis can be resolved, it said.

McMaster's visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan comes just days after US dropped the largest non-nuclear bomb targeting an Islamic State complex in

Afghanistan, close to the border with Pakistan.

This was McMaster's first visit to Pakistan as the US NSA and the first formal high-level exchange between the US and Pakistan under the new Donald Trump Administration.

During his meeting with McMaster, Sharif stated that across-the-board consensus was achieved by his government to combat extremism and terrorism, the PMO statement said.

Sharif said that as a longstanding friend and a partner, Pakistan was looking forward to forging a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with the US and to working with the new administration, to promote peace and security in the region and beyond, the statement said.

In his call on Sharif, McMaster conveyed President Trump's greetings and assured the Prime Minister that the new administration was committed to strengthening bilateral ties and working with Pakistan, to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan and in the wider South Asian region, it said.

The visiting delegation included US Ambassa-

dor to Pakistan David Hale, Acting US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Laurel Miller, Senior Director for South Asia Lisa Curtis and Director Pakistan in the National Security Council Jay Wise. The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Aziz, Fateh, Janjua, and other senior officials.

Earlier, McMaster also met Aziz, who gave a detailed briefing on the policies being pursued by the Pakistani government that have resulted in improved security environment and the "economic turnaround" in Pakistan, the Foreign Office here said in a statement. The Pakistani side also shared its perspective on the "plight of Kashmiris" in India and the status of relations with New Delhi, the statement said.

Aziz reiterated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision of a peaceful neighbourhood and commitment to dialogue and engagement while also apprising the visiting US delegation of the steps taken by Pakistan to reach out to both India and Afghanistan, it said. - PTI



US President Donald Trump with First Lady Melania Trump and their son Barron arrive at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, US, after Easter weekend in Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday. - UNI

Detained Pak medical student travelled to Syria to join ISIS'

LAHORE, April 17: A 20-year-old medical student, who was arrested after her husband was killed in an encounter here on Friday, had travelled to Syria in February to join the ISIS and receive weapons training, a media report said today.

Naeem Leghari, a second-year student of the Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences in Jamshoro, Sindh, had visited Syria to join the ISIS terror group in February, The Dawn reported, citing sources.

She had also received training in Syria for using weapons, the sources added. Naeem came to Lahore about three weeks ago and was being tracked by security personnel. She had reportedly been contacted by militants through social media, the paper said.

Her husband Ali Tariq of Lahore, whom she had married after leaving her home and joining the militants, was killed in the encounter in the Punjab Housing Society on Friday night. Four security personnel were injured in the shootout.

Security personnel found her college card and her father's computerised national identity card from their hideout and reportedly

contacted her family in Hyderabad.

She was being interrogated about the modus operandi of the militant network and other people associated with it.

Security forces said they foiled a "major" terror attack on minority Christians ahead of Easter in Lahore and killed the militant and arrested his two aides, including the woman.

Meanwhile, the University Vice Chancellor Naushad Sheikh said the woman was in prolonged contact with a man on social media who radicalised her.

A committee was formed by the university to investigate Naeem, the paper said. "She (Naeem) was in contact with a boy on social media for quite some time," the vice chancellor said. "Her contact with the boy transformed her mindset and influenced her towards extremism," he added. The vice chancellor said that Naeem was a "rescued girl" who used to "pray five times a day." Sheikh added that two of Naeem's friends were Hindus. An official said that after reaching Lahore on February 10, Naeem had messaged her brother through a friend's Facebook profile that she had reached the land of Khilafah (caliphate). - PTI

Massive US bomb was an atrocity: Hamid Karzai

KABUL, April 17: Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai said today that the US is using Afghanistan as a weapons testing ground, calling the recent use of the largest-ever non-nuclear bomb "an immense atrocity against the Afghan people."

Last week, US forces dropped the GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb in eastern Nangarhar province, reportedly killing 95 militants, Karzai, in an interview with The Associated Press, objected to the decision, saying that his country "was used very disproportionately by the US to test its weapons of mass destruction."

The office of President Ashraf Ghani said following the bomb's usage that there was "close coordination" between the US military and the Afghan government over the operation, and they were careful to prevent any civilian casualties.

But Karzai harshly criticized the Afghan government for allowing the use of the bomb.

"How could a government of a country allow the use of a weapon of mass destruction on its own territory? Whatever the reason, whatever the cause, how could they allow that? It just unimaginable," he said.

The strike was carried out Thursday morning against an Islamic State group tunnel complex, carved into a mountain in Nangarhar province, that Afghan forces had tried to assault repeatedly in recent weeks, according to Afghan officials.

US and Afghan forces have been battling the Taliban for more than 15 years. But the US military unveiled the largest conventional bomb in its arsenal against the Islamic State group, which has a far smaller but growing presence in Afghanistan.

US President Donald Trump has publicly vowed to aggressively confront IS. Trump called the operation a "very, very successful mission" but Karzai had harsh words for the new US leader.

"My message to President Trump today is that he has committed an immense atrocity against the Afghan people, against fellow human beings," he said.

"If the American government sees us as human beings, then they have committed a crime against fellow human beings, but if they treat us as less than human beings, well, of course they can do whatever they want."

The US estimates 600-800 IS fighters are in Afghanistan, mostly in Nangarhar. American forces have has concentrated on fighting them while also supporting local Afghan forces against the Taliban. - AP

Death toll in Lanka dump collapse 29

COLOMBO, April 17: The death toll in the collapse of a giant open garbage dump, burying dozens of houses, near the Sri Lankan capital climbed to 29 after rescuers pulled out more bodies from the rubble today. At least seven children were among 29 people killed in the collapse of the garbage dump in Muttom area in Kolomawa near Colombo, media quoted officials as saying.

According to the Disaster Management Centre, at least 625 people belonging to 180 families had

been displaced due to the tragedy, the report said. Survivors of the garbage dump site blamed politicians for the tragedy. "I lost my three children. My wife is in a critical condition. My battle has ended," said N. Keerthiratne, who as the Convener of the movement "People Against the Meethotamulla Dump" has led many protest since 2009 when the dumping of heaps of Colombo garbage began at the site.

"Please do not report this as a natural tragedy, please say this was a planned massacre, relatives of

the victims cry hoarse," he said.

"Is this my fate? Now I only have to live for my grandson," Keerthiratne, a retired prison official sobbed looking at the rubble that is left of his two storied house.

The military said 1,000 security personnel, including police and special task forces, have been deployed for rescue operation. It said troops from the Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Commandos, Gemunu Watch and Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment were carrying out relief operations, the Colombo Gazette reported. - PTI

Madhesi parties warn Nepal govt against holding May polls

KATHMANDU, April 17: Nepal's Madhesi parties have warned the government that they would disrupt the May 14 local elections if their demands, including proportional representation in Parliament, are not addressed.

The Federal Alliance, a grouping of seven Madhesi and ethnic parties, said they would hold a fresh round of protests from tomorrow against the government.

The alliance said their protests would include sit-ins, rallies and general strikes. Alliance coordinator and chairman of Federal Socialist Party-Nepal Upendra Yadav said yesterday the government did not consult them before tabling the Constitution amendment proposal in the Parliament.

The government, however, claimed the amendment was tabled to address the demands of Madhe-

si relating to the proportional representation and the redrawing of federal boundaries.

Yadav said the government did not table the amendment proposal which it had showed them. But, Prime Minister Prachanda, according to party sources, has told ruling CPN (Maoist-Centre) leaders that the alliance has tricked him.

Yadav claimed that the amendment proposal the government tabled in the parliament did not propose to bring the local federal units under the provinces.

He warned the government it would not be able to hold the polls on May 14, if they do not include their demands.

The Madhesi parties, who claim to represent the interests of inhabitants of the southern Terai region who are mostly of Indian origin, demand that the Constitution

promulgated in 2015 be amended to revise the provisions of citizenship and re-demarcation of the provincial boundary before going to the May polls.

On Gurung, the alliance spokesman, said their other concern relate to what he termed was the discriminatory structure of the National Assembly - the upper House of the parliament.

The protest programmes include torch rallies in the district headquarters tomorrow, 'lathi' and whistle rallies on Thursday; and mass meetings in Janakpur, Udayapur, Birgunj and Kavre on Saturday, a weekly public holiday in Nepal.

They also announced shutdowns on April 28 in the Tarai, Tharuhat and the west and a nationwide shutdown on April 29. The indefinite general strike is said to begin on May 10. - PTI

Pandey, Pathan guide KKR to 4-wkt win vs Delhi

NEW DELHI, April 17: Half centuries by Yusuf Pathan and Manish Pandey enabled Kolkata Knight Riders overcome early jitters en route a thrilling four-wicket win over Delhi Daredevils in an Indian Premier League match here today.

It was a team effort by KKR, who first rode on Sunil Narine and Nathan Coulter-Nile controlled bowling effort to restrict Delhi to 168 for seven, and then Pathan (59) and Pandey (69 not out) anchored the chase to perfection as they won with a ball to spare.

It went down to the wire in the end with KKR needing nine runs from the last over. The first two balls from Amit Mishra resulted in dots as well as a wicket.

With the third ball yielding a run, Pandey got to the strike and straight away hit a much-needed six to KKR's relief. He eventually sealed it off in style with one ball remaining.

Chasing a modest 168 for victory, Kolkata lost three quick wickets to be reeling at 21 for three before Pathan and Pandey joined hands to put on a crucial 110-run stand off just 72 balls for the fourth wicket.

But after Pathan's dismissal,

Daredevils had their chances but KKR managed to have the last laugh.

Despite Kolkata struggling at one stage, Pathan dealt in fours and sixes to not just show his batting prowess but keep the team in the hunt.

He, in the able company of Pandey, ensured that the Knight Riders were always in the game.

Pathan brought up his half-century in style as he hit Delhi skipper Zaheer Khan for a six.

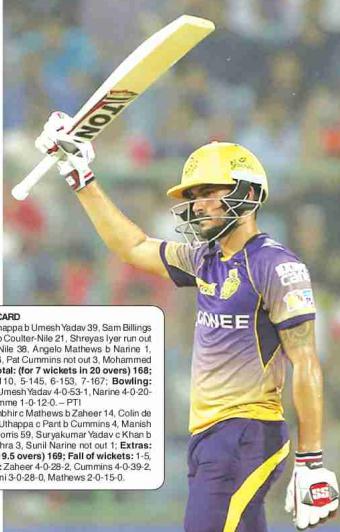
The duo steadily and steadily

SCORECARD

Delhi Daredevils: Sanju Samson c Utappa b Umesh Yadav 39, Sam Billings c Utappa b Coulter-Nile 21, Karun Nair c Coulter-Nile 38, Shreyas Iyer run out 6, Rishabh Pant c Gambhir b Coulter-Nile 38, Angelo Mathews l b Name 1, Nitish Rana c Coulter-Nile b Gambhir 1, Parthiv Patel c Coulter-Nile b Mohammad Shahzad 0-0-0 Extras: (5-1, W-2, 3, Total: 7 wickets in 20 overs) 168; Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-63, 3-106, 4-110, 5-145, 6-153, 7-167; Bowling: Coulter-Nile 4-0-23, 3, Wholes 4-0-31, 1, Umesh Yadav 4-0-53-1, Narine 4-0-20-1, Kuldeep 4-0-22-3, Tahir 4-29-0, De Grandhomme 1-20-0. PTI

Kolkata Knight Riders: Sunil Narine c Zaheer Khan b Umesh Yadav 14, Colin de Grandhomme c Billings b Khan 1, Robin Uthappa c Pant b Cummings 4, Manish Pandey not out 69, Yusuf Pathan c b Morris 59, Surakumar Yadav c Khan b Cummings 2, Chris Woakes c Pant b Morris 3, Suresh Raina not out; Extras: (LB-3, W-1, Total: 7 wickets in 19 overs) 169; Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-19, 3-21, 4-131, 5-152, 6-160; Bowling: Zaheer 4-0-28-2, Cummings 4-0-39-2, Morris 4-0-30-1, Mishra 2-0-26-1, Shami 3-0-28-0, Mathews 2-0-15-0.

stole the match away from the home team but Pathan failed to finish it for KKR as he fell for a well-made 59 off 39 balls, which included six boundaries and two sixes. -PTI



KKR batsman Manish Pandey celebrates after completing 50 during the IPL match against Delhi Daredevils in Delhi, on Monday.

Focus back on Asia as Bengaluru face Abahani

BENGALURU, April 17: Bengaluru FC will have to switch gears and shrug off fatigue as they get ready to host Bangladeshi side Abahani Limited Dhaka in an AFC Cup group stage fixture here tomorrow.

The Blues, who lead Group E with two wins from as many games, made the arduous trip to Shillong over the weekend where they beat Lajong 2-0 in the I-League and Albert Roca said his side will have their work cut out against Abahani.

"The schedules haven't made things easy for us but we've never been a team that moans. We're hoping to handle this situation as well as we can. The new format of the AFC Cup doesn't allow the luxury of even one bad game, so we're going to have to put everything behind us and get the job done."

However, Roca will not be on

the touchline for the fixture as he will be serving a one-game suspension for his sending-off in the win over Maziya S&RC, leaving Blues' assistant coach Carles Cuadrat in charge of things.

Bengaluru's suspension woes don't end with the Spaniard as midfielder Cameron Watson and defender Sandesh Jhingan too will sit out of the game after having passed two cautions each.

"Cameron and Sandesh are vital players and will be missed, but we have a squad that's capable of stepping up when the need arises," said Roca, adding that a call on goalkeeper Anirudh Singh's availability will be a late one.

CK Vineeth and Arindam Singh, who were unused substitutes against Lajong, may also be left out of the squad as they recover from injuries. -PTI

Drawing Canada presents India a golden chance'

CHENNAI, April 17: Former Davis Cup captain Anand Amritraj believes drawing Canada in the play-offs presents India a golden chance to make it to the World Group in next year's tournament.

The Indian team beat Uzbekistan in Asia-Oceania zonal match in Bengaluru recently and was drawn to meet Canada for a spot in the elite group of the 2018 Davis Cup.

Speaking at the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association annual day function here yesterday, Amritraj said in his opinion Canada was the best team to draw from among the eight which had lost in the first round of this year's competition.

"This is our golden chance. If we are going to get into the World Group, this is the year we

have to do it," he said.

Amritraj said if Canada didn't have its top player Milos Raonic playing, India stood a good chance of winning, the best in the last four years.

Raonic recently pulled out of the Miami Open after aggravating a right hamstring injury that sidelined him for nearly a month. He had earlier withdrawn from Canada's Davis Cup World Group tie against Britain after a nagging adductor injury flared up during his recent Australian Open run.

Meanwhile, Jeewan Nedunchezhiyan, who won the doubles earlier at the Aircel Chennai Open earlier this year along with Rohan Bopanna, was chosen for the TK Ramamathan annual award for 2016, as the best player of the year. -PTI

Kohli, De Villiers must click to keep RCB's hope alive

Most IPL teams look upon their home grounds as their fortresses where they cannot be beaten. Sure there could be the odd loss but if out of the 7 home games a team wins 5 then it gives itself a very good chance for the knockout stage of the tournament. There are exceptions of course. A few seasons back the Hyderabad team kept losing its home matches with such monotonous regularity that the fans were suggesting they should choose another ground as its home ground.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore have now lost both their recent games at the Chinnaswamy stadium. In the first game against the Mumbai Indians they were unable to defend their score despite

having Mumbai Indians on the ropes, in the next game they couldn't chase down a modest total put up by the Pune team. While their bowling has always been a bit vulnerable in this format of the game, for their much-vaunted bat, it did against the Pune team must be winningly indeed. With only 4



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overseas players allowed in the playing eleven the Bangalore boys are picking up the leg spinner Samuels and Badree over the fast hitting Chris Gayle in an attempt to strengthen their bowling. Badree has been magnificent with a hat trick against

The Gujarat team also has a similar problem with the selection of their overseas players. Andrew Tye has looked good and like Badree for Bangalore he gives the Gujarat Lions the option of having their overseas player picking

ets. The problem for Gujarat is their bowling which has an ageing look about it. Praveen Kumar and Munat Patel have been terrific bowlers but with their pace dropping they are becoming easy fodder in this format of the game. It's wonderful to see Praveen still swin the ball both ways but in trying to bowl quicker he is losing his accuracy. Gujarat too rely on McCullum, Raina and Smith to get them off to a brisk start with Finch coming as a finisher.

The toss has unfortunately become crucial and teams winning it are winning most if not all the matches so far which is not what the game should be about. Hopefully as the tournament progresses we will see different results and spectators and viewers won't know who is going to win the match simply on which way the coin falls. -PMG

N Srinivasan cannot represent BCCI in ICC meeting: SC

NEW DELHI, April 17: The Supreme Court today said former BCCI president N Srinivasan cannot represent the board in the April 24 ICC meeting as he has been held guilty of "conflict of interest" and "abuse of authority".

The apex court allowed acting secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Amitabh Chaudhary, to represent the board in International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting and asked BCCI's CEO Rahul Johri to accompany him.

The court was informed that Srinivasan and Niranjan Shah, who were rendered ineligible to become office-bearers in the BCCI and state cricket associations by virtue of the apex court's verdict, could participate in tomorrow's special general body meeting of BCCI and may be nominated to take part in the ICC meeting.

"N Srinivasan cannot go (for ICC meeting)," a bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra said.

"This person (Srinivasan) was held

guilty by this court for conflict of interest and abuse of authority. He cannot go," the bench, also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, said, adding "a man, once having a conflict of interest, cannot go".

"Regard being had to the significance of representation of the BCCI in the said international body, ie, ICC, it is directed that Amitabh Chaudhary shall represent the BCCI before ICC and Rahul Johri shall accompany him and also attend the meeting of the chief executive officers," the bench said.

The top court, on January 22, 2015, had barred Srinivasan from contesting any BCCI polls unless he forgoes ownership of an IPL team.

The court had also assailed the amendment in BCCI rules permitting cricket ad-

ministrators like Srinivasan to have commercial interest by owing teams in IPL and Champions League and had said it was bad on grounds of conflict of interest.

During the hearing today, senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocates representing the parties in the matter said that Chaudhary was a qualified person and was well-versed with all the facts. So he could be nominated to attend the ICC meeting.

Senior advocate P Chidambaram, appearing for the apex court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA), said the issue was whether a person who has been disqualified by virtue of

the court's verdict, could be nominated to represent the BCCI in ICC meeting in which revenue-sharing between the members of the apex cricket body would be discussed, apart from other issues.

Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, who was appearing for the cricket associations of the armed forces, association of universities and Railways, told the court that a person having the know-how and experience of at least 15-20 years in the affairs of cricket body should go to attend the ICC meeting.

To this, the bench said, "we agree on this. We can send this second man (Niranjan Shah) who is 74 years old but having an experience of 40 years."

"We have names of two persons in our mind, Shah and Chaudhary," the bench said, after which Chidambaram said the court can appoint and send to attend the ICC meeting but Johri should be allowed to accompany him. -PTI

Barca eye another famous comeback

PARIS, April 17: Little over a month after producing the greatest comeback in Champions League history, Barcelona need another special turnaround as they face Juventus in the second leg of their quarterfinal on Wednesday.

Luis Enrique's side were taken apart in the first leg in Turin, losing 3-0 to a Juve team inspired by Paulo Dybala, who scored twice. In the last 16 they became the first team ever to overturn a 4-1 deficit when they beat Paris Saint-Germain 6-1 in the return to the Camp Nou, so fans are hoping for a similar "remonta" this time.

"We are going to take as many risks as we need to, because we could go out with eight strikers, as we have nothing to lose," said Luis Enrique after Saturday's 3-2 defeat of Real Sociedad.

The Barcelona coach also called for supporters "to have faith in these players who have won everything. This is a squad of champions."

But he added: "The thing is that we are used to always eating beluga caviar. That can't go on forever."

Barca welcome back midfielder Sergio Busquets from suspension, who will be available again after he came off in the 2-0 win against Atletico with a sprained ankle.

In contrast to their fierce rivals, Real Madrid are very much on course for a semifinal berth after their 2-1 win away to Bayern Munich last week. The sides clash at the Santiago Bernabeu in Tuesday's second leg with the Germans looking to become just the third side to overturn a first-leg home defeat to win a Champions League tie. - AFP

Goalpara boys outplay South Point School

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: Goalpara Cricket Academy outclassed South Point School by a big margin of 147 runs in the inaugural match of the Bud Cricket Club organised 7th Sitaram Agarwala Memorial U-17 Inter School/Organisation Cricket Tournament.

At the Assam Cricket Association's Barsapara stadium here today, opting to bat first the Goalpara boys gathered a commendable total of 261 in 45.4 overs. The highlight of the Goalpara CA innings was two half centuries by Sourav Thakuria (58) and Akash Sengupta (not out 57).

The South Point School batsmen miserably failed in chasing the tough target and were bundled out for 114.

Tunmoy Kalita (4/27) and Sambhab Jain (3/20) were the wreckers for the Goalpara team as Dhruv Raj Borah was the top scorer for South Point with 20.

Sambhab Jain of the winning team was named man-of-the-match. **Match scores:** Goalpara CA 261 (Sourav Thakuria 58, Akash Sengupta not out 57, Sambhab Jain 33, Manjeet Deba 20, Shivam Nath 20, Dhruv Raj Borah 20, Tunmoy Kalita 20, South Point School 114 (Dhruv Raj Borah 20, River Pang 18, Saangyajit Deba 16, Tammy Kalita 4/27, Sambhab Jain 3/20).

Bayern face familiar CL fate in Madrid

SPORTS REPORTER

MADRID, April 17: Bayern Munich face a familiar problem as they travel to old European foes Real Madrid on Tuesday needing to make history to keep faint hopes of Champions League glory alive.

Cristiano Ronaldo's second-half double in Munich last week made him the first man to reach a century of European goals, but more importantly handed Madrid a vital 2-1 first leg lead.

The 11-time European champions have never failed to progress after winning the first leg away from home in the Champions League.

"It won't be easy, we're the underdogs, but we'll have a chance to win in Madrid," insisted Bayern captain Philipp Lahm after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Bayer Leverkusen.

Recent history, though, was otherwise.

Should Bayern fail to pull off a fightback, it will be the fourth successive season they have been eliminated by Spanish opposition. When Pep Guardiola was hired as Bayern boss in 2013, he was expected by the Bavarians' demanding hierarchy to build on Jupp Heynckes' treble and create a Bayern dynasty of the like that saw them win three consecutive European Cups between 1974-1976.

Heynckes' Bayern thrashed a worn down Barcelona left behind by Guardiola a year earlier 7-0 on aggregate on their way to winning the Champions League. - AFP

Indian U-17 team to begin practice match today

SPORTS REPORTER

BASTIA (France), April 17: Bastia's home game with Lyon in French Ligue 1 was abandoned at half time after supporters of the Corsican side twice invaded the pitch and attacked the visiting players.

After taking on Vitoria de Setubal at Troia, the team will cross swords against leading Portuguese club sides Belenenses, Benfica, Estoril and Sporting Club Portugal.

The players have left the Indian shores on April 11 and will be in the Portugal capital of Lisbon till May 15 before returning to France to face Paris Saint Germain in their U-17 Toto Cup.

The Luis Norton de Nortex's men are also scheduled to take part in the Lazio Cup and play a series of practice matches in Italy, France and Hungary amongst others.

"I appreciate the efforts of the All India Football Federation in leaving no stone unturned to field the best XI in the World Cup," de Mello said.

"The efforts of the young me-

"Following the new incident at the end of the first period, the LFP decided to definitely stop the game between Bastia and Lyon," the French professional football league (LFP) said in a statement. - AFP

The Kokrajhar boys made a hot start but fell just one run short as they were all out for 151 in 32.3 overs.

Brief scores: CC Dibrugarh Academy 152 (Dibrugarh 56, Chirayi Marikar 22, Sanrat Biswas 15, Bishal Roy 2/24). Kokrajhar 142 (Kokrajhar 50, Jyoti Bhattacharjee 10, Gauri Ghosh 20, Bipu Das 20, Obasakar Sakkha 22, Ankut Dutta 22).

Today's match: (Final) City CCC (A) vs CDA.

Kamrup dist karate meet

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 17: The Greater Guwahati Karate-Do Association (GGKA) is

organising its third edition of the Kamrup District (Metro) Karate Championship from May 7 at the Bhogeswari Phukhaman Indoor Stadium, Dispur.

The Guwahati team for the 6th of UKAA Lower Assam Zone Inter District Karate Championship, to be held on May 20 and 21 at Barpeta, will be picked from this championship which was earlier known as the Greater Guwahati Inter Club Karate Championships.

The Kamrup District Karate-Do Association is also organising their first Kamrup District Karate Championship at Dhamdam, Hajo on March 30 to select the Kamrup team for the Lower Assam Karate.

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Diarrhoea kills over 500 in Somalia since Jan: UN

GENEVA, April 13: Cholera and acute diarrhoea have killed more than 500 people and left tens of thousands of others sick in drought-hit parts of Somalia since January, the United Nations said today.

The UN's health agency said the epidemic had left more than 25,000 people sick, warning that number was likely to double by the end of June.

WHO put the number of deaths since the beginning of the year from the epidemic at 524, while the UN humanitarian agency OCHA said 533 people had died.

The case fatality rate, which measures the severity of an epidemic by defining the proportion of fatal cases within a specific timeframe, is currently 2.1 per cent – more than double the emergency threshold of one per cent.

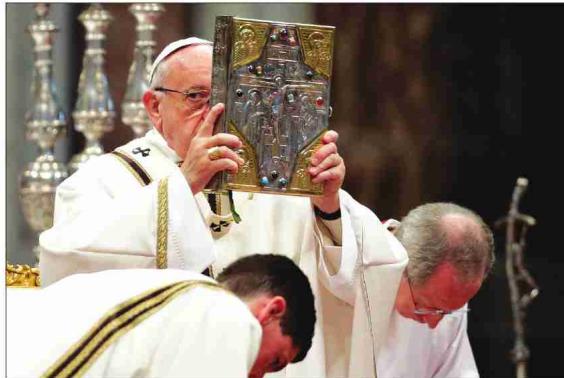
OCHA spokesman Jens Læsrke said the situation was particularly alarming in the Middle Juba and Bakool regions, where the case fatality rates have surged to 14.1 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively.

The epidemic comes as the Horn of Africa country of 12 million people faces the threat of its third famine in 25 years of civil war and anarchy.

At least 260,000 people died in the 2011 famine in Somalia – half of them children under the age of five, according to the UN World Food Program.

Currently, 6.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid in Somalia, including 2.9 million who are facing "crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity", Læsrke told reporters. That means they are at levels three or four on a five-level scale, where level five is famine.

The dire drought and food crisis has forced more than 500,000 people to flee their homes since last November, in a country where 1.1 million people are already internally displaced. – AFP



Pope Francis holds Book of the Gospels as he leads the Chrism Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, on Thursday. – UNI

Russia vetoes UNSC action condemning Syria

UNITED NATIONS, April 13: Russia vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that would have condemned the use of chemical weapons in Syria last week and called on the government there to cooperate with an investigation into the incident.

Russia, a permanent member of 15-nation Council, exercised the veto yesterday when a draft resolution drafted by France, the United Kingdom and the US was tabled here.

While 10 of the Council's 15 members voted in favour, Russia rejected the text, as permanent member China, as well as non-permanent members Ethiopia and Kazakhstan abstained.

"...With its veto, Russia said no to accountability. Russia said no to cooperation with the UN's independent investigation. And Russia said no to a resolution that would have helped promote peace in Syria," US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said after the resolution was failed to be adopted.

Chemical weapons attack

condemned "the reported use of chemical weapons in [Syria], in particular the attack on Khan Shaykhun," the site of last week's incident that has drawn increasing global attention.

The measure would also have called on the Syrian government to comply with relevant recommendations of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Fact Finding Mission (FFM) and the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM).

"Russia once again has chosen to side with Assad even as the rest of the world – including the Arab world – overwhelmingly comes together to condemn this murderous regime," she said.

This was the 8th time during Syria's six-year-old civil war that Moscow used its veto power to block a resolution against Assad's government.

The resolution would have strongly

Before the vote, Russia's deputy UN envoy Vladimir Safronkov said in the course of negotiations between his country's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Moscow had suggested a joint communication asking the OPCW Director-General to immediately put together an international mission to visit Khan Shaykhun and the Shayrat air base.

The US Secretary of State was considering that proposal, he said, adding that the whole gamut of issues would be discussed by OPCW on April 13 at The Hague.

Putting the draft to a vote a day before that would serve no useful purpose, he emphasised.

He said Russia voted against the draft because of its "erroneous" contents, emphasising that his country's concerns and priorities had been pushed aside.

The main problem was that the "troika" of drafters had named a perpetrator before a proper investigation had been conducted, he said. – PTI

Trump offers trade deal to China for support over N Korea

WASHINGTON, April 13: Ditching his anti-China bombast, US President Donald Trump has said he would not label China a "currency manipulator" and offered a "good trade" deal in exchange for Beijing's help in dealing with the nuclear threat from North Korea.

Trump said he was confident that Chinese President Xi Jinping would support America to confront North Korea's nuclear ambitions, but cautioned that he was prepared to tackle the crisis alone if needed.

"President Xi wants to do the right thing. We had a very good bonding. I think we had a very good chemistry together. I think he wants to help us with North Korea. We talked trade. We talked a lot of things," Trump told reporters at a joint news conference yesterday with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the White House.

Trump had spent two days with Xi at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida last week. He also spoke to him over phone yesterday.

Tensions are escalating sharply over fears that North Korea may carry out another nuclear test on Saturday.

"I said, the way you're going to make a good trade deal is to help us with North Korea. Otherwise, we're just going to go it alone," Trump said referring to the latest telephonic conversation with the Chinese President.

"That'd be all right, too. But doing it alone means going with lots of their nations," he cautioned China.

Trump said he was "very impressed" with Xi.

"I think he means well, and I think he wants to help. We'll see whether or not he does," Trump said.

In an interview with "The Wall Street Journal", Trump said the US has "tremendous trade deficits" with everybody, but the big one is with China. – PTI

In no position to comment on Jadhav's death term: UN

UNITED NATIONS, April 13: The UN has asked India and Pakistan to engage in a dialogue to find a peaceful solution to their problems, but refrained from commenting on the death sentence given by a Pakistani military court to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav.

"We're not in a position to judge the process or to have a position on this, on this particular case," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at the daily briefing here yesterday in response to a question by PTI on the death sentence awarded to Jadhav by military Field General Court Martial under the army act for his alleged involvement in terrorism and espionage.

Dujarric was asked that India is strongly disputing the sentence, saying that the due process of law and justice was not observed in this case and that it will consider the sentence as "a premeditated murder". – PTI

N Korea may be capable of gas-loaded missile attack: Japan

TOKYO, April 13: North Korea may have the capacity to launch a warhead loaded with sarin nerve gas, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said today, as tensions rise over the country's missile and nuclear programmes.

Sarin has been used in deadly domestic attacks in Japan, notably in 1995 when the Aum Supreme Truth cult released it in the Tokyo subway killing 13 people and sickening 6,000 others.

"There is a possibility that North Korea is already capable of delivering (via missile) a warhead containing sarin," Abe told a parliamentary diplomacy and defence committee, referring to the poison nerve agent.

His remarks were reported by public broadcaster NHK and leading national newspapers.

Abe did not elaborate or say where he obtained the information, according to the reports.

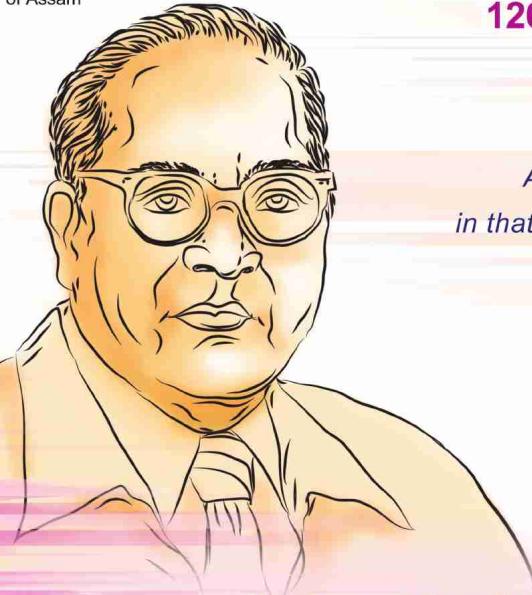
Tensions on the Korean peninsula have spiked in recent days amid concerns that Pyongyang could be on the verge of executing its sixth nuclear test and as a US air-

craft carrier-led strike group heads to the region.

Originally conceived as a pesticide, sarin was used by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime to gas thousands of Kurds in the northern town of Halabja in 1988.

The US believes the Syrian government employed a sarin-like nerve agent in a deadly attack in the country's northwest last week.

The Aum Supreme Truth cult also used the nerve agent in a 1994 attack in the Japanese city of Matsumoto, killing seven. – AFP



Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
126th Birth Anniversary
14th April, 2017

*A great man is different from an eminent one
in that he is ready to be the servant of the society.*
- B.R. Ambedkar

We pay our deep tribute to
Bharat Ratna awardee Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
on his 126th Birth Anniversary.


Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister, Assam

Govt. of Assam

Jansanyog/433/17

SPORTS

Ronaldo hits 100th European goal as Real win at Bayern

MUNICH, April 13: Cristiano Ronaldo netted his 100th European goal to give holders Real Madrid a 2-1 comeback win at 10-man Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinal first-leg.

"I wanted to reach this record. To be able to reach this mark is an honour and against a team like Bayern it is even better," Ronaldo, who scored both goals, told BeIN Sport Spain.

Arturo Vidal headed Bayern into a first-half lead yesterday, but then skied a penalty attempt on the stroke of half-time before Ronaldo volleyed the defending champions' level.

Bayern played the last half an hour a man down after centre-back Javi Martinez was sent off for two fouls on Ronaldo within three minutes of each other.

Four-time world player of the year Ronaldo then slotted in the winner between goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's legs for a total of 13 minutes from time.

"We believe we can still do it,

we were the better team in the first half, could have made it 2-0 or 3-0," Neuer told ZDF.

But Bayern were outplayed in the second-half and most of Real's 23 shots on goal came after the break.

"We had everything under control in the first half, but didn't use the room consistently," said captain Philipp Lahm. "The tipping point was the red card."

Security was tight at the Allianz Arena in the wake of Tuesday's attacks on the Borussia Dortmund team bus and both teams arrived with a heavy police escort.

There was a large police presence and inside the stadium there was polite applause when the announced made reference to Dortmund's ordeal in the preceding 24 hours.

Bayern suffered a blow before kick-off when top-scorer Robert Lewandowski, who has netted 38 goals this season, dropped out with a bruised shoulder and Thomas Müller deputised as striker.

Bayern were also missing in-



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring during the UEFA Champions League quarterfinal first leg match against Bayern Munich in Munich, Germany, on Wednesday.

jured Germany defender Mats Hummels against Real's formidable BBC attack - Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and Ronaldo.

Bayern went ahead on 25 minutes when playmaker Thiago Alcantara swung in a corner from the right which Vidal powered through Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas's hands.

The Chile midfielder could have added a second when he headed Arjen Robben's cross wide of the post soon after.

Real made a poor start, rarely threatening Germany's goalkeeper Neuer, back after minor foot surgery a fortnight ago.

A strong drive from Ronaldo on 41 minutes which Neuer blocked having palmed a Benzema header onto the woodwork with 15 minutes played were their best first-half chances.

Vidal could have finished with a first-half hat-trick when he stepped up to take a penalty after Dani Carvajal's handball from a Franck Ribery shot.

However, the Chilean

smashed the spot-kick high over the crossbar.

It was a miss Bayern were soon to regret.

Real were level two minutes after the break when Carvajal found space on the right and fired in a cross which Ronaldo volleyed past Neuer.

Bale, who has laboured with an ankle injury recently, came off on 58 minutes and Real raised the tempo after he trudged off.

Having already picked up a yellow card for pulling Ronaldo back on 58 minutes, Martinez was shown a red for again fouling the Portugal captain just three minutes later.

Real's superstar then hit the winner as substitute Marco Asensio, on for Bale, put in a low pass for Ronaldo to tap the ball home between Neuer's legs.

Real defender Sergio Ramos had the ball in the Bayen net with time running out, but the goal was ruled offside but the Spaniards have the upper hand for the second leg at home next Tuesday. - AFP

Juventus renews Dybala contract

TURIN, April 13: Argentine striker Paulo Dybala renewed his contract with Serie A side Juventus until 2022, the Turin club announced on Thursday.

The Bianconeri explained in a statement that Dybala's original contract, valid until June 20, 2022, reported Efe.

The striker, who scored twice in Juventus' 3-0 victory against Barcelona in the Champions League quarterfinals on Tuesday, arrived at the club in summer 2013 from Palermo for 32 million euros (\$34 million).

Even though the club did not reveal his salary, Italian media hinted his income could reach 7.5 million euros (\$7.9 million) a season.

Dybala has been referred to as Lionel Messi's possible successor, while the Barcelona star recognised him as the future of the Argentina national team. - IANS

Gayle, Pollard, KP marquee players

JOHANNESBURG, April 13: Dashing T20 players Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Kevin Pietersen are among eight marquee internationals, who will be representing various franchises in the inaugural edition of Cricket South Africa's #T20 Global Destination League.

The other five marquee stars are Lasith Malinga, Jason Roy, Eoin Morgan, Dwayne Bravo and Brendon McCullum. All these players have a contract of two years.

The eight international marquee players will be entered into a mini-draft with the highest bidding franchise owner having first pick and the rest following the same process.

Franchise owners will be asked to consider the fact that some of these players, by virtue of having played for some years in South Africa, already hold strong ties to certain cities in South Africa. - PTI

Kohli returns for RCB ahead of IPL clash against MI

BENGALURU, April 13: India captain Virat Kohli will return to bolster Royal Challengers Bangalore's campaign when they take on arch-rivals Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here tomorrow.

Kohli had undergone rehabilitation after sustaining an injury to his right shoulder while fielding

during the third Test against Australia in Ranchi and has been missing in action ever since.

However, the Delhi batsman has been declared fit today by BCCI Medical Team and will look to boost the confidence of RCB, who lost two out of the three matches that they have played so far in his absence.

Kohli, who had dropped hints of making a return after posting a video on his Instagram account of his gym session on April 11, did some fielding drills during the team's net session, yesterday.

MATCH STARTS AT 4 PM

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (c), Parthiv Patel (wk), Hardik Pandya, Suresh Raina, Krunal Pandya, Harbhajan Singh, Mitchell Johnson, Lendl Simmons, Virat Kohli, Shikhar Tiwary, Karn Sharma, Krishnappa Gowtham, Siddhesh Lad, Nuzhatul Islam, Jitendra Patel, Piyush Chawla, Pawan Negi, Harshal Patel, Adam Milne, Igash Abdulla, Samuel Badree, Bumrah, Kulwant Singh.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Shane Watson (capt), Chris Gayle, Manveeet Singh, Kedar Jadhav (wk), Travis Head, Samit Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Pawan Negi, Harshal Patel, Adam Milne, Igash Abdulla, Samuel Badree, Bumrah, Kulwant Singh.

RCB: Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina, Krunal Pandya, Suresh Raina, Krunal Pandya, Harbhajan Singh, Mitchell Johnson, Lendl Simmons, Virat Kohli, Shikhar Tiwary, Karn Sharma, Krishnappa Gowtham, Siddhesh Lad, Nuzhatul Islam, Jitendra Patel, Piyush Chawla, Pawan Negi, Harshal Patel, Adam Milne, Igash Abdulla, Samuel Badree, Bumrah, Kulwant Singh.

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Gujarat gets Jadeja boost in their quest for 1st win

RAJKOT, April 13: Struggling Gujarat Lions is set to receive a much-needed boost with the imminent return of all-round-rounder Jaydev Unadkat from his tour of England.

Jadeja, who has been struggling to carve out big scores, which is reflected in his failure to score even one half-century in his last 10 innings.

Gujarat Lions, who finished as the lowest-ranked team in the ongoing edition of the tournament, will be desperate to turn around their fortunes around in front of home fans at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here.

Jadeja has had a terrific home season with both bat and ball for India and his return will definitely boost Gujarat Lions morale.

TEAMS:

Gujarat Lions: Suresh Raina (capt), Akashdeep Nath, Shubham Agarwal, Basil Thampi, Dwaine Briscoe, Chirag Surti, James Faulkner, Aaron Finch, Manpreet Gony, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, Shadab Khan, Jaiswal, Dhruv Kulkarni, Dinesh Karthik, Preveen Kumar, Shuvit Kaushik, Brandon McCullum, Munaf Patel, Pratham Singh, Jason Roy, Prajeet Singh, Shreyas Pathak, Shreyas Shrestha, Naresh Patel, Tejas Baroda, Andre Tye.

Rising Pune Supergiant: Steve Smith (capt), Fal du Plessis, Adam Zampa, Usman Khawaja, M S Dhoni, Ajinkya Rahane, Ashok Dinda, Ankit Chahar, Rajat Patidar, Arindra Shukla, Ishant Pandey, Jasarn Singh, Babar Aparajit, Deepak Chahar, Mayank Agarwal, Dinesh Christy.

MATCH STARTS AT 8 PM

needed boost in the form of Jadeja, who is likely to play his first IPL match tomorrow.

Jadeja missed Gujarat Lions first two games as he was fit against two weeks by the BCCI medical team soon after the India's fourth match Test series against Australia.

Jadeja has had a terrific home season with both bat and ball for India and his return will definitely boost Gujarat Lions morale.

Another key member, West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is recovering from injury, however is doubtful even though he took part in the team's practice session yesterday.

Gujarat Lions' strong point is the team's batting department.

With the likes of Brendon McCullum, Aaron Finch, Jason Roy, Raina and Dinesh Karthik up its rank, Gujarat Lions heavily depends on its batting unit.

But the likes of McCullum and Finch have failed to live up to their reputations so far, garnering just 40 and 18 runs respectively in the first two games. Opener Jason Roy started the innings well on both occasions against KKR and SRH but failed to convert the good starts into big knock.

Only skipper Raina, who struck unbeaten 68 against KKR at home and Karthik (47.30) have shouldered the responsibility in the middle-order. - PTI

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CAMARO JEANS | TROUSERS | T-SHIRTS

**“তেজেৰে লিখা ইতিহাসৰ
মোগোৱালী অতীত
ৰাঘৰ তুমি মৰণ জাতিৰ
শোধ-বীৰ্যৰ প্ৰতীক”**

**বীৰ ৰাঘৰ মৰণৰ
পৰিৱ্ৰ মৃত্যু তিথিত অসমৰাসীৰ হৈ
তেখেতলৈ জনহিছেঁ শঙ্কন প্ৰণিপাত।**

সৰ্বানন্দ মোগোৱাল
মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী, অসম

Janansangya/540/17

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3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

Sindhu, Praneeth advance in Singapore Super Series

SINGAPORE, April 13: Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and B Sai Praneeth today advanced to the quarterfinals of the USD 350,000 Singapore Super Series after posting hard-fought victories in the women's and men's singles respectively here.

The World No. 30 Indian Praneeth will clash with eighth seeded Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk of Thailand next.

B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, who reached the finals at Lucknow in January, eked out a thrilling 17-21, 21-17, 21-16 win over Korean pair of Jae Hwan Kim and Lee Soo Hee to also reach the quarterfinals.

The Indian pair will take on third seeded Chinese combo of Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong. - PTI

Sindhu will take on the winner of the match between China Lee Lin and Carolina Marin.

Praneeth, who reached the



Mla Siddhartha Bhattacharya giving away the trophy.

Squash meet ends

GUWAHATI, April 13: Shubham Bafla of Guwahati FC emerged champion in the 1st All Guwahati Inter Club Squash Championship which came to an end yesterday.

In the final Shubham defeated Jit Amrit Baruah of River Rine 11-7, 16-14, 11-2. Ravi Panjwani of Navajyoti Club was the second runner up in the men's category. In the closing function Guwahati East MLA Siddhartha Bhattacharya, GSA president Munin Nobis, Blaskar Bhuyan, CEO of ATM Television along with a host of guests and sportspersons were present. The championship was organised by the Guwahati Squash Racket Association at the RG Baruah Squash Complex here where 12 clubs took part. — Sports Reporter

Zangam champions

SIVASAGAR, April 13: Zangam of Sivasagar clinched the title in the 1st All Assam Bir Lachit T20 Challenge Cricket Tournament played here at the Darbar field under the aegis of Cricket Club of Sivasagar. In the low scoring final Zangam beat Cricket Club of Dibrugarh (CCD) by 28 runs yesterday.

Opting to bat first Zangam team was all out for 88 runs. Wasikur Rahman 22 and Arpan Dutta 18 were the leading scorers. Phamindra Sonowal and Sandip Sharma of CCD picked 5 and 3 wicket respectively. In reply CCD bowled out for a paltry 60 runs. Arpan Dutta and Roshan Alam of Zangam took 3 wickets each.

The individual prize winners were: (Best batsman and Man of the Series) Samuk Das (Zangam), (Best Bowler) Sandip Samah (CCD), (Man of the Final) Arpan Dutta of Zangam. The winning team was awarded Rs 30,000 while the runners-up team got Rs 20,000 along with trophies. In the closing function Mugtabul Hussain, jt secy, ACA, Manoj Bhagawati, Bikash Borgohain, Biju Gogoi, Hakikat Rahman, Tapan Dutta, Babul Khan, Tapan Baruah and Kabir Borai gave away the prizes. — Correspondent

Bhuvi blames small score, dew for defeat

MUMBAI, April 13: Sunrisers Hyderabad seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has blamed the dew factor and small total responsible for the title-holders' four-wicket defeat against hosts Mumbai Indians in last night's Indian Premier League game here.

In reply to Hyderabad's 158/8, Mumbai scored 159/6 in 18.4 overs.

"I don't think there was anything wrong with our batting. They tried their best. It was just one of those days when you play your shot and it goes to the field-

ers. We were 79 without loss in 10 overs which was a good start but 158 was not enough as dew was there," Bhuvneshwar said at the post-match press conference last night.

"It was difficult to defend. Although it's the average score in T20, but on this ground it was below average. It's very difficult to bowl when dew sets in. It's not an excuse. We needed to get 2-3 wickets in power play," said the swing bowler, who returned with impressive figures of 3 for 21 when most other bowlers of his team strug-

gled in the conditions.

Put in to bat, Sunrisers got off to a sluggish start, accelerated a bit, but then lost their way once opener and skipper David Warner got out, trying to repeat a reverse-sweep off Harbhajan Singh after having hit the offie for a six in the previous ball.

Sunrisers kept on losing wickets at regular intervals after Warner was dismissed to a stunning, two-handed diving catch by wicket keeper Parthiv Patel.

But Bhuvneshwar sought to downplay the shot, saying the attempt did not come as a surprise as Warner tries it in net sessions too.

"He bats for 20 minutes five minutes he bats right handed in nets. It was not surprising. It was an amazing shot. AB de Villiers plays these shots," said Bhuvneshwar.

on Pollard – did not score big. But other batsmen led by opener Parthiv Patel (49) and later Nitish Rana took Mumbai past the line.

Rana scored a 36-ball 45, thus narrowly missing his second successive half century in the tournament, hitting two sixes and three fours.

Bangladesh left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman, playing his first game, gave away plenty of runs (34) without completing his quota.

"He played, that means he is fit," Bhuvneshwar retorted. — PTI

NF Railway enter semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER
GUWAHATI, April 13: NF Railway stormed into the semifinals of the All India Railway Cricket Tournament.

In the two-day quarterfinal match, which ended at Kharagpur today, NF Railway defeated Northern Railway by virtue of their 111-run first innings lead.

NF Railway, after batting first yesterday, piled up 355 all out in 83.5 overs. Today the NF Railway forced their opponent to fold their innings at 244 in 51.3 overs. For the NF Railway outfit Sarupam Purkayastha

top scored with 130 while Kunal Sharma added 112. Karan Saikia was the other notable contributor with 60.

Today, Abhilash Gogoi, Muri Singh and Arup Das were the leading wicket-takers for the winning team bagging four, three and two wickets respectively. For Northern Railway Ashish (53) and Akash Yadav (52) were the leading scorers.

In the semifinal NF Railway will square off against RWF at the same venue on April 15 and 16, informed NF Railway sports officer and former Assam Ranji captain Rajesh Bora.

Tezpur CA prevail over GCCC

SPORTS REPORTER
GUWAHATI, April 13: Tezpur Cricket Academy defeated Guwahati Cricket Coaching Centre by two wickets in today's match of the 13th Golap Hazarika Memorial Inter-District Coaching Centre Cricket Tournament at the Dispur Parade Ground.

Restricting the opponent to 124 in 35 overs, Tezpur CA hit up 127 for eight in 31.1 overs.

Brief scores: Guwahati CCC 124/9 (Vivek Saha 32, Deben Sharma 28, Rohit Singh 17, Ritam Roy 2/20). **Tezpur CA 127/8** (Abub Hussain not out 25, Naeem Islam 18, Rohit Singh 3/11, Kuldeep Roy 2/19).

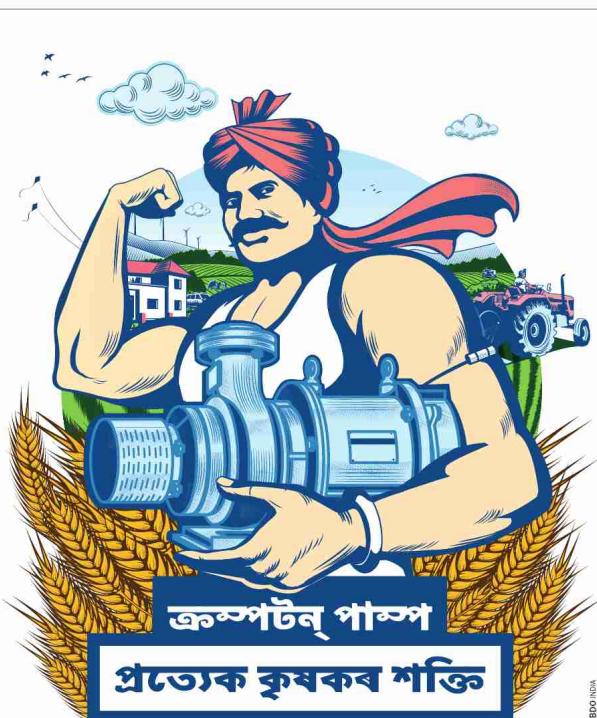
Next match on April 16 between City CCC A and NF Railway CA.

Nishanta named U-19 team trainer

SPORTS REPORTER
GUWAHATI, April 13: Nishanta Bordoloi has been appointed as Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Indian U-19 team by the National Cricket Academy.

The camp for the Indian colts will be held at Bengaluru from April 20 to May 19.

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GRAPHICS DEBASISH SINHA

Of Bihu and *Bohag*

KC Bhattacharya unravels the astronomical origins of this spring festival.

As winter draws to an end, and spring announces its arrival, nature is also getting ready in its new attire. The raindrops sprinkled on the dry earth by the *Bordoloi* on her annual visit spreads an aroma of liveliness in the air. Everybody eagerly waits to welcome *Bohag*. Bihu. Astronomically, the first day of *Bohag* is the beginning of a solar or tropical year based on the apparent movement of the Sun as seen from the Earth.

Two days in a tropical year are known to have equal durations of sunshines (day) and darkness (night). The astronomers of ancient India had named them as *mashavishwa*, falling in spring, and *jala-vishwa*, falling in autumn. The western astronomers call them vernal equinox and autumnal equinox, respectively. *Vishwa* in Sanskrit means division into two equal parts. The imaginary line dividing the northern and southern hemispheres of the globe equally is called the *vishvarekha* (equator). The distinctiveness of the *mashavishwa* from the rest of the days, and also due to its occurrence in the clear weather of spring, led to count a tropical year from one *mashavishwa* or vernal equinox to the next.

Just as the tropical year was divided into 12 months, the apparent annual path of the sun in the sky was also divided into 12 sectors of 30 degree angles, each identified by a constellation of stars, and named as a *Rasi* (zodiac) – *Mesha*, *Brisha*, *Mithuna*, etc. These zodiac signs have close similarity with those of western astrology. On the *mashavishwa* day, the sun is exactly overhead at midday, at any place on the *vishvarekha*. The Sun enters the *Mesha rashi* on this day, hence the special status of *Mesha* as the *adhistari*. The first day of the year having such astronomical or astrological significances must have been celebrated with great pomp, and was probably named as *vishwa* festival.

The astrological tradition in India was to name a month by the *rakshatra* or star in whose vicinity a full moon occurs. In the first month, the full moon happened to occur near the star *Vishabha*, hence the name *Vaisakha*. In the next month,

was the *Jaitrhna nakshatra*, giving the name *Jaitrhya* and so on. From *Vaisakha* to *Bohag*, and from *Vishwa* to *Bihu* – this is the link we can trace back to ancient astronomy. In the Malayalam calendar of South India, this *tithi* is celebrated in present time as *Vishu*, while in Odisha, it is celebrated as '*maha-vishvavasankranti*'.

According to modern astronomy, the vernal equinox (*mashavishwa*) comes every year on March 20. If *Bihu* originated from *Vishwa*, then how is it that we celebrate it in April? This again is found explained in astronomy. Due to the 23.45 degree tilt of the rotational axis of the planet earth, the equatorial plane of the earth is also inclined at 23.45 degree angle with respect to the orbit plane. These two planes intersect at a line which meets the orbital path at two points, named in astronomy as vernal equinox and autumnal equinox, respectively. The rotational axis of the earth is generally said to be fixed towards the pole star. But in reality, it has a slow cyclic motion completing one round in 25,772 years.

Due to this slow cyclic movement of the spin axis, the angle between the equatorial plane of the earth and its orbit plane keeps on changing. As a result, the vernal equinox point keeps on drifting westward on the orbit of the earth around the sun. Accordingly, the tropical year will start about 20 minutes earlier every year compared to the previous year. The ancient astronomers of India knew about it and determined the cycle period to be about 25,500 years, as mentioned in the *Surya Siddhanta* by Bhaskara-II, the astronomer of 12th century CE.

In present days, we celebrate *Bihu* (*vishwa*) in April, but the actual *mashavishwa* has already taken place on March 20, that is 24 days earlier, according to modern astronomy. At the rate of 20 minutes a year, the drift of 24 days requires 1728 years. That is, the *vishwa* must have been celebrated in April during the 3rd century CE. The *mashavishwa* has since drifted to March 20, leaving behind the *vishwa* festival in April, probably due to the enchanting environ of spring. Thus *Bihu*

or *vishwa* has a heritage of at least 1700 years.

The Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582 CE, was so adjusted as to have the vernal equinox to fall every year on March 21. According to the International Astronomical Union, in the present era, the sun resides in *Meen rashi* from April 19 to May 15. According to Vedic astrology also, the sun enters *Meen rashi* on April 15. Thus, the new solar year starts when the Sun enters *Meen*, but the *vishwa* happened 24 days earlier when the Sun was in *Meen rashi*.

The Gregorian year and the Vedic astrological year match with the tropical year very closely. Therefore, the Bohag *Bihu* will continue to visit us every spring in April. But there is a danger of a different kind, not very far away, threatening the Bohag so dear to us. Since the advent of the industrial revolution, millions of tonnes of fossil fuels are burnt every year to meet the energy demand of human civilisation. Forests are being cleared to set up new townships and industries, leaving no place for birds and animals to live. Rising concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to an unprecedented level is causing the planet to warm up. Within the next 100-150 years, the rising temperature may cause the climate system to change unpredictably. If such a day comes, there will not be any spring to welcome the *Bohag*. The heedless cooing of the cuckoo will be missing. *Bordoloi* may turn very violent, destroying everything on her way. Nobody will venture out for *Bihu* dance in the open due to the intense heat. And for all these, Nature is not to be blamed. We have to blame ourselves.

Time is now to desist from destroying the environment. If *Bohag* is lost, then our existence will be also a thing of the past.

Perhaps Sudakartha was right in his thinking, "*Bohag matron eti ritu nobo...*" *Bohag* is indeed a testament of creation, derived from the radiance of the sun. Our survival rests on its preservation.

(The writer was the Director (Reit), North Eastern Space Applications Centre, ISRO. He can be contacted at k_c_bhattacharya@rediffmail.com)

schemes and contrivances to everyday tasks, our Mr Bean – Rowan Atkinson.

Moving into Bollywood, we have Raj Kapoor who is considered the 'Charlie Chaplin of Indian Cinema'. *Shree 420*, *Mera Naam Joker* are often viewed as adaptations of Chaplin's *Limeight*. A scuffly boy and a boisterous boy made his *Mera poota hai Japani* an exact replica of Chaplin's style. Indian cinema had some comedians like Keshito Mukherjee, Mehmood, Johny Lever, Asrani, etc. And a special mention must be made of Paresh Rawal as Baburao Gantipatio Apte, who wore an untidy *dhobi* and a torn vest all through *Hera Pheri*.

Though comedy in India is not at its peak, the last few years have shown a great hike in the number of comedians. Shows like *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge*, *The Kapil Sharma Show* and the laughter shows on SAB TV provide us with the right amount of comic relief. Also stand-up comedy is fast finding its feet in India. People are more inclined towards comedy than any other topic as is evident from the increasing number of comedy shows on TV. Thus adding the much-needed spice of laughter into our lives.

rta25march@gmail.com



The funny men!

Ria Chakraborty

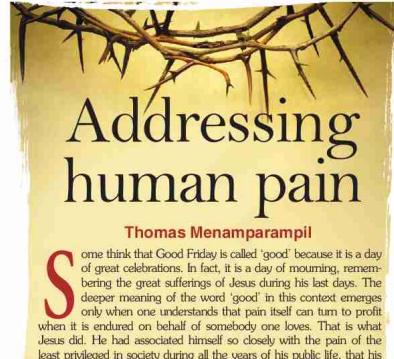
Charlie Chaplin once said that life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot. In our busy, over-committed world, laughter seems to have been lost along the way. We don't find much of it in our everyday lives. Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain.

When we talk about laughter, we instantly remember one of the greatest comedians of all time – Charlie Chaplin. He would take a serious subject, something you can relate to, and show you how funny life actually is. The king of the world of comedy who reigned in the 20th century is equally famous even today. Even today's generation, for whom silent, black-and-white comedy is anachronistic, if not alien, is

aware of Chaplin and his remarkable legacy. The variety of emotions that Chaplin could portray, even with a straight face, is what is still so riveting about him. He is dead serious, and yet the result is hilarious.

Two men, one's fat, while the other is lean and thin, one seems a little smart, and the other childlike; this contrasting duo can make you laugh until your stomach hurts – Laurel and Hardy, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy's comic team is widely regarded as the greatest in film history. Before coming to comedy, the two were doing well in their individual acting careers, but as a duo their real magic became evident, with Laurel playing the bumbling innocent foil to the pompous Hardy.

For one reason the whole world will always be grateful to British Television – Mr Bean, the person who gets himself in trouble even while cleaning his nose. The man with an MSc in Electrical Engineering at The Queen's College, Oxford is the same childish buffoon who brings various unusual



Addressing human pain

Thomas Menampampil

Some think that Good Friday is called 'good' because it is a day of great celebrations. In fact, it is a day of mourning, remembering the great sufferings of Jesus during his last days. The deeper meaning of the word 'good' in this context emerges only when one understands that pain itself can turn to profit when it is endured on behalf of somebody one loves. That is what Jesus did. He had associated himself so closely with the pain of the least privileged in society during all the years of his public life, that his self-giving on the cross was nothing but its climax.

All his active life, Jesus kept moving from one village to another in Galilee, a Roman province known for its frequent uprisings against the rulers. The imperial authorities crushed the insurrection each time, and executed hundreds of dissidents mercilessly upon the cross. Unexplainable, the helper of the poor and the 'prophet of peace' would meet with the same fate.

The mission of Jesus had been to heal the sick, encourage the heartbroken, motivate people who had lost their sense of direction, and assure everyone that no effort of theirs was wasted. The crowds that flocked to him were the sick, the excluded, the desperately poor, the debt-ridden, grief-ridden, guilt-ridden. For everyone he had a word of encouragement. He never suggested rebellion or violent resistance. He planted courage and determination into their hearts. He asked them to have confidence in their own resourcefulness and look beyond. He sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane while praying to God in their behalf. His mind was in agony, thinking of their pains, and those like them.

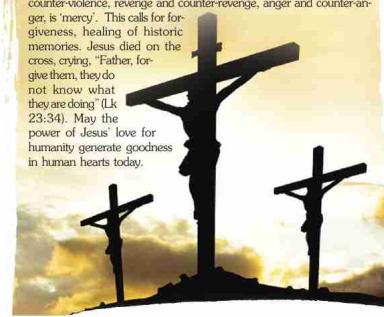
What proved his undoing was the fact that he was critical of injustice, unfairness to the poor, misuse of religion. He exposed hypocrisy. He emphasised the deeper dimension of religion: worshipping God "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23). He was against excessive legalism, ritualism and superficiality in religion. No wonder he got into trouble with the Establishment, which first sought to marginalise him; then, later to eliminate him. Thus, he too dies on a cross placed between two violent men.

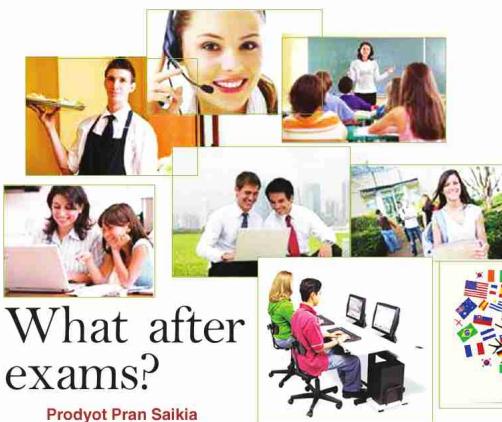
Despite the relevance of his words and works to the immediate context, his concern was for the whole of humankind. He says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). His message on the Mount, "Happy are the poor, who mourn, the humble, the merciful, those who work for peace, the persecuted," (Mt 5:3-10) touched the heart of Mahatma Gandhi profoundly. They have brought consolation to millions of people on every continent. Jesus' suffering was then a co-suffering with the human family: 'pro-suffering' in their behalf. He, thus, summarised his life-mission, "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness" (Jn 10:10). Good Friday is called good because people remember that Jesus died for the well-being of humankind, that all may have life in its 'fullness'.

Let us place Jesus' pain side by side with the pain of humanity in our times. Not a day passes without some group or other dying as victims of violence. It is heart-rending that horrendous human tragedies are reported today as though they were merely about names and numbers. When gruesome tales of violence come up in the media again and again one gets lost in incidents, like in the case of the downing of the Russian Metrojet plane which killed 224 at Sinai; the bomb attack at Ankara; the suicide strike at Beirut butchering 46 innocent bystanders; the ghastly murder of four sisters of Mother Teresa's with 12 of their helpers in Yemen; the Istanbul Ataturk Airport blast, wiping out 44 lives; the violence in a restaurant in Dhaka annihilating 20 foreigners; and recently the use of chemical weapons in Syria. One fails to grasp the contextual significance of these hideous events and the human depth of the problem.

In the immediate excitement of the horror we forget that every victim is an individual with his/her own personal history, ideas, aspirations, dreams, and internal agonies; that he has a family whose future is thrown off the rails; that he belonged to a community in which he played a dynamic role, and possibly an entire society felt inspired by him. We fail to hear the sighs; the sobs, and the loud wailings of his/her dear ones. An inspiring voice silenced, amazing stamina extinguished, long-cherished hopes crushed, in each single case. When we keep hearing of similar mishaps overtaking dozens, hundreds, thousands of people, we wonder whether Thomas Hobbes was right in *Leviathan* that 'man is a wolf unto man'. No. But what is true is that a man, if he so chooses, can make himself a wolf to others.

In such contexts, we cry for help 'from on high'. Shakespeare wrote, "The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from 'heaven' upon the place beneath" (*The Merchant of Venice*). The saving word in the context of this terrible dialogue between violence and counter-violence, revenge and counter-revenge, anger and counter-anger, is 'mercy'. This calls for forgiveness, healing of historic memories. Jesus died on the cross, crying, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:34). May the power of Jesus' love for humanity generate goodness in human hearts today.





What after exams?

Prodoyer Pran Saikia

Even doing absolutely nothing at times could be painful activity. For example, when one is ill and recuperating, then doing absolutely nothing helps one regain health. When a student finds his syllabus daunting and overwhelming, his psychotherapist may offer him a completed dissociation from textbooks for a brief period of time as a valued option. But doing absolutely nothing worthwhile for a longer period of time when one is at the threshold of facing the rigours of the world could not only be catastrophic but may also adversely affect one's future prospects.

Exams could be stressful. Board exams could be more stressful. Once the board exams are over, a brief 'cooling off' period should follow to de-stress oneself. This is the period when you can lounge about without feeling guilty. This is also the period to make up for the lost sleep. But worse are those students who, after their board exams, go into just a brief cooling-off period, and then pick up all development activities to gainfully utilise this period (till the results are out) instead of whiling away their time. Usually it takes about two months time for the boards to declare the results. This interim can

be used to pick up or develop a skill, prepare for competitive tests to enrol into higher courses, learn a trade, do a job, or learn a language among a plethora of other possibilities.

Two years ago, after completing his matric exams, Sagar (name changed) took up a part-time job in a shoe retail franchisee of an international brand. In addition to earning a hefty monthly sum for pocket money, he also gained first-hand work experience. The money he earned helped him pay for the college enrollment fees. And, in that brief period, he also learnt a lot about life, human behaviour, customer care and above all, he learnt about discipline, punctuality, time management, and the economics of life.

But not everyone will be equally inclined to get into a part-time job. Learning a language or strengthening the existing language skills could be useful areas. Say for example, the English language. The board exams had given you enough opportunities to assess how good you are in English (or, the medium of your education). If you had struggled to construct sentences to express your

thoughts, then it will be appropriate for you to enrol yourself into a course to brush up the basics of English grammar and writing skills. The same will be true for any other language. Irrespective of whether you are aiming to pursue higher studies in science, arts or commerce streams, a good grasp in the language of the medium of instruction and learning is must if you wish to earn good grades.

Or, maybe you always wanted to be an actor. Why not get into it by enrolling for a short term course in acting? If you live in bigger towns or cities then you may be privileged to find institutions that offer basic courses in acting. In the absence of such institutions, you may reach up to a noted actor in your locality and request him to guide you. If you always wanted to learn some musical instruments then just get into it. There are bound to be a few musical instrument training centres that charge nominal fees, in addition to providing access to the instruments too. Just ask around. Or you wanted to be a painter? Find a guru and seek guidance. If your budget is a constraint, you don't need to go shopping for costly wares. Start with pencil sketching and crayons.

Still development in Computer Science is always going to be a huge bonus. Learning the basics of Desktop Publishing software and Tally could help you earn, while you later pursue your higher studies. Learning programming languages like C, C++, and Java can bring out the software engineer in you. If you are aiming to work abroad, a serious programming course could be your work visa. Picking up the basics of the trade, even if only as a hobby, could stand you in good stead any time.

Your biology teacher may have introduced you to the Darwinian theory of the survival of the fittest. Your parents, relatives and well-wishers may have been constantly bombarding you with the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to earn a living. They are not wrong. In 1947, the population of India was only around 30 crores. It stands at more than 120 crores now. You may have read news items like 70 per cent of engineering degree holders are unemployed; doctorate holders are applying for menial jobs. In such contexts, any additional skills will help you move ahead in the queue. And remember that time and tide waits for none. The one who stiches in time, indeed, saves nine.

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Indrajit Kaitla

There is hardly any individual, who does not like to scale the success ladder. Indeed, success is an inseparable entity everybody aspires for. It goes without saying that there is no short cut to success. It does not come overnight. Success involves hard labour, perseverance, devotion, time management, patience, and an indomitable spirit. Often a person might not attain the desired goal even after waging relentless effort. We call them unsuccessful, which is too simple an observation. We fail to acknowledge the effort made, and considering the dignity of this, it carries little significance, whether the package of success is pocketed or not. In fact, real beauty lies in the way one tries to attain success, and not in success itself.

Success carries much more meaning once it entails concern for the betterment of society, and not simply for individuals. If the success of an individual is confined to personal interest, it is partial in nature, and fails to come to real help to the larger spectrum of society. Blessings of science and technology, achievements in arts, etc., no longer remain in the custody of those who have taken painstaking measures in realising them. They surpass petty boundaries and enter the domain of wider interest. The recognition they get because of serving people is far higher than the success confined to a select few.

Most people think that

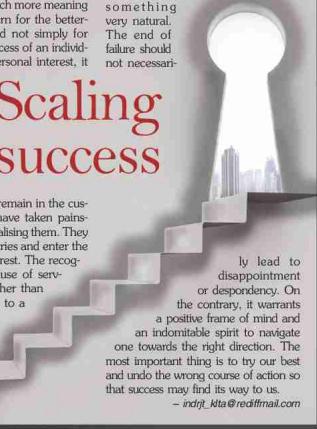
ly lead to disappointment or despondency. On the contrary, it warrants a positive frame of mind and an indomitable spirit to navigate one towards the right direction. The most important thing is to try our best and undo the wrong course of action so that success may find its way to us.

success brings stability in life. The ups and downs that people usually experience come to an immediate halt, and life goes along a positive frame. But this is partially true since we cannot say that successful persons always lead a decent life with no trace of instability. Success is not an end in itself; rather a consolidated move towards an unexplored territory.

Success is not to be measured in terms of material gain, which is narrow and limited in nature. One's material affluence may bring happiness, but only till a certain point. Success and its consequence should be long-lasting and directed towards the betterment of society.

It is sad to see people becoming disheartened once they fail to scale the desired height in pursuit of success. Indeed, failure may be looked at as something very natural. The end of failure should not necessarily

Scaling success



ly lead to disappointment or despondency. On the contrary, it warrants a positive frame of mind and an indomitable spirit to navigate one towards the right direction. The most important thing is to try our best and undo the wrong course of action so that success may find its way to us.

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Autism and Northeast India

When it comes to dealing with autism in the Northeast region of India, resources, including skilled manpower, are at the minimum. Do the children from this region vary from the rest of the country and the world in terms of care and rehabilitation from parents?

We attempted to study the above in our research work by assessing parental stress, social support, coping mechanisms, as well as resilience in the face of the challenges faced by the parents of the children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) attending a multi-specialty centre – Astiwa – located in Guwahati. Children with ASD are among the service users in this centre. Astiwa is one of the few such centres in Northeast India.

The outcome, presented in the research paper, titled 'Impact of stress, coping, social support, and resilience of families having children with autism: A North East India-based study' by Shyamanta Das, Bornali Das, Kokil Nath, Arunima Dutta, Priyanka Bora, and Mythili Hazarika has been published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry. Some of the highlights are: definite stress and time constraint, discontinuation of jobs held earlier, coping well in spite of problems, mixed social support, religiosity and spirituality as the resorted avenues.

Our research throws light on pertinent issues regarding families having children with ASD from a region where specialty centres are a rarity. This work also has future implications as far as these children's future, rehabilitation, and care from the parental perspective are concerned in Northeast India.



MIND MATTERS

Dr Shyamanta Das

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The top two topics doing the round now are the Windows 10 Creators Update and Samsung's Bixby. However, for me, the most interesting topic is the unique single speaker surround system. Imagine a sound base that acts like a home theatre in a box! Here is the Playbase by Sonos Inc, an American consumer electronics company known for its smart speakers.

The Sonos Trueplay tuning software processes adapt the speaker to the layout of your room. You can also manually tweak the output in the Sonos app. With window-jarring bass, crisp mid-range and a surprisingly wide soundstage, the Playbase is kind of a surround-sound setup with a single speaker.

Apart from being very slim, almost like our JioFi set, Playbase is a breeze to set up. Put it in, download app, tap a few buttons, and you are ready. If you already own Sonos products, it is even simpler. Since it is so small, it will fit underneath almost any TV. The Playbase works great even when the TV is off, since it is still part of the Sonos system. Want one? It is available online.

More Windows!

This column will do great injustice to its nomenclature, if I fail to mention the latest Windows update, launched

The strong fragrance of the *keteki* and the flowering of *kopou* are harbingers of spring, signalling the dawn of a new year in the Brahmaputra Valley. *Kopou phulis* is the most sought after orchid in Assam during the New Year festivities in April. Assamese women adorn the pink flowers as ornamentation on their head during the celebration of Rongali Bihu. Found in the Northeast and South India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Java and Philippines, the *Kopou phul* or *Seeta pushpa* in Sanskrit, *Rhyncostylis retusa* is commonly named Fox Tail. Declared the State flower of Assam, the *Rhyncostylis retusa* is intrinsically associated with the mosaic of tradition and culture of the State's diverse ethnic groups. The cultural symbolism of orchids

– that have long been a symbol of love and beauty – could be traced to many tropical and subtropical countries where they enjoy the status of national flower. Orchids are found in almost every habitat, except for Antarctica. The term 'orchid' was introduced by John Lindley in 1845 as a shortened form of *Orchidaceae* – the largest and diverse family of the flowering plants (Angiospermae). The Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew lists 800 genera and nearly 22,000 accepted species of orchids, while thousands more remain unknown or unclassified.

Of some 1,300 species (140 genera) of orchids found in India, the Northeast alone hosts 800 species. Jharkhand has more than 500 species. Meghalaya too has some undisturbed areas providing

on Tuesday.

Microsoft, which has been testing its latest Windows 10 Creators Update in recent months, says that it is now ready to roll out to existing machines. The Creators Update includes some small and welcome additions, like...

Cortana: In this update you will notice Cortana guiding you through the set-up process. Cortana will use the microphone and speakers to listen to commands, including setting up a Wi-Fi network and keyboard layout.

Game Mode: The new Game Mode in the Xbox app prioritises CPU and GPU resources for a game by reducing unnecessary usage of system resources so that games run as best as they can.

Dynamic Lock: This new feature lets you automatically lock a PC when you are away from it. You can pair Bluetooth devices like a phone or wearable, and Windows 10 will sense once the Bluetooth connection is too far away and lock the PC.

Microsoft Edge: The new feature in the Edge browser lets you set tabs aside and save them for use later on. Microsoft has added e-book support and the ability to view 360 videos to Edge. The update includes some more features. However, this is as much update for you now.

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habitat for wild orchids. Silvian's floral wealth has a treasure chest of some 600 orchids. About 300 species of orchids are reported in Assam that represents 44.39 per cent of the Northeastern species and 24.42 per cent of species occurring in India. *Ranenatha insignis* or Red Vanda is one of the most rare and beautiful orchids in Northeast India. The Blue Vanda is equally cherished. There are many other rare varieties found in the Lakhimpur district and Dibrugarh. Of them *Rhyncostylis retusa Alba* is one of the most unique and rare genus of fragrant flower.

Many orchids are highly valued for their medicinal properties. In traditional medicine they are used as a cure for many diseases and ailments and an important ingredient in herbal remedies. The dried seed pods of *Vanilla planifolia* are commercially used as flavouring agent in bakeries, for perfumery and aromatherapy. Orchids are cultivated on a commercial basis through intervention from biotechnology. Horticulturists created over 100,000 hybrids for commercialisation, as wild orchids are protected under various conservation laws. While government plans for conservation and propagation of orchids, and development of gene bank for endangered species found in this part of the country are yet to be implemented.

ed, the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) has come up with a sprawling three hectare Kaziranga National Orchid and Bio Diversity Park. It houses almost all the wild orchids found in the region. - newwildflowers@gmail.com

Orchids: ornaments of nature

SEEDS OF CHANGE

Mubina Akhtar

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VETO

TITANIC

AS legend goes – Titans were Gods – the children of Uranus (heaven) and Gaia (earth). Cronus was their leader and, Zeus his son. Zeus possessed immense strength and power, and rose up against the Gods, defeated convincingly and became the chief God. Backed by this story, the word titanic came to use since the early 18th century with the meaning 'of exceptional strength, size and power'. So, the huge British passenger liner was named titanic considering her size and expected durability. The expression 'rearranging the deck chairs on the titanic' is used to refer to futile actions against inevitable disaster.



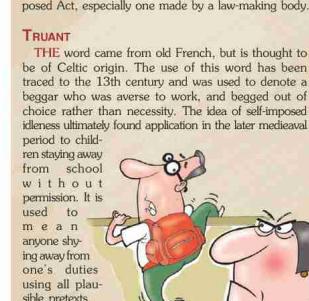
WORDSPK

THE STORY BEHIND WORDS

Bibekananda Choudhury

TRUANT

THE word came from old French, but is thought to be of Celtic origin. The use of this word has been traced to the 13th century and was used to denote a beggar who was averse to work, and begged out of choice rather than necessity. The idea of self-imposed idleness ultimately found application in the later medieval period to children staying away from school without permission. It is used to mean anyone shying away from one's duties using all plausible pretenses.





The cult of the face

Facial expressions are a very important part of communication. Though nothing is said verbally, there is much to be understood about the messages we send and receive through the use of non-verbal communication, such as facial expressions. Facial communication has become an area of utmost importance during the present times. A little bit of self-introspection would really help us get better at communicating better with our facial expressions.

A face that stands out in a crowd gathers optimum accolades. But how to stand out in a crowd of numerous faces? Out of all the facial expressions – frowning, eye rolling, making eye contact, scowling, and appearing bored or interested, looking shocked – the one which always seems to exude warmth and speak of an amiable nature is the smile. It makes you look friendly and approachable.

When it comes to facial language, one of the most important aspects is the tilt of the face. A face that tilts towards the right or the left indicates aggression. While engaging in a conversation, need to keep the face straight, and maintain eye contact with the other person. Eye contact and facial expressions provide important social and emotional information to the one on the other side. Ideally, we suggest you keep a neutral face, devoid of a broad smile. Smile or laugh if the situation demands. Else, keep a neutral expression.

Eye gestures complementing your face will let the other person know that you are interested in the conversation. We would advise you to draw an imaginary straight line from the right eye to the left and back again, dragging it to the tip of your nose. An imaginary 'T' will make the speaker feel that you are being attentive.

Words, as per their meanings, also need a comprehensive modulation of the voice, and matching facial expressions.

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CHARISMA CHRONICLE

Anjan Chowdhury

WEST SIDE STORY

Junior Cowell's charms

IT appears Simon Cowell's 3-year-old son Eric is following in his father's footsteps, having bagged himself five girlfriends already. Cowell was known for being a ladies' man in his heyday, boasting an impressive host of exes.

The media mogul, 57, said this about his only child with Lauren Silverman, 39: "I think he has my charm with the ladies."

I asked him how many girlfriends he has got and I think he has five currently, so he's doing okay... Eric is absolutely incredible and so funny. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Sienna spotted with ex

SIENNA Miller was spotted in New York with her former fiance Tom Sturridge earlier this week. The British actress, 35, looked deep in conversation with Tom, who she shares four-year-old daughter Marlow with. Speaking to *Harper's Bazaar* recently about Tom, who she split with in 2015, she described him as her 'best friend in the world'.

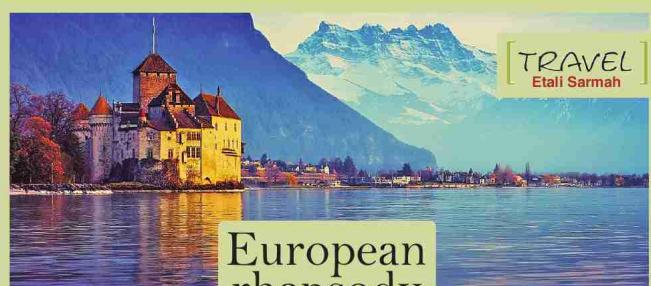
Meanwhile, Brad Pitt, 53, was reportedly seen getting flirty with Sienna, the star of his new film, in Los Angeles, according to *Page Six*.

Sheryl is 'losing faith'

LAST year, Sheryl Crow started a petition on Change.org to shorten the US presidential election cycle. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said she was exhausted by the mudslinging and divisive language that had dominated the discussions.

"I felt like it was becoming so hateful that I had to watch to make sure my lads didn't pick up the remote and turn the TV on... Now we have this forum for haters to come out and say the worst thing you could possibly say to someone without having the experience of the reaction. We've learned to be a society without empathy and without compassion."

AGENCIES



European rhapsody

After completing all the shopping, packing and planning, finally the most awaited holiday of the year began. Though (me, my husband and our toddler) had taken short trips to UAE and Egypt earlier this year, this holiday was special – five countries, 18 days and some major relief from the scorching summer heat of Kuwait where we stay.

Our first destination was Geneva, and the bird's eye view of Lake Geneva and the mountains from our Emirates flight added to our excitement. Without wasting much time, we rushed to our hotel and after some rest, started exploring the city. Throughout the trip, we kept our travel style common, we bought Euro rail passes for travel between countries, and respective city passes for local transport with access to some places of touristic importance. We hopped on to a train and reached our first destination the Palais des Nations. Close to this building is a structure called the Broken Chair by Daniel Berset, which was built as a symbol of fragility and strength, precariousness and stability; a desperate cry of war-torn civilian population.

Next morning, we started early, accompanied by a light drizzle to see the spectacular Lake Geneva, one of the largest lakes in Western Europe. We sat in a cafe and enjoyed the sight of the Jet d'Eau, a fountain which is the city's landmark attraction. As we sipped our morning cup of coffee, along with our breakfast, our happy toddler was hopping all around with joy at the sight of the swans enjoying the rain.

Our second destination was Bern. We covered the beautiful Zytglogge, an ancient clock tower belonging to the 13th

century and a UNESCO world heritage site with an astronomical clock belonging to the 15th century. We had to tailormake our travel plan taking into account our little fellow passenger's requirements. So next we decided to go to the Bear Park. I had assumed it to be a zoo. But I was wrong, it was located along the banks of the river Aar, next to the Nydeggbrücke (a bridge), with the bears in the lower section and beautiful walkways for tourists on the top and bottom. Our girl saw three big bears from the top. It made me very happy.

Next day, after a city tour on a tram, we came back, checked out of the hotel and boarded the train to Lucerne, a small city from where we based up to go to Mount Titlis and the Rhine Falls. Our guide explained to us about Swiss cheese and chocolate making and showed us some of the oldest houses along the way in the Engelberg area. We were taken to the mountains to see the glaciers by Gondola, ice fly and revolving aerial cable car. We also walked over Europe's highest suspension bridge, while marveling at the extensive panoramic views.

We soon bid adieu to Switzerland, as we still had four countries to explore. We sat in a morning train to Innsbruck, where we spent two days. This small and beautiful Austrian town is known for its Swarovski Kristallwelten. I especially liked the mechanical theater inside with no human performers, but only some stylish machines doing musical moves. We went to the mountains on the Hungerburgbahn, a futuristic vehicle to see the Alpine zoo which is considered to be the highest zoo in Europe.

By the time we reached Vienna, we were a little tired and so decided to take the bus tours. Vienna is a big city to explore, so choosing this mode of transportation was convenient. We went to see the Schönbrunn Palace, Hofburg Palace, Prater, the Madame Tussauds museum, St Stephen's Cathedral, and many more museums and parks.

We had planned for a day trip to the Slovak city of Bratislava. Due to its proximity to Vienna we chose to keep Vienna as base. Bratislava was a beautiful experience. We were hungry and so chose to have a brunch first, we loved the pasta with goat cheese, pan cakes, herb chicken, rice and *halusky*. Then we walked the beautiful alleys and took a toy train ride. Lovely sculptures adorned the square. After limitless smiles, smiles, chatters, and souvenir shopping, we boarded the shuttle back to Vienna.

The fourth country in our route plan was Hungary. We chose a hop-on, hop-off ride for city exploration. Budapest is a beautiful city on the banks of Danube. There is a viewpoint on the top of the mountains with the Statue of Liberty overlooking the city. The Szchenyi Chain Bridge is a suspension bridge that spans the River Danube between Buda and Pest, the western and eastern sides of the city.

The last destination was Prague, Czech Republic. This serene and gorgeous city is well known for the historic astronomical clock, Charles Bridge and the Prague Castle. Live music, boat rides, Bohemian crystal shops, street performers and endless tourists flocking these attractions liven the spirit of the city. Standing on top of the towers, we stood praising the red roof tops and gorgeous settings of this beautiful city.

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Techno-time management!

Since school days, we have been hearing about the concepts of time management. 'A stitch in time saves nine' and 'time and tide wait for none' are two of the most famous proverbs on time. Our parents, teachers, seniors, colleagues have left no stone unturned teaching us about time.

In the advent of information boom, the digital era has taken a leaf out of time management and brought out some cool tech and tools relating to time management. Let us have a look at these techno-savvy, time-saving applications:

Rescue Time: If you have doubt that you are using your time wisely, this app will send you weekly reports to indicate your time thieves. You may be shocked to discover how much time you are wasting.

Togg: This tool tracks how much time you spend on different projects. Effective time management starts with being clear on exactly how much time you actually spend on your projects and tasks, and then analyse how you can manage them more effectively.

MANAGEMENT MOVES

Saurav Soman



Mind42: Mind42 is a free mind-mapping app. It helps you to get more organised by focussing your thoughts, thereby gaining clarity on what needs to be done.

MyLifeOrganised (MLO): This task management system helps you to target what you should be focusing on to reach your objectives. It automatically generates to-do lists with priority actions for your immediate attention so that you can track your progress systematically.

Universal Password Manager: This app allows you to keep all your passwords in one encrypted database, protected by one password. This saves your precious time when you forget your passwords and need to retrieve them, and also allows you to use various passwords so you don't compromise on security issues.

Focus booster: This app is designed for those individuals who procrastinate and feel overwhelmed by tasks. It is designed to enhance your focus and remove any anxiety you might have with time.

Syncback Freeware: This free software allows you to back up, restore and synchronise your files easily. It not only saves your time but enhances productivity. If you have never backed up your files before, you should certainly not overlook this pivotal tool.

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



DIRECTOR: MANISH HARISHANKAR
STARRING: VIVIAN SHAH, AKSHARA HAASAN, GURMEET CHOUDHARY, SAURABH SHUKLA, DARSHAN JARIWALA, SANJAY MISHRA

AT THE THEATRES

Jitu Changmai

In the title of the movie does not put you off, the story that unfolds on the screen definitely will. Manish Harishankar's *Laali Ki Shaadi Mein Laaddoo Deewana* is a complete drivel right from the start.

You get to know who the hubba-loo is all about in the first few scenes and then you have to sit for more than two hours to see how the zany details are worked out. Save for the picturesque locales captured beautifully and a fun moment or two, nothing really clicks in the overdone film. As the narrative moves back and forth in multiple flashbacks, it turns out to be a real test of patience.

Laaddoo (Vivian Shah), a small town boy from a modest family, arrives in Vadodara to work as a steward in a food joint owned by his father's friend, Kabir (Sanjay Mishra). There, he falls for the charms of Laali (Akshara Haasan) who is a frequent visitor to the restaurant. After a few meetings complete with the mandatory songs, Laali finds that she is pregnant. But Laaddoo ditched her as he

goes about making moolah. There triggers a bout of parent-swapping as Laaddoo's father (Darshan Jariwala) disowns him and treats Laali as his daughter and Laali's alcoholic father (Saurabh Shukla), on the other hand, considers Laaddoo a son despite all that he has done to his own daughter.

Meanwhile, a royal stud, Veer (Gurmeet Choudhary), appears on the scene who is advised by his family priest to marry a pregnant girl. Wow! When Laaddoo lands up in the marriage venue where Veer and Laali are going to tie the nuptial knot, the drama is set up.

Akshara Haasan, who made her debut carrying an atrocious hairstyle in *Sharmabhih* (2015), looks pretty in this one. But like her elder sister Shruti, she too has not inherited the acting genes from their famous father, Kamal Haasan. But Vivian Shah is more disappointing. With such meagre talent, it is hard to believe that he is the son of the thespians Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah. Strangely, the gawky Gurmeet Choudhary is the better performer. Seasoned actors Saurabh Shukla and Sanjay Mishra are funny, but they are more or less wasted in inconsequential roles.

Vipin Patwa's music has no novelty value and may in fact turn off the listeners as the romantic numbers pop up one after the other.

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