

NEWS CAPSULE

No Rs 1,000 notes again

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Within days of scrapping nearly 200 rupee notes, the Finance Ministry today ruled out reintroduction of Rs 1,000 currency bills that were scrapped as part of the demonetisation move last November. - PTI

Medical visa

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said India would grant medical visa for treatment of a newborn baby from Pakistan whose family said he is suffering from a cardiac ailment. - PTI

Justice Gogoi

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjan Gogoi has been nominated as the executive chairman of Indian Legal Service Authority with effect from August 28, a written intimation by Ministry of Law and Justice said. - Law Reporter

Myanmar ultars

SILCHAR, Aug 29: Two members of Chin National Army, known as the underground of Myanmar, were nabbed by Assam Rifles jawans from Golital in Jiribam district of Manipur. Those arrested are Domila Sangit and Henlalsingh Singson. - Correspondent

Militants held

DIPUH, Aug 29: The personnel of Red Horse Division of Indian Army based in East Karbi Anglong apprehended two militants from a village today and recovered two guns and several rounds of ammunition from them. - Correspondent

Counselling

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: In a relief to students who have qualified NEET exam, the Supreme Court has extended the deadline till September 7 for the final round of counselling to get admission in the MBBS and BDS courses for 2017-18 in deemed universities. - PTI

The Assam Tribune on internet & http://www.assamtribune.com & http://epaper.assamtribune.com

NSCN(IM)-Centre talks in 'advanced stage'

Demand for separate constitution rejected

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: The talks between the Government of India and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM) are in "advanced stage" and the Centre has rejected the demand of the militant outfit to allow Nagaland to have separate constitution. Meanwhile, the Centre is also hopeful that the Khaspang faction of other states as demanded by the militant outfit. Sources revealed that the Centre would not cut into the territory while signing the final agreement with the NSCN (IM), sources added.

MHA sources admitted that till now some minor differences still persists and efforts

are on to settle the issues. Sources, however, refused to divulge the details of the differences that still exist between the Government and the NSCN (IM).

Sources admitted that some other issues need to be settled before the final agreement is signed for political solution of the Naga problem. One is issue is that the NSCN (IM) has a strong base including a large number of armed cadres. Both the Government and the NSCNK (IM) leadership will have to finalize modalities

about rehabilitating the cadres of the outfit. Some other issues on the post accord scenario will also have to be settled before both sides sign the formal agreement. It may be mentioned here that a framework agreement between the Government and NSCN (IM) was signed in August 2015 in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Meanwhile, the Government is hopeful that the NSCN (K) will also rejoin the peace process and we are getting some feelers in this regard. However, sources did not divulge as to when the outfit is expected to rejoin the peace process in April

N Korea fires ballistic missile over Japan

SEOUL, Aug 29: Nuclear-armed North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan today in a major escalation that triggered global alarm and a furious response from the government in Tokyo.

While UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the North Korean missile launch, saying it "undermines" regional security and stability and efforts to create space for dialogue, a visibly unsettled Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said it was an "unprecedented, serious and grave threat". Meanwhile, the UN Security Council has called an emergency meeting at Tokyo and Washington's request.

Sirens blared out and text messages were fired off across northern Japan warning people in the missile's flight path to take cover. Trains were delayed as passengers were urged to seek shelter inside stations.

The last time a North Korean rocket overflow Japan was in 2009, when Pyongyang said it was a satellite launch. Washington, Seoul and Tokyo believed it was a clandestine test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

Pyonyang last month carried out two overt ICBM tests that appeared to bring much of the US mainland within reach for the first time and heightened strains in the region.

At the time, US President Donald Trump issued an

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Goods train services to NE resume after 16 days

Passenger services expected to restart from Sept 3

STAFF REPORTER

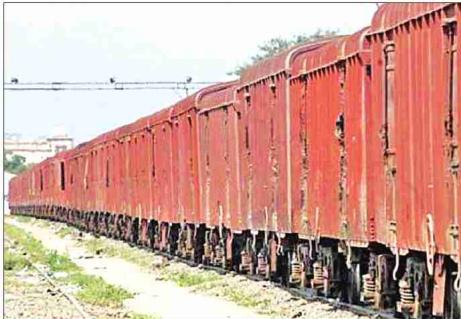
GUWAHATI, Aug 29: Goods train services between the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) zone and rest of the country resumed today after a gap of 16 days, while passenger train services are expected to restart from September 3.

Meanwhile, NFR has suffered commercial losses to the tune of over Rs 74 crore due to disruption of train services from and to this region following heavy floods in eastern Bihar. Train services had stopped since August 13.

NFR Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pranav Jyoti Sharma said the flood-damaged portion of track on the Up line along with the bridge No. 133 between Sadihali and Telta was certified fit by the engineering department of NFR today.

"The first goods train left Sadihali station at 1:50 pm and arrived at Telta at 2:25 pm. It passed over this section safely."

The portion has been certified fit up to a maximum speed of 10 km per hour. With this goods service has resumed. The portion of repaired track will be kept



under very close observation under the passage of goods trains and movement of passenger trains will be commenced from September 3," Sharma said.

He added that with the movement of goods trains the permanent repairs are carried out. Very extensive damage was caused in the vicinity of bridge No. 133 with scouring to a depth of 12 to 15 metres and extent of 70 metres in the approach of the bridge, he said.

Trains will run on a single track in the Sadihali-Telta section, till the Down line is also certified as fit.

The floods earlier this month led to large scale damage in tracks and other railway infrastructure at various places

across Bihar. So services in Bihar and West Bengal falling under Kathai and Alipurduar divisions of NFR had to be suspended. This also resulted in severing of the rail link between NFR zone, which includes all the northeastern states as well as parts of Bihar and West Bengal, and the rest of the country.

Sharma said that NFR has suffered commercial loss to the tune of around 200 vulnerable points prone to breaches in these embankments.

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permanent repairs are carried out. Very extensive damage was caused in the vicinity of bridge No. 133 with scouring to a depth of 12 to 15 metres and extent of 70 metres in the approach of the bridge, he said.

The State has 423 embankments of rivers, including the ones on the Brahmaputra. Together, these embankments are around 4,474 km in length. Most of these embankments were built in the 1950s and 1960s. The State WRD has so far identified around 200 vulnerable points prone to breaches in these embankments.

Brahmaputra dykes Centre yet to clear Rs 4,500-cr proposal

AJIT PATOWARY

bankments, sources said.

Breaches: Altogether 26 breaches occurred on 19 embankments built and maintained by the WRD this year. These breaches measure around 3 km in aggregated length. Of these breaches, the one that occurred in the Hatimura portion of the Brahmaputra dyke in Kalabari subdivision of Nagaon district in the morning hours of August 13 was a major one. The breach measured around 80 metres in length.

However, the Subansiri dyke in Majuli district was the worst affected among the dykes of the State this year. It suffered nine breaches, sources said.

This year Lakhimpur, Majuli, and Dhemaji districts as well as Kalabari subdivision of Nagaon district are the worst hit areas in upper and middle parts of the State, in terms of the damage caused to the WRD, PWD, agriculture, irrigation departments' infrastructure, private dwelling houses, crop area by the flood.

Similarly, in the lower Assam areas, Dhubri and Mankachar are the worst affected districts, sources said.

APW alleges payment scam in NRC work

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: Voluntary organisation Assam Public Works (APW) said in a statement here today that it filed a case before the CBI here on August 25, against Prateek Hajela, the Nodal Officer in updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) alleging his involvement in a scam concerning around Rs 248 crore meant for updating the document.

It further said that it has lodged complaints with the offices of the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, Registrar General of India, Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Supreme Court also with the same allegation.

The Supreme Court has been monitoring the entire process of updating the NRC. It has also been mounting pressure on the Government at the Centre and in the State to complete the process of updating this vital document by December 31 next, following a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 2742/2009, filed by the APW with the Apex Court on July 20, 2009.

The voluntary organisation alleged that of the Rs 900 crore allocated by the Union Government for updating the NRC, an amount of around Rs 248 crore has been siphoned off by the WIPRO and the Integrated Systems and Service (ISS) in the name of supplying

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Expansion work of LGBI airport from Nov

STAFF REPORTER



South East Asia. The Centre is also planning to construct a twin city and a new air port on the suburb of Guwahati and new task force would be constituted involving representatives and experts

from both the Central and State Governments to study the viability to make the project a reality.

Pursuant to Chief Minister Sonowal's request, the Union Minister assured

to start helicopter services between Guwahati with other towns of Assam and North East. Sonowal also said that the State Government would construct helipads in smaller towns. The subsidised helicopter services will be made available under UDAN-II scheme.

Moreover, the Union Minister also assured to start daily flights between Guwahati and Dibrugarh and between Dibrugarh to Pasighat shortly. Regarding the alleged hike in air-fares in view of snapped rail link between Assam with other parts of the country, the Union Minister said that in view of chief minister's concern over the issue, he took the matter with the appropriate authority and steps have been taken to rationalise the fare.

Bhutan hails end of Doklam standoff

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Bhutan today welcomed the end of the 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Doklam and hoped it would help maintain peace and status quo at the tri-junction.

"Bhutan welcomes the disengagement by the two sides at the face-off site in the Doklam area," the Bhutanese foreign ministry said. "We hope this contributes to the maintenance of peace and tranquillity and status quo along the borders of Bhutan, China and India in keeping with the existing agreements between the respective countries," it said.

In a major diplomatic breakthrough to end the prolonged standoff between their troops, India and China yesterday disengaged their border personnel at Doklam.

Troops of the two countries had been locked in a standoff in Doklam since June 16 after Indian troops stopped the Chinese Army from building a road in the strategically key Doklam region, a disputed area between China and Bhutan. - PTI

Spanish firm loses another NH project

Notices slapped on two other companies

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

cost in both the cases - Rs 43 crore and Rs 46 crore respectively. NHIDCL Executive Director (Project) Ajay Ahluwalia told *The Assam Tribune* today, adding that both the projects were "terminally ill".

Four-laning work from Nagaon to Dibrugarh

The NHIDCL, which has already floated fresh tenders for the Jorhat-Jhapi stretch, will maintain the entire Jorhat-Demow section till new contractors are awarded the works. "We are in the process of preparing the es-

timates for the maintenance work," the ED said.

Last week, the new Managing Director of NHIDCL NN Sinha, on his maiden visit to the State, had inspected the NH-37, travelling by road from Guwahati to Dibrugarh.

Sources said the MD, notice of 'intention to terminate' has also been slapped on Gammon Dunkerley Pvt Ltd which is executing the 26.9-km Demow-Moran four-laning project. Notices have been served to TK Engineering Consortium Pvt Ltd

for slipping work on two highway stretches - the 18.4-km Nagaon bypass-Rangapara stretch (Rs 159.2 crore) and the Jamuguri-Biswanath stretch.

"In fact, we have concluded their contract for maintenance of the Nagaon bypass-Rangapara section. We will now rope in another contractor and maintain it at the cost and risk of TK Engineering," Ahluwalia said.

Following directions from the new MD, notice of 'intention to terminate' has also been slapped on Gammon Dunkerley Pvt Ltd which is executing the 26.9-km Demow-Moran four-laning project. Notices have been served to TK Engineering Consortium Pvt Ltd

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Rampal
acquitted in
two cases; but
won't walk free

HISAR, Aug 29: A court here today acquitted self-styled godman Rampal in two cases related to rioting, unlawful assembly, use of criminal force but he won't walk free as he is facing several other charges, including murder.

Judicial Magistrate Mukesh Kumar granted the relief to the 66-year-old head of Sattlok Ashram in Barwala and his followers at a makeshift court set up inside Hisar Central Jail, citing lack of evidence.

The court was hearing cases of alleged assault, obstructing public servant in discharge of public function, rioting, unlawful assembly, use of criminal force to deter a public servant and other charges.

The two cases were registered against Rampal and his followers in November 2014.

He was accused in the two cases under IPC Sections 323 (Voluntarily causing hurt), 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 186 (Obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 426 (mischief), 147 (rioting), 149 (Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), and 342 (wrongful confinement).

The court has acquitted Rampal in both the cases, "his counsel AP Singh told reporters.

On August 24, the judge had deferred the date of hearing for today after the police cited tension in the wake of the Dera Sacha Sauda case.

Rampal was arrested after a tense standoff between his supporters and the police after close to 15,000 of his followers were evacuated from the sprawling 12-acre Sattlok ashram premises at Barwala in 2014. - PTI

We take decisions with courage, execute them with conviction: PM

UDAIPUR, Aug 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that his government took various decisions with courage and executed them with conviction which had crippled the whole system.

The whole system had been "crippled" when the NDA government assumed office, he said addressing a massive rally at Khel River in Kota.

"Had there been anyone weak in such a situation, he would have been intimidated. But, we are from a different soil. We accept challenges, find solutions and move ahead

on the development path," he said. The Prime Minister was here to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several highway projects in Rajasthan, with an outlay of over Rs 15,000 crore. "We will make efforts to complete the works undertaken by us. We take decisions with courage and execute them with conviction. The infrastructural projects will be game changer for Rajasthan," he said.

Modi dedicated to the nation 11 completed national highway projects, totalling a length of about 873 kms. These include a six-lane, cable-stayed bridge over the Cham-

tal River in Kota. He also digitally performed the groundbreaking ceremony for six national highway projects of about 556 kms.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said, "Making announcements and tall promises at the time of election had been a tradition. It continued for years. It is a challenge to eliminate evils and it takes a lot of strength to eliminate them that you cannot even imagine," Modi told the gathering.

He said that his government had increased speed, scale, scope for development activities.

Revering the "land of warriors",

he said that his government had done development and not politics.

Hitting out at the previous Congress government in Rajasthan, he said that the bridge in Kota could not be completed in 11 years. "Finally, our government took the challenge and completed it," he added.

It showed the difference between his dispensation and the previous government.

He said that inauguration and foundation laying of over Rs 15,000 crore worth development works in Rajasthan was a "historic" event.

He said that better road connectivity will open avenues in agricultural

ture, tourism, industrial development. "If the roads are good then from flower vendor to a tea vendor, all will have a better income," he told a cheering crowd.

The Prime Minister also expressed his sympathies with the people in the flood-affected regions of the country.

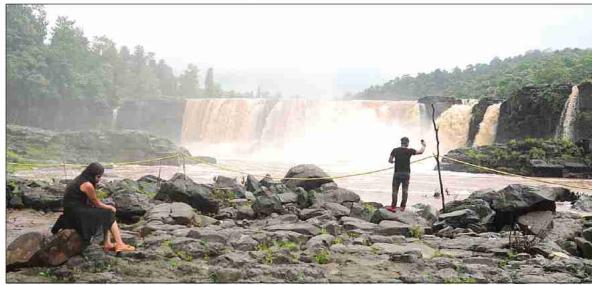
He said that the Centre was with the people affected due to flood and stood by them in troubled times.

"The State government has sent a proposal and a high-level committee has visited the flood affected areas. We will together come out of situation," he added. - PTI

RSS calls BJP, 40 allied groups for coordination meeting

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: The RSS has called the top leadership of the BJP and all its 40 allied organisations for its three-day annual coordination meeting in Mathura from September 1 to take stock of the work done by them, said a senior functionary. The meeting will also hold deliberations on prevalent issues.

The killings of RSS cadres in Left-wing Kerala and the recent violence in Haryana after the arrest of Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim will be among the issues discussed, he said. - PTI



People enjoying Monsoon Festival at Saputara in Gujarat, on Tuesday. - UNI

I-T Dept questions Rabri, Tejashwi in Patna in benami case

QUESTIONED about the alleged benami assets that the department suspects have been created by them along with their other family members.

A special I-T team from Delhi has flown to Bihar capital to assist the IO in the case and take the probe forward, they said.

The department had earlier questioned Prasad's MP daughter Misa Bharti and her husband Shailesh Kumar in this case.

The department had served

notices of attachment of assets in June to Lalu, Rabri, Tejashwi and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Lalu's daughters Chanda, Ragini Yadav, Bharti and son-in-law Kumar.

It had attached about a dozen plots and buildings in Delhi and Bihar, including a farm house and land in the Palam Vihar area, a residential building in the upmarket New Friends Colony area of south Delhi, nine plots in Phulwari Sharif area in Patna, where a shopping mall was being constructed, among

few others in the same area in Bihar's capital.

The department has said these alleged benami assets bear a "deed" value of about Rs 9.32 crore but the taxman has estimated their current market value at 170-180 crore.

Benami properties are those in which the real beneficiary is not the one in whose name the property has been purchased.

The Lalu family has called these cases to be borne out of "political vendetta" against them. - PTI

Talaq to be part of Sunni madrassa curriculum

BAREILLY (UP), Aug 29: To educate Muslims about the practice of 'talaq' after the recent Supreme Court ruling on the matter, a leading Dargah of the Sunni sect has decided to include it in the curriculum of madrassas. "There are many safeguards as per the Shariat regarding talaq (divorce), but in a majority of cases they are overlooked and people remain unaware of them... Now the right manner of practising 'talaq' as per the sunnat will be taught to students of madrassas," head of Darul Uloom Manzare Islaam of Dargah Al Hazrat, Mufti Sayyid Kafli Hashmi said here today.

The syllabus of madrassas linked to Dargah Al Hazrat is prepared in the light of the Quran and Hadis.

After becoming aware, students will be able to counsel about talaq and contact couples to apprise them of the bad effect of divorce on children, Hashmi said. The Dargah has issued a helpline number for such cases, the Mufti said. - PTI

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Editorial/ASDM/8/17



Pak suspends talks with US over Trump's remarks: Report

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: Pakistan has suspended official visits and talks with the US to protest against President Donald Trump's criticism of Islamabad for providing safe havens to militants, a media report said today.

It was disclosed by Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif yesterday in the Senate which converted itself into a committee to discuss the deteriorating relations with the US. Asif told the Senators that Pakistan had suspended talks and bilateral visits as a mark of protest, *Dawn* quoted sources as saying.

US Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells was supposed to arrive here today, while the Foreign Minister himself was to travel to the US last week.

About the recently unveiled policy of the US President on South Asia, Asif said it envisaged no military role for India in Afghanistan. According to the sources, the minister said it was rather a role of economic development. He claimed during the in-camera session of the committee that India must not be allowed to use Afghan soil to destabilise Pakistan.

The members also asked the government to share a fact-sheet on US assistance received after 9/11 and the financial loss incurred by the country as a frontline state against the war on terror. — PTI

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Take notice that the said application will be taken up for hearing by the Tribunal at 10 AM or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of the Tribunal on 26.09.2017.

2. You are required to appear in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly issued summons before the said date and time mentioned above and before the said date and time mentioned above and time and date of hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on the 26th day of August 2017.

By order of the Tribunal

Registrar

Debt Recovery Tribunal,
Guwahati

CD/LN/2585/1



US President Donald Trump holding a joint news conference with Finland's President Sauli Niinistö at the White House in Washington on Monday. — UNI

Rescued Indian students in critical state

HOUSTON, Aug 29: Two Indian students are in a critical condition after they were drawn in a swollen lake to the US state of Texas, where Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc, affecting about 100,000 Indian-Americans living here. The Indians identified as Nikhil Bhatia and Shalini, both students at the Texas A&M University, were rescued from Lake Bryan, where they had gone swimming, on Saturday.

According to the Bryan Police, an officer patrolling the lake was flagged down by a person who said two people swimming in the lake were in distress.

The person who alerted the officer was with the two students, both in their 20s. He had managed to rescue one of them while the police officer rescued the other one and treated both of them with cardiopulmonary resuscitation until medical help arrived, the police said.

The students were taken to St Joseph Hospital, where their condition is stated to be critical. It was not immediately clear as to why they were swimming in the

severe weather. India's Consul-General in Houston has been monitoring the two students' medical needs and the situation closely. According to the Consulate, Nikhil is yet to show signs of improvement, while Shalini showed some improvement today for the first time since she was admitted to the hospital.

Nikhil's mother, Suman Bhatia, has arrived from India. Shalini's brother will be arriving tomorrow, the Consulate said. Around 13 million people were battling "catastrophic" flooding and torrential rains in the storm-ravaged Texas where Hurricane Harvey has wreaked havoc, taking streets into raging rivers and claiming at least nine lives.

Meteorologists have forecast that the historic rainfall will dump up to 50 inches by tomorrow. Heavy rain bands were expected to move in over the Houston area overnight, which will continue the catastrophic and life-threatening flash flood emergency in the area.

At least 200 Indian students stranded

at the University of Houston due to the flooding after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas as were being evacuated to safer places, authorities said.

The students were being provided food and other supplies by the Indian-American community in the area. India's Consul-General in Houston Amrap Ray has been in touch with the students and monitoring the evacuation process.

Hundreds of Indian students, who were stranded in their homes and ran out of food, are being helped by the consulates.

Ray said members of the Indian graduate students' organisations had reached out to him through Facebook last night. Despite all roads being inundated with water and closed for traffic, Ray personally went to the apartment complex where more than 250 Indian students were stranded.

According to local community leaders, at least 100,000 of Indian-Americans living in and around Houston area have been badly hit by the hurricane. — PTI

Fighting Islamist terror France's top priority: Macron

PARIS, Aug 29: Fighting "Islamist terrorism" is France's top priority, President Emmanuel Macron said today in a key foreign policy speech. "Providing security for our citizens means that the fight against Islamist terrorism is our first priority," he said to some 200 French ambassadors gathered in Paris.

Since early 2015, France has suffered a series of terror attacks that have claimed more than 230 lives, making it the worst-affected country in western Europe.

"There is no place for naïvete, nor for fear of Islam which confuses Islamism and Islamic," he said, terming the security of the French the "raison d'être" of the country's diplomatic efforts.

Macron announced the organisation of a conference on stanching the sources of funding for terror groups, to be held in Paris in early 2018. He also argued against taking sides in the regional power battle between Iran, a majority Shiite Muslim country, and Saudi Arabia, a Sunni power.

"Some have chosen (their) camp. It is a mistake. The strength of our diplomacy is to speak to all states," he said. The 39-year-old leader also insisted there was no alternative to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, which has been fiercely opposed by US President Donald Trump.

France's youngest ever President has shown determination to restore what he



French President Emmanuel Macron addressing the annual gathering of French ambassadors at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday. — UNI

"There is no alternative to the non-proliferation agenda. It enables a constructive and demanding relationship with Iran," he said. Facing dismal approval ratings less than four months into his term, Macron was looking to burnish his foreign policy credentials with the speech, which is a fixture on France's political calendar.

France's youngest ever President has shown determination to restore what he

sees as the country's declining international prestige under his predecessor, the Socialist Francois Hollande. He has won kudos for making a bold start on the international stage, hosting both Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin within his first weeks in office. He raised human rights with Putin and spoke out against Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris accord on fighting climate change. — AFP

N Korea fires ...

(Contd from page 1)

apocalyptic warning of raining "fire and fury" on the North, while Pyongyang threatened to fire a salvo of missiles towards the US territory of Guam.

South Korea said the latest missile was launched from Sunan, near Pyongyang and flew around 2,700 km at a maximum altitude of around 550 km.

Guam is about 3,500 km from North Korea – although the missile was fired in an easterly direction and not towards the US outpost, home to 160,000 people and host to major military facilities.

Abe said the overflight was an "outrageous act" that "greatly damages regional peace and security".

Pyongyang says it needs nuclear weapons to protect itself against the US, and the firing comes during the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian, South Korean-US joint military exercise, which the North always condemns as rehearsals for invasion. — AFP

APW alleges ...

(Contd from page 1)

skilled manpower for computing the data. This has been possible only because of the collusion of Prateek Hajela, the Nodal Officer appointed for the NRC updating process.

The Nodal Officer issued work order to WIPRO on the basis of a single tender to supply data entry executives (DEE) at the rate of Rs 14,500 per head per month. However, the WIPRO outsourced the work to the ISS at the rate of Rs 8,000 per head per month. The ISS is now paying each of the DEEs at the rate of Rs 5,000 per month.

Thus, each of the DEEs is now getting Rs 5,000 per month, against the Rs 14,500 fixed by the NRC authorities. The amount paid to the DEEs is far below the amount fixed by the Minimum Wages Act for the skilled labourers. There are 9,000 DEEs involved in the NRC updating process.

The WIPRO and the ISS have thus been siphoning off an amount of Rs 2,47,95,00,000 till date, said the voluntary organisation.

It has also informed that on May 1st, the Union Home Ministry directed the NRC office in Assam to submit its financial records. But the NRC office has so far not been able to submit the accounts, said the voluntary organisation.

Suicide bomber kills five near Kabul bank

KABUL, Aug 29: A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a bank in the Afghan capital Kabul today, days ahead of this week's Eid holiday, killing five people and injuring several others in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

It was the latest in a series of deadly attacks to hit the city and comes three months after a massive truck bomb ripped through the same area, killing about 150 people.

The bomb went off outside the Kabul Bank, which usually pays the salaries of security forces personnel and government employees.

"The latest report shows five, including a guard, were killed and eight civilians were wounded by today's terrorist attack," said Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish.

The Taliban later claimed responsibility on the social media for the bombing. The

blast happened today morning at a time when many officials were expected to be collecting their salaries ahead of this week's Eid holiday, killing five people and injuring several others in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

"It was driving when I heard a big boom. The blast was so strong that it broke the windows of my car. I saw people shouting and crying near the bank," a witness told AFP.

The blast occurred on a street lined with shops and banks leading to Massoud Square, near the United States Embassy and Kabul's diplomatic area.

Taliban insurgents are currently at the peak of their summer fighting season, and have launched several deadly assaults around the country in recent weeks.

Tocklai tea ...

(Contd from page 1)

Quality beer and other products in Thailand, has written to Tocklai requesting consultancy on producing tea in northern Thailand.

With more countries starting to produce and upgrade their tea production, inquiries from Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Turkey have come to Tocklai for providing scientific consultancy services. Many African countries, which produce tea, are keen on taking help from Tocklai. These endeavours are expected to open up new revenue generation opportunities for Tocklai.

The scientists of Tocklai are the most sought after for their knowledge on tea. In the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Tea, where all tea producing and consuming countries participate, most of the working groups are coordinated by India and the Indian experts in such cases are mostly from Tocklai, Phukan said.

Goods train ...

(Contd from page 1)

Rs 74,04 crore in the period from August 13 to August 28. "This is apart from the amount which has been refunded to passengers. The losses to other departments like engineering, signal and telecommunication are being assessed," he said.

A total of 821 Mail and Express trains and 484 Passenger trains were cancelled during the period.

NFR has so far incurred a total loss of Rs 47,53 crore in PRS (passenger reservation system) earnings and Rs 5,30 crore from non-PRS earnings. In addition, the loss from the ticket checking mechanism has been estimated at Rs 1,44 crore.

So far, the loss in goods traffic has been Rs 16,26 crore, while Rs 3,51 crore has been lost in parcel service.

During the last 16 days 4,02,653 PRS berths and 11,27,277 non-PRS berths have been affected due to cancellations.

Spanish firm ...

(Contd from page 1)

work at a cost of Rs 294 crore.

In case, if these firms do not pace up the work, we will be forced to take further action," the ED warned, adding that the corporation now from the work review the progress of work regularly.

The four-laning work from Nagpur to Dibrugarh had been divided into eight sections. Progress in all these stretches has been extremely poor, triggering widespread criticism from public.

Corsan Corvium was awarded the Jharkhand-Jhansi four-laning work in November, 2014 and it began work in January 2015. It was also awarded the Jhansi-Demow stretch during the same time, and work progress till July 15 is just 0.76 per cent, though it was supposed to complete earlier than half of the work by November this year according to the contract agreement.

E-Auction Programme for the month of September 2017

E-Auction programme for sale of Railway scrap material under auction mode for the month of September 2017 has been opened on 08-09-2017, 15-09-2017 and 22-09-2017. Interested bidders can register themselves on IRREP's website (www.irrep.gov.in) for participation in the auction.

Dy. Chief Manager
New Jalpaiguri
NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Operation of Mechanised Laundry at Guwahati

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. Mech/NFR/BOOT Laundry/GHY/17/2017
Dated: 26-08-2017 (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways Procurement System (IRPS) www.irps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting refer e-tender. Please visit www.irps.gov.in for more information.
Tenders are due to be opened on 26-09-2017. (2) The prospective tenders are invited to get them registered on the website www.irps.gov.in on the e-tendering platform. Tenders are invited to get them registered online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/ifax or regular mail will not be accepted without any consideration.

Description: PL-Quality Tender
Category: Emergency
Location: Guwahati
Opportunity Window: 06/09/2017 - 26/09/2017
Registration: 06/09/2017 - 26/09/2017
Bid Submission: 06/09/2017 - 26/09/2017
Start Date: 06/09/2017
End Date: 26/09/2017
Time: 09:00:00 - 15:30:00
Price: 0.00
Value: ₹1,04,13,59,000/-
Earliest Money: ₹53,56,800/-
Complaint period: 10 Days
Registration com. period: 6 months from issue of LOA (B)
Operation of plant and supply of washline: 10 Years
Delivery: Within 12 Months
Date of closing: 09-10-2017 at 14:30:00
Tender value: ₹1,04,13,59,000/-
For details, please visit <http://www.irps.gov.in>

No ASULMS/BP/14/2016-17/05/2017

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

City Mission Management Unit, ASULMS, Bangalore invited sealed Quotation offering non-refundable Court fee stamp worth Rs 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paisa) from reputed firms/suppliers only for supply of below mentioned articles.

Sl. No. Name of material Qualitative

1 Steel Chair 2 Nos

2 High back revolving chair for office staff 2 Nos

3 Steel Chair for office staff 2 Nos

4 Steel Visitor Chair 4 Nos

5 Full Size Conference Table 3 Nos

6 Computer Table 1 No

7 Desktop Computer 2 Nos

8 Laptop Computer 2 Nos

9 3 in 1 Multi Function Printer 1 No

Last date of submission of quotations is 07.09.2017. For more details interested parties please contact CMML, ASULMS, Sabadi Bawali, Bangalore.

Sd/- City Project Officer, ASULMS, Day-NULM, Berpta, Jansanyog/C/2128/17

General Manager (Mechanical), Maligaon, Jansanyog/C/2128/17

NOTICE

CHANGES IN ALL INDIA SAINIK SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Sainik School Goalpara (SSG), Assam is a premier Education Institute in Assam with its focus to prepare children to join the National Defence Academy. Selection for admission to Sainik School is based on an All India Sainik School Entrance Examination (AISSEE) conducted in the first Sunday of January every year. The procedure and format for application and examination is being changed from the next academic session (2018-19).

OMR Based Exam. From Jan 2018, AISSEE will be conducted as OMR based exam. OMR based application form along with instructions for filling the forms, sample question paper and answer sheets will be issued as part of the prospectus. Candidates can fill up the form either online or download the form, fill it and forward to SSG along with a DD of requisite amount. They can also buy the application from Sainik School Goalpara.

Admit Cards. Every candidate can download his admit card online.

Revised Exam Format. There will be only one question paper for class VI and Class IX. The revised format is as follows-

Class VI - Duration of Examination 150 minutes

Sl. Subject No. of Questions Total Marks

(a) Maths 50 50

(b) General Knowledge (Soc & SST) 25 25

(c) Language 25 25

(d) Intelligence 25 25

Total 125 125

Note: There will be only one OMR based answer sheet for the entire paper. Question Paper on intelligence will be handed over to the candidates only after a gap of two hours after commencement of the exam.

Class IX - Duration of Examination 180 minutes

Sl. Subject No. of Questions Total Marks

(a) Maths 50 50

(b) English 25 25

(c) Intelligence 25 25

(d) General Science 25 25

(e) Social Studies 25 25

Grand Total 150 150

Pass Marks: Candidates have to score 25% in each subject and 40% in aggregate to be called for Interview and Medical Examination.

All aspirants parents and children are advised to note down the examination date and time accordingly. Next AISSEE exam will be held on 07 Jan 2018 for academic year (2018-19). All the parents who have Aadhar card numbers are to enter it in the application form.

Parents/candidates are to see www.sainikschoolgoalpara.org or call 03663-287076 for any clarifications.

Jansanyog/C/2123/17

Sainik School Goalpara



APCC flays
Centre over
snapped rail links

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) today flayed the Union government for its failure to restore the rail links even after 17 days of the damage caused to a railway bridge by floodwaters in Kathbar area.

In a statement here the APCC alleged that this has happened because of the lackadaisical attitude of the Union government towards the people of the NE region.

This has also laid bare the fact that the Union government is paying less attention to the constant threat posed by China to the security in this part of the country, it said. The party has demanded urgent measures to restore the region's rail links with the rest of the country.

Sonapur PS gheraoed over 'suicide' by 10-year-old girl

Rape and murder suspected



Security personnel confronting agitated people at Sonapur on Tuesday. — Photo: Jorabat Correspondent

CORRESPONDENT

JORABAT, Aug 29: Members of Dimoria AASU unit, joined by representatives from other organisations and general public of Dimoria, today gheraoed the Sonapur Police Station after a 10-year-old girl was found hanging at her residence in Digarupur area of Sonapur on August 25.

Local residents of Digarupur alleged that the girl had been killed

after being raped, but an attempt was being made to give a suicide angle to the incident.

Locals further alleged that the police did not seem to be serious about investigating the case, prompting the Dimoria AASU unit and other local organisations and general public to gheraoe the Sonapur PS. They demanded a speedy investigation of the case and arrest of the culprit at the earliest possible.

Meanwhile, the girl's parents, while talking to the media, asserted that their daughter has certainly been killed. "She was a very happy and lovable child and was too young to commit suicide," they said.

Sonapur Assistant Commissioner of Police HK Gogoi said the police are waiting for the post-mortem report and if it is proved that it is a case of rape, then they would speed up the investigation.

SFI demands
deemed varsity
status for AEC, JEC

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: The State unit of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) today demanded deemed university status to the Assam Engineering College (AEC) and the Jorhat Engineering College (JEC).

The student body said in a statement here that these two engineering colleges under the administrative control of the nascent Assam Science and Technology University (ASTU), it is said that initially the private sector engineering colleges of the State were affiliated to the ASTU, at present only the Girijananda Institute of Management and Technology is affiliated to this varsity.

The ASTU has postponed course only for one department. It lacks infrastructure and there is no teacher in it. This is despite the fact that the Chief Minister is its Chancellor.

Therefore, the government should engage itself in improving the infrastructure of the two engineering colleges and raise their status to that of the deemed universities, said the student body extending support to the All Assam Engineering College Students' Union in this respect. — Staff Reporter

AASU demands justice for MBBS students

OBC quota issue

STAFF REPORTER

get justice.

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: Expressing concern over the uncertainty caused to the future of a number of MBBS students enrolled under OBC quota, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) today alleged that the faulty decision of the State government to ascertain that along with following the court order, it also does justice to the deprived students," the top AASU leaders Dipankar Kumar Nath and Lurimjoti Gogoi said, warning the government to be careful in its decisions related to the future of the student community.

Three held in chit fund scam

STAFF REPORTER

Ajay Kumar Sarkar of Chirang and Tapas Paul of Kokrajhar were arrested yesterday evening along with another man, Govinda Dey of Bonagajagon, a BIEO official said. The accused had set up their head office in Guwahati and had opened branch offices in several towns of the State.

The BIEO has seized several policy documents and bounded cheques from the victims.

"The three men were produced in court today, which demanded them to three days' custody," the official said.

The two founder directors

Boy hurts himself playing 'Blue Whale' online game, admitted to GMCH

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: A 16-year-old boy was admitted at the Gauhati Medical College & Hospital with physical injuries apparently inflicted by the boy himself while playing the 'Blue Whale' online game.

The parents brought the boy to the hospital yesterday. We have admitted him. He has physical injuries. Besides treating him, counselling is also being done," a source in the GMCH said.

Sources said there were cut marks on the boy's wrists. The boy, hailing from the Narenji area, is a student of Class X of a city school.

GMCH Superintendent Dr Ramen Talukdar meanwhile appealed for parental guidance and asked guardians to safeguard their wards from playing the game



and monitor their social media activity.

The online challenge game originated in Russia and presents players with a list of formidable tasks to be completed

in 50 days; the final assignment is suicide. It has been linked to several teenage deaths.

Central government has asked major online players including Google, Facebook and WhatsApp to ensure that they remove links that lead to or promote the game.

However, IT experts say there is nothing much the government or police can do to stop the spread of the 'Blue Whale' challenge. Since the players share their personal phone numbers and email addresses, the developers keep using different psychological tactics to get them back by sending mails and messages.

PABINDRA NATH SARMA AND KUNJABALA DEVI MEMORIAL AWARDS

Entries are invited for the following journalism awards for reports published during the year 2016.

(a) **Pabindra Nath Sarma Memorial Award:** For investigative journalism on Human Rights

(b) **Kunjabala Devi Memorial Award:** For investigative journalism on Women's Issue

The awards instituted in memory of late Pabindra Nath Sarma, freedom fighter and lawyer, and his wife Kunjabala Devi, carry a cash prize of Rs. 30,000 (Rupees thirty thousand only) and a citation each.

The entries should reach the undersigned by 20th September, 2017.

The terms and conditions are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all journalists working full time or part time, for registered daily, twice-a-week and weekly newspapers published from the North East region in Assamese, English, Bengali or Hindi.
2. Investigative reports on human rights issues will include violations of human rights in any form, work rendered by individuals, organisations or NGOs for creating awareness and strengthening the system to preserve human rights and such other issues. Unknown facts brought to light by investigative reporting will be more appreciated.
3. Investigative reports on women's issues will include crimes against women, injustice meted out to women, women's welfare work rendered by individuals or organisations, work done by NGOs for women's welfare, oppression of women and such other issues. Unknown facts brought to light by investigative reporting will be more appreciated.
4. The incidents/happenings covered by such reports must have the North East as locale.
5. News items/news stories appearing in the journalists' bylines are preferred. But if such reports are published without byline, the candidates/competitors will provide proof that the writing concerned is actually theirs. All such entries published in newspapers must be authenticated by the Editor concerned.
6. Entries sent by the journalist himself/herself or sent by other sponsor will be examined by a panel of judges to be appointed for the purpose and the panel's decision will be final.
7. The entries should be photo copies of the articles/news items published during the calendar year 2016 that is, between January and December, 31, 2016. The dates of publication of the items must be mentioned.

Convenor
Pabindra Nath Sarma & Kunjabala Devi Memorial Award Committee
Tribune Buildings, Guwahati-781003

CM asks innovation body to work on rejuvenating State tea sector

STAFF REPORTER

"The tea industry demands urgent and timely intervention for regaining its share in the international market.



take steps for engaging the expertise of the Union Finance and Industry & Commerce ministries in its effort to give a renewed momentum to the tea sector in Assam. He also advised the Ayoig to organise a seminar involving tea experts, leading tea plant-

Chief Minister asked the government body members to work out strategy for revamping the APOL industry, which has stopped production for the past several years.

Stating that there are several knowledgeable, experienced and resourceful per-

sons in Assam who can be immensely beneficial in formulating strategies for preparing a roadmap for the State's transformation, the Chief Minister also suggested to the SITA members to take useful action in this regard. Sonowal also underlined the need for a permanent office for SITA to smoothly carry forward its activities.

ers, Assam Tea Corporation, etc., so that new and effective strategies could be chalked out.

Sonowal also stated that SITA must take some concrete measures for giving a boost to the State's growth trajectory so that the new generation develops a positive perspective about Assam. Keeping this in mind, the

big encroachment of the waterbody tell a heart-rending tale.

However, we all have witnessed how the big industrial houses and some semi-government organisations have

the waterbody on the left side of the hydane going towards the hotel mentioned above.

The law should be applicable to all. If the area is not kept under regular surveillance by the authorities concerned, some people would make an attempt to occupy it illegally. The indigenous people have already suffered due to such land encroachment, leading to illegal settlement of refugees. The area has a

lot of potential to be developed into a major tourist spot through beautification and introduction of interesting wa-

The untold misery of Silsako Beel

KRISHNA KAMAL BORA

When one goes along the bylane towards the Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir on the VIP road, or along the bylane towards Tata Ginter Hotel a few metres ahead on the same road, he or she can observe the Silsako water-body, which is often vis-



ected by rare birds, both local and migratory. It is a great visual treat and that too right in the heart of the Guwahati city. A similar pleasant sight one can get while going along the Deepor Beel. Silsako Beel is a treasure trove for nature lovers. But, unfortunately, the garbage thrown near the site and ille-

gal encroachment of the waterbody tell a heart-rending tale.

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SWACHH SANKALP SE SWACHH SIDDHI

Swachh Bharat Mission
invites all to compete in

Essay Competition (250 Words)
Topic: "What can I do for a Clean India"

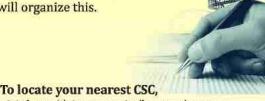
Short Film Competition (2-3 minutes duration)
Topic: "My contribution towards making India Clean"

To submit entries;
Contact your School, Gram Panchayat, Common Service Centre (CSC), BDO/District Collector, or login at MyGov.in

HURRY
Entries close on:
September 8, 2017

National Awards will be presented on Oct 2, 2017
(Awards also at State and District levels)

Painting Competition is only for Class I to V school students.
The Topic is 'Clean India of my Dreams'. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) will organize this.



*To locate your nearest CSC, visit <http://gis.csc.gov.in/locator/csc.aspx>
" ॥ ৰাষ্ট্ৰ শিল্প সংকলন কেন্দ্ৰ হ'লো ॥
" ৰাষ্ট্ৰ নীতি বৰ্ণনা কৰা গৈ ॥

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.

— SOCRATES

The Assam Tribune

Reluctant withdrawal

The Chinese are past masters at playing war-games, sabre-rattling and putting their propaganda machinery on the hyperbolic mode, primarily to keep rival neighbours in line as well as to keep their population happy. The protracted impasse at Doka La, the offshoot of a Chinese attempt to build a road through an area which Bhutan claims as her own, had forced India to intervene to stop the construction. It needs to be noted that the plateau of Doka La is situated at the tri-junction of China, India and Bhutan and has additional security importance because it is too close to the chicken neck that links mainland India with the North-east. However, political observers surmise that the Chinese action on India's border was a kind of warning signal against the latter's moves in the South China Sea and her alliance with the US and littoral countries of the region such as Vietnam. China apparently was bent on playing a devious game, engaging in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation with Indian troops without actually indulging in further provocative action, allowing its State-controlled media to spew venom at her rival. Not only did India call her bluff, she also held her nerve, steeped in the certainty that, since the Chinese at the moment are attempting to assume the mantle of global leadership on the trade and environmental front, a spat with a neighbour would be needlessly distracting.

On the face of it, India has succeeded in the gamble, despite the risks involved. Just a few days before the BRICS summit in Beijing, where India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, a 'settlement' has been reached whereby both the countries agreed to withdraw their troops from the point of confrontation. Indubitably, a great deal of diplomatic effort was made before an end of this episode, the most serious in recent times. However, from the pronouncements made by the Chinese leaders and her media, it is obvious that this has been a tactical and reluctant withdrawal by them. They have warned that "the Chinese border guards will continue to exercise sovereign rights and maintain territorial sovereignty in accordance with historical provisions". Given the long history of border dispute between the two nations, there is every likelihood that unless a permanent deal is struck between them, incidents like that at Doka La are likely to recur sooner or later. Engaged as they are in attempting to uplift economic condition and quality of life of their people, this is an opportune time to settle the border issues rather than keep ignoring them while focusing elsewhere. Meanwhile, just because the Doka La episode has ended without a drop of blood being shed, India cannot afford to let her guard down, but strengthen her defences even as she embarks on a diplomatic essay.

Glaring lapses

The State Government's decision to close down the Brahmaputra Ashok, a hotel situated in the heart of the city by the Brahmaputra – ostensibly on the ground of loss making – serves to expose its own glaring lapses. Running a luxury hotel at a prime location should not have been too daunting a proposition but trust our government and its various wings to make a complete mess of the inherent advantages accruing out of its vantage location. As per official data, various government departments and agencies as well as private bodies and even individuals owe the hotel outstanding dues running into several crores of rupees. And the worst part is that this shocking state of affairs has been continuing for years. Rather than ensuring that the defaulters pay their outstanding dues, the Government has taken the easier course of closing down the hotel and converting it to a State guest house. This is uncalled for, and puts the Government's act in a bad light, more so as the new Government has been talking a lot of *pariwartran* – effecting positive changes. The logic behind the move is apparent. The Government wants the squandering of public money to continue as before, and with less transparency and accountability. We already have two State guest houses in the city under occupation by the incumbent Chief Minister and his predecessor respectively. A common man has every right to ask why the Chief Minister has to reside at a guest house and not at his official residence. If former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi started this unethical trend, his successor Sarbananda Sonowal is merrily continuing with the trend. What about the extra expenditures being incurred from the public exchequer for the maintenance of the Chief Minister at a place away from his official quarter inside the Assam Secretariate complex – not to mention the inconveniences people are subjected to when the Chief Minister and his entourage commute from his residence to office and vice versa. People may also assume – and with good reason – that the Chief Minister has things to hide from the public eye and hence the choice of a guest house at a secluded place. The Chief Minister must not forget that he is a representative of the people and he is answerable to the masses for his acts of omission and commission that do not go down well with the public perception.

The failure of the Government to run the Brahmaputra Ashok is also typical of the manner in which public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the State Government are functioning. Barring one or two exceptions, all the State PSUs are now loss-making entities and most of them have either been closed down or on the verge of closure. Mismanagement, lack of professionalism, corruption and political interference are largely responsible for this situation. Most of these PSUs were once profit-making units and contributed to the industrial growth of a backward State like Assam but an inefficient, insensitive and corrupt Government and its machinery ensured that they could not survive.

Restoration of Brahmaputra river system

■ Rajashree Sharma

A proposal to dredge the Brahmaputra riverbed was announced recently. Dredging has both pros and cons as we still do not have sufficient research data to strongly recommend dredging as a sole solution to combat floods that come annually. As per reports, several flood-related funds have been sanctioned including Rs 100 crore allotted for the study of the Brahmaputra river system. The study has to be done by experts and the views and experiences of the stakeholders, who consider the mighty river as their lifeline, will also be taken into account. The study on the Brahmaputra is not new; a series of studies have been done in the past 70 years by many scientific and academic institutions, including the Brahmaputra Board and Central Water Commission, and provided important recommendations from time to time. Nevertheless, the proposed study should focus on the siltation/sedimentation of the riverbed as very little study has been done so far that.

We are facing tough decisions about how we manage our most precious water resource in the future. Several eminent experts are working positively towards river training techniques, data collection through remote sensing, etc. However, they feel that the data so collected are deficient with regard to siltation and sediment deposition and whether dredging can improve water discharge capacity apart from making waterways operational. We the inhabitants of Assam are the stakeholders holding the benefits from the river in one way or the other, our lives and livelihoods, and culture, intricately woven with this magnificent river. It has given us so

much more than what it takes away every year with ferocity.

The severe problem of the Brahmaputra river system is the large-scale siltation, which is the outcome of the denudation of mountains, seismic-prone Brahmaputra basin, different geological formations, and the impact of climate change as incessant rainfall during monsoons in Assam and the neighbouring States. Post-1950 earthquake, this river and its major tributaries have undergone several physical changes such as increase in the level of the riverbeds. However, we can't ignore the man-made causes like inappropriate drainage systems which are congested and lead to blocking the natural flow of waters forcing massive impact on the embankments. The human encroachments upon wetlands, human settlements along the river and its tributaries and large-scale deforestation are the other causes. This is an environmental disaster and mismanagement over a period of time. Therefore, the siltation problem needs serious study to prepare detailed project report in a holistic manner.

The dredging has been proposed in the case of the Huang He river in China and the debate is that the dredging will not mitigate the erosion and siltation problems as the upstream of the river has to be targeted to check siltation as deposition of silt is quick. Due to the annual silt loads, the water-carrying capacity of the Brahmaputra has been reduced drastically over the time. The pre-dredging people have ar-

gueed that it will bring a plethora of benefits and would be able to combat flood as the depth of the riverbed will increase and the force will be lesser. But, dredging only in the Brahmaputra will not serve the purpose if the tributaries and wetlands are not taken along for dredging to make it effective and deeper to increase the storage of flood water. Wetlands are the source of irrigation and fishery. However, if it is not done scientifically, the aquatic biodi-

versity of Assam and the impact is increasing every year. This year's waves of flood have hit the whole State so ferociously that most of the dykes and embankments have been breached. Adding fuel to the flames, the existing dams are releasing water without giving proper warning and time to the riverine villagers to shift to safer places. As the force of the excess water tends to breach embankments, dykes andoulder spurs, several researchers

suggest that the more effective river training systems such as jack jetty, vanes, porcupine and trail dykes should be adopted for preventing sediment deposition and erosion by flood waters. Several experts are working on these cost effective methods and have success stories in different river systems in India.

Riverbank vegetation has a crucial role to play in stabilizing bank sediments to reduce erosion, and provide a shield between the river and the rest of the catchment areas. Efforts should be made to protect the existing vegetation and create new vegetation through plantation wherever it is required. Involvement of the local inhabitants in this exercise is a must. As we have witnessed incessant rains and high temperature this year. Climate change is another aspect that may impact severe rain and drought as well, which we have witnessed already. Therefore, we have to take climate change into account of the study. The comprehensive plan should be durable, sustainable and implementable and emphasis should be given to study how to deal with

The comprehensive plan should be durable, sustainable and implementable and emphasis should be given to study how to deal with sedimentation depositions as we do not have elaborate data on how much silt gathers and what will be the cost of dredging per cumec.

Significance of the Solar Mission

■ Dr Aseem Talukdar

Astronomers believe that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in the entire world. Our Sun is just an ordinary star in the cosmos among trillions of others and has similar physical properties and chemical composition to most of the other stars. Positioned at the distance of a whopping 150 million kms from Earth, the Sun is an immense fireball of gas and plasma held together by its own gravity and powered by nuclear fusion at its centre. The Sun is just an average star; nonetheless, it is the preeminent source of energy vital to the maintenance of life on Earth. Therefore, despite its mediocrity, knowledge about it is crucial to the astronomers.

NASA recently announced its intention of sending a probe (Parker Solar Probe) to the Sun in the summer of 2018. This unprecedented scientific endeavour would involve flying a spacecraft directly into the solar atmosphere and conducting a comprehensive study of its corona. The Sun is extremely hot with an estimated surface temperature of approximately 6,500 degrees Cel-

sium. The temperature at its core can approach about 15 million degrees Celsius. With our current technology, humans are yet to fabricate any synthetic material that will withstand such high temperatures. Consequently, the probe will not land on the surface of the Sun; instead it will be designed to orbit the Sun at a distance of 6-6.4 million kilometres. In doing so, it will reach the outer region of fiery gases, otherwise known as the corona. The visible part of the Sun's disc is known as the photosphere. The corona or the outermost region of the Sun's extended atmosphere begins at the top of the photosphere and extends out to millions of kilometres. The corona is made of extremely hot and low density gases which makes it only about one-millionth as bright as the Sun's disc. As a result, this region is therefore lost in the Sun's glare and can be viewed only when the photosphere of the Sun is completely blocked during a total solar eclipse. Taking into account the fact that the temperature of the corona can reach a million degrees Celsius, the probe will restrict itself to a region where the temperature is only about 1,400 degrees Celsius.

The probe is about three metres high and will be equipped with a 12 cm carbon composite heat shield that will protect its camera and electronics from the extreme heat of the corona.

Scientists currently hypothesize that the extreme temperature of the corona is due either to the sudden realignment of its magnetic field between its solar cycles or to the waves of superheated plasma rising from the surface and then crashing back down. This mission is expected to help unveil the mechanism responsible for the nature of corona and to make other critical observations that will answer the long-standing questions about the science of explaining how an average star works. In this journey towards the Sun, the probe will first enter a preliminary solar orbit and then fly close around Venus seven times. It will use Venus's gravity to catapult itself to get closer to the Sun. At its closest approach, the probe will orbit the Sun in just about 88 days which is incidentally very close to the orbital period of Mercury around the Sun.

This mission may also provide some insight about the cause and nature of solar phenomena such as solar flares and coronal mass ejec-

tions (CME) which can have serious consequences on the space weather. A solar flare is a brief but intense burst of radiation coming from the Sun's surface with the release of magnetic energy stored in the corona. Flares are among the most catastrophic explosive events in our solar system. They are capable of producing electromagnetic disturbances in the Earth atmosphere which can potentially affect radio communications, as well as power grid and power line transmission. A CME is a giant cloud of highly energetic solar plasma blown away from the Sun during strong and long duration solar flare eruptions. It can potentially contain several million tons of matter accelerated to millions of kilometres per hour. This ejected matter can track through the interplanetary medium and any portion of it directed towards Earth can damage satellites or spacecraft in its path.

The probe will be named after Eugene Parker, a renowned astronomer, who is currently the 'Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus' at the University of Chicago, USA. In 1958, he developed the theory of the supersonic solar

wind and predicted the existence of solar wind. At that time, it was generally acknowledged that the space between the Sun and the planets was a vacuum. As a result, his work was initially rejected by the scientific community. Since then, future Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar came in support of Eugene Parker's radical theory and subsequently the solar storm was discovered. It can be mentioned that in order to celebrate Parker's seminal work, this will be the first time that NASA will name a mission after a living individual.

The spacecraft is expected to remain operational until 2025 and supply a wealth of information about the Sun. Since our Sun is similar to myriads of other stars in our Milky Way and the universe, the Parker Solar Probe might unlock a door to the unknown cosmos. In a statement about the mission, Prof Parker said: "The solar probe is going to a region of space that has never been explored before. It's very exciting that we'll finally get a look. One would like to have some more detailed measurements of what's going on in the solar wind. I'm sure that there will be some surprises. There always are."

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – The ongoing eviction in the Amchang wildlife sanctuary has shattered the dreams of hundreds of people. It is always important to keep the forest area as encroachment-free zones and save the wildlife. The Government should stop any illegal acquisition of land in these restricted areas. But, evicting 1,414 households about some 30-odd years later from the date of acquisition in the name of illegal land acquisition will not solve the problem. At first, some land should have been arranged so that the people could be rehabilitated there. These are our own Assamese people and they are living in that wildlife sanctuary after losing their home and hearth to flood and erosion. So it was our Government's duty to re-establish them somewhere else. But they hadn't done anything for them. According to statistical reports, there are approximately 80 lakh illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam. Why does the Government not show the courage to send

Amchang eviction drive

them back? At last, the question remains the same: "Assam is for whom?" Yours etc., RAAG BARUJH, Mangaldoi.

Radio quiz show

Sir, – I would like to compliment the All India Radio, Guwahati station for organizing a unique quiz show on the freedom movement of India. Though it was only half an hour programme, the quiz master asked some interesting questions that attracted listeners quite a bit. But the important point is that – the way the news unit of the radio station adopted the method to let our new generation know about India's freedom movement is praiseworthy. All kudos to quiz masters Navakanta Baruah and Manas Pratim Sarma for this initiative. Hope to listen to such programmes in near future too. Yours etc., ARUNABH MAHANTA, Guwahati.

(II)

Sir, – On August 24 morning the All India Radio, Guwahati broadcast an enjoyable programme named 'Abhilékhabar' prepared from their archive, highlighting the performing

activities of the eminent Kamrupi Lokageet exponent of yesteryears, Jyoti Bhattarai.

When people had only the radio, gramophone and cinema halls for entertainment, all the Assamese listeners were familiar with his voice and the style of singing. He is more often remembered for the most popular song *Ghor Borosun Pisoi Maati*, cut in gramophone record in his inimitable voice. The song subsequently was surreptitiously exploited imitating wholesomely and inserted in the film *Mother India* by its music director. It was then challenged in the court for plagiarism under the leadership of Purushottam Das and his associates, and the verdict went in favour of the Assamese folk tune.

Listening once more to this self-effacing and devoted musicologist Jyoti Bhattarai with his lifelong pursuit of the folk music using simple musical instruments, his depth of knowledge and expertise as expressed through the recorded interviews of his son and a student artiste, the said radio programme

was a matter of pleasure and pride for all, particularly for the old listeners of radio like me. The listeners would welcome repeat broadcasts of this and other similar programmes. Yours etc., AMIYA MOHAN DAS, Krishnanagar, Guwahati.

Good step

Sir, – The decision of the State Finance Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma in connection with the scheme to provide regular financial relief to the victims of extremism on compassionate grounds is a very good move. I am confident that each and every family seeking jobs on compassionate grounds shall welcome the decision. In fact the victim families are not satisfied with the existing system. Moreover, the court guidelines in the Achyut Ranjan Das vs State of Assam case are not being followed at all. As a result, the ill-fated families which are really in need of jobs/financial engagements never got the benefit under the prescribed 5% reservation for which these families are passing the days in utter frustration. This decision will surely help

hundreds of people of the State. Yours etc., SUBHASH CHANDRA BISWAS, Guwahati.

NET fee hike

Sir, – Through your esteemed newspaper, I would like to bring to the notice of the State Education Minister, Central HRD Minister and authorities of the CBSC-NET that the fees for the NET has been increased so much, especially for the General and OBC category candidates, that many aspirants are feeling discouraged in submitting their application for the NET 2017 scheduled to be held in coming November. Candidates from the economically backward families of the North-east who belong to either the General or OBC categories are feeling the pinch more. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the authorities concerned to review the examination fees as early as possible so that the candidates are encouraged to apply for the NET 2017. Yours etc., PARIKHIT GHOSH, Guwahati.

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

2-day meet of dermatologists

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: The DR KN Baru Institute of Dermatological Sciences, located at Roodraksh, Bhungagarh, organised a daylong conference on 'Skin in endocrine disorders' for all dermatologists of the North East at a city hotel recently.

The event was inaugurated by the chief guest, Prof DC Borkotoky, former professor, Dept of Medicine, GMCH, and guest of honour Dr DM Thapna, Director, NEIGRML, Shillong. The event was attended not only by eminent skin specialists and postgraduate students from all over the Northeast, but also by reputed faculty from Endocrinology and Gyneacology.

Taking part in the discussions, the specialists spoke on how the younger generation, due to their unhealthy lifestyle, increased stress, lack of physical activity, etc., are found to be increasingly suffering from metabolic disorders, which, besides affecting their internal organs, also sometimes have manifestations in the skin. Excessive growth of hair in females and acne in adult women due to PCOD, darkening and thickening of skin especially on the neck and underarms on weight gain, appearance of soft growths on skin mostly of neck and underarms, called skin tags, are some of the examples. Latest modalities of treatment and use of cutting-edge technology, such as lasers, for removal of unwanted hair was also discussed.

Woman dies in road mishap

CORRESPONDENT

JORABAT, Aug 29: In a tragic incident, a woman died on the spot when a speeding Alto hit her on NH-37 under Sonapur Police Station around 10 am today. The deceased was known to be a resident of Kamaljuri.

The driver fled the scene with the car. Police retrieved the body and sent it to the GMCH for post-mortem. An FIR has been lodged and the police are searching for the driver and the car.



The dilapidated Narengi-Chandrapur road on the city outskirts, as seen on Tuesday. - AT photo

CITY

Sonowal vows to take steps for uplift of Assamese Sikhs

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: A Sikh delegation led by the Delhi MLA and Delhi Sikh Gurwara Management Committee (DSGMC) general secretary Manmohan Singh Sirsa today met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, demanding a Sikh Development Council in the State for the Assamese Sikhs, along with special status facilities.

The Sikh delegation informed the media here today that the Chief Minister has agreed to implement the Anand Marriage Act in the State for registration of marriage of Sikh couple, starting a pilgrimage tour for the Sikh community to their places of religious importance in the country including Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar.

The Assamese Sikh community is the progeny of the Sikh commandos sent by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the ruler of Punjab, to help Ahom king Chandralekha Singh fight invaders from Burma in 1822. The survivors decided to settle down in Assam, married local women and with time their link with Punjab was cut off. Assimilated

to the greater Assamese society, the community is still an ardent follower of Sikhism.

It may be noted that there are nearly one lakh members of the Sikh community in Assam, out of which, 15,000 are the Assamese Sikhs, mostly concentrated around Nagaon.

While acknowledging the role of the Sikhs in forming the greater Assamese society, the Chief Minister assured the delegation of taking up all of their demands on priority basis to empower the community.

"The Chief Minister has agreed to most of our demands, including approving allotment of 10 bighas of land for setting up social welfare projects in Guwahati and Nagaon and also approved setting of three skill development centres in Nagaon as early as possible. He also accepted the demand for renovation and restoration of historical Gurdwara in the State and asked the delegation to provide a list of the same," Sirsa, the MLA of Rajouri Garden (Delhi Assembly constituency) said.

Media Adviser to the Chief Minister Hirishikesh Goswami, Chief Secretary VK Pipersenia, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sanjay Lohia were also present in the meeting.

Partap Singh, president local Gurwara Committee, and Indu Singh, a social activist.

Along with appointing a nodal officer for taking up the issue, the Chief Minister has also agreed to sanction an amount of Rs 5 crore for building a Community Centre and Education Complex in Nagaon and installing a statue of General Chetanya Singh, the first Sikh General of the Indian Army (CENCI) Revd Dr Solomon Rongi at the office of the CBCNEI here.

Laskar and Rev Dr Rongi discussed a number of issues during the occasion.

Laskar said that the Constitution of India describes Indias as a secular country and emphasised the need to protect secularism. He said the government is duty bound under the Constitution to treat every religion equally.

He added that the right to freedom of religion, including the right to freely profess, practise and propagate religion, guaranteed by the Constitution of India must be protected from undue encroachment.

Laskar said that unity in diversity is India's strength and any attempt to impose uniformity will be contrary to India's pluralist ethos.

Media Adviser to the Chief Minister Hirishikesh Goswami, Chief Secretary VK Pipersenia, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sanjay Lohia were also present in the meeting.

AICC observer calls on church body leader

STAFF REPORTER

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Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Guwahati - 781 039, Assam
Ph : 0361-2583900, Fax : (0361) 2692771, 2690762

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. ITIG/ENGG/17/NIT/35 Dated 11-08-2017

Tender for Inviting tenders for similar type of I&C works
"Renovation and setting up of lab CHL-203 CHL204 and CHL206 in chemistry department at IIT Guwahati Campus. Detailed tender documents shall be available for issue/downloading from 31-08-2017 to 15-09-2017. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Institute Website.
Further Details are available in the institute's website www.itig.ernet.in

Dean (IPM)

ASSAM ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)
Industrial Estate, Bamunmadan, Guwahati - 781021

Ref No.: AEDC/T/SWF/2015/191 Dated: 30-08-2017

ADVERTISEMENT

Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited, Industrial Estate, Bamunmadan, Guwahati - 781021 invites tenders for technical support in executing the Project in contract basis for technical support in sustaining the "Standards Website Framework (SWF)" in Website Development Cell, Information Technology Department, Govt. of Assam. The tenders will be invited for the same year 2017. Interested and qualified candidates may apply on line for the same through website of AMTRON (<http://amtron.in>) and/or <http://assam.gov.in> till 12th of September 2017.5 PM. Candidates who had applied earlier against AMTRON ECDOT/IT/2017/191 may apply again. Aspiring qualified candidates may kindly provide their SKYPE ID while applying to enable first hand interaction prior to final interview at Guwahati Date of interview will be intimated separately. Sd/- Managing Director AEDC Ltd.



Oil India Limited
P.O. DULAIJAN - 788 602, ASSAM
CIN : L11101A15195GC0101148
RE-NOTIFICATION

This is for the information of all the eligible candidates who have applied for admission to the GNM Course in School of Nursing, Oil India Hospital-Dulaijan that the written test for admission to GNM course in School of Nursing, Oil India Hospital-Dulaijan is re-scheduled to be held on 16th September 2017 at Dulaijan University Campus, Dulaijan(Guwaahati).

Admit Cards are sent by post in their respective addresses to the eligible candidates. Candidates must bring the Admit Card in original to the examination hall.

Oil will not be responsible for any postal delay / wrong delivery / non delivery of Admit Cards.

The decision of Oil, in all matters of eligibility, acceptance, rejection of the application, issue of Admit Card, verification of testimonials will be final and no enquiry or correspondence will be entertained in this connection.

Sd/-
General Manager
Medical Services

NATIONAL ALUMINIUM REFINERY LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)
REFINERY DIVISION

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Tender Reference No.: RAU/OC/2017/18

Dibrugarh Airport invites e-tenders for granting the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Advertising Right, construction design, maintenance, operates and market the advertisement opportunity in the entire airport estate at Dibrugarh Airport. For details please visit: <https://www.tenders.nic.in>, Contingent, Extension etc, will be published in the said portal

APORT DIRECTOR

NUMALIGURU ALUMINIUM REFINERY LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
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STATE BANK OF INDIA
Local Head Office, Dispur, Guwahati-06
APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT/CONSULTANT FIRM

State Bank of India invites applications from bona fide, resourceful Architect/consultant firm having minimum 7 years' experience in constructions of Offices, Commercial Complexes, Hospitals, Banks, Building Construction and setting up of sewage system (technical and price bid) requirement for each project for the pre-qualification of Architectural / Consultancy Firm for the proposed construction of Bank's Buildings at Dimapur & Pasighat. The selection of Architect/Consultant firm will be done through design competition basis. Application form, pre-qualification criteria, scope of the services to be offered, terms and conditions of appointment, detailed formats etc. for submission of Technical bid and price bid for the above projects will be issued from the concerned Head Office, Dispur under link 'Procurement News'. The completed applications in the prescribed format in sealed covers along with supporting documents separately for each project should reach to the Asst. General Manager (P&E) at the above address on or before 15.09.2017 upto 3.00 PM. The Bank will not be responsible for late receipt of application due to postal delay or any other reason/s. Incomplete applications are liable to be rejected by the concerned Head Office. State Bank of India reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason there for.

Place: Guwahati
Date: 30/08/2017
Sd/-
Assistant General Manager
(Premises & Estate)



NEMCARE
Family Welcomes

Dr Manoj K Agarwala
MD,DM,FACC, FSCAI
Director - Interventional Cardiology at Apollo Health City, Hyderabad

One of the renowned Cardiologist of India and pride of Assam

at NEMCARE Hospital for OPD Consultation on

on 1st September 17 from 1.30 pm

For Prior appointment please contact :

Phone no.: 0361-2469697, 2455906

BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL ENGINEER TELECOM PROJECT, NETF,
C.T.O. Building, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 1, Sector-1, Guwahati-781001

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Digitally sealed tenders (e-tender) under single stage two-bid system are invited by the Divisional Engineer, Telecom Project, NETF, Guwahati on behalf of BSNL from eligible Govt. Registered Contractor having experience of Optical Fibre Cable laying and associated works by Open Trenching/HDD method in BSNL/MTNL or other Central/State Govt./PSU or any Reputed Private Telecom Operator.

NIT No. : OC-91900232

Div/TP/IGHET-99/2017, 30-08-2017 from 11:00 Hrs. of
Date: 30-08-2017 Cost : ₹ 990.00

Up to 1300 Hrs. of
Last date & time of bids opening : 13.09.2017 At 14:00 Hrs. of

Div/TP/IGHET-99/2017 after 11:00 a.m.
Date : 19-09-2017 after 11:00 a.m.
<http://procure.gov.in/procure/app/>

email : normals@mtnl.co.in, normals@bsnl.co.in, normals@mtlco.in

Ph. : 0361-2469479, 2455906

For All tenders sake Register File Lakes, and details of tender in the website
please check for details in the website www.net.bnsl.co.in

Sd/-, Divisional Engineer (TP), Guwahati

2-day meet of dermatologists

STAFF REPORTER

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ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS UNDER IPDS

E-tenders are invited from reputed & experienced manufacturers with / without channel partners as prescribed in tender document for IPDS. Details of the NITs floated may be seen in the website assamtenders.gov.in and also in the APDCL web portal www.apdcl.org

St/ No.: APDCL/2017/54
APDCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltanbazar, Guwahati-1

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Notice Inviting Tender (ID: 2017_AAI_2432_1)

e-Procurement - Online Reverse Auction, Tender No.: AAI/2017-18/Tender/18

Tenders are invited from registered bidders on behalf of Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI) from eligible bidders for "S.I.T.C of Flight Information Display System & SCCTV System at JHARSUGUDA AIRPORT (West Bengal) Operated by AAI and 3rd Party Contractors (AMC with Share Capital) * Estimation Cost : 15092017 at 3.00 PM

For more details visit : www.airportsaai.com. Senders/Visa President (AS), AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA, Hanger Building, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110030. Tel: +91-11-24697343. E-mail: atckey@aaai.aero

NIT No.: APDCL/2017/54

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No. NH/MC-CW/Genetic Unit/IFB/NPCE/CH/Different Dist./Assam/PIP (2016-2017)/3530/17/23 Dated Guwahati the 28th August 2017

EXTERNSHIP NOTICE

The Bid process for the work-'Construction of 10 (Ten) Bedded Geriatric Unit at District Civil Hospital in Different District of Assam under NHM' as mentioned below issued vide this office letter No. NH/MC-CW/Genetic Unit/IFB/NPCE/CH/Different Dist./Assam/PIP (2016-2017)/3530/17/22 Dated Guwahati the 8th August.

1. At JSB Civil Hospital in Chirang District.
2. At 5.5 M Dev Civil Hospital in Cachar District.
3. At Morigaon District Hospital in Udaguri District.
4. At Tinsukia Civil Hospital in Tinsukia District.
5. At Dibrugarh Civil Hospital in Baska District.
6. At Borgaigaon District Hospital in Borgaigaon District.

Revised Tender Schedule:-

Sl.	Name of Event	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	Tender Download	01.09.2017	12:00 Hrs	11.09.2017	14:00 Hrs
2	Tender Submission	01.09.2017	12:00 Hrs	11.09.2017	14:00 Hrs
3	Technical Bid Opening	14.09.2017	15:30 Hrs	-	-

Hard copy of technical bid submitted online along with Cost of Tender (Original) will be accepted up to 11th September 2017 upto 14.00 hours. All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

Concluding function of diamond jubilee celebrations of Bajali College

ANN Service

PATACHARUKU, Aug 29: Preparations are almost complete for the concluding function of diamond jubilee celebration of Bajali College, a premier higher educational institution of Assam, which is soon to become Bhatadev University. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal along with Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will grace the occasion, informed college sources.

The function will be held with a three-day colourfull programme on August 30, 31 and September 1. The programme will begin with the hoisting of the college flag of the college by Dr Manoj Kumar Mahanta, Principal of the college.

Watery grave CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, Aug 29: One Mehbul Ali, a nine-year-old boy, of Fulbari village under Rangia PS died on Monday by drowning in a pond near his house. He had gone to the pond along with his sister, to take a bath. The deceased was a class IV student.

OBITUARY

Gaurav Kumar Sarma

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: Gaurav Kumar Sarma (Ricky), the only son of Baladev Sarma and Nilima Sarma passed away on August 25 at Chennai. He was 24. He was a resident of Arya Nagar, Guwahati. His last rites were performed at the Bhoothnath crematorium.

Troilukya Dutta ANN Service

SIVASAGAR, Aug 29: Troilukya Dutta, Subject teacher (Mathematics), Jangli HS School, a leader of the Assam Movement in the eighties, a prominent citizen of Dikhowmukh, Sivasagar and a popular footballer, died of cancer at his temporary residence at Melachakar, Sivasagar recently. He was 51.

The Sivasagar District Journalists' Association, Rongpur and Dikhowmukh Sahitya Sabha, Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chitr Parishad, Biswajyoti Sangha, Jangli HS Teachers and Employees unit and a host of socio-cultural organisations have mourned his death and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family.

Dutta leaves behind his wife and two sons.

Locals throng Army medical camp at Damas

GOLAPURA, Aug 29: In a bid to provide better health facilities to the people living in the interior rural areas, the Indian Army recently organised a health-cum-awareness camp at Damas in North Garo Hills, stated a press release.

The release also stated that

more than 8,000 people, including ESM, senior citizens, women and children of the locality and its neighbouring areas benefited from the camp where Army doctors and paramedical staff provided basic medical care.

The Army medical team was

also able to sensitise the local people about basic health and hygiene. The release further added that the local community lauded the endeavour and expressed their gratitude towards the troops of the Red Horn Division for arranging the health camp. — Correspondent



Activists of All Bodo Students' Union staging a road blockade demanding a separate Bodoland at Kajalgaon in Chirang district, on Monday. — UB Photos

Acres of agricultural land turn barren at Gohpur

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, Aug 29: The surging water of the river Brahmaputra and several other tributaries that flow down the hills of Arunachal Pradesh created havoc in most of the parts of Gohpur subdivision in Biswanath district. The aftermath of the flood has thrown the life of the common man out of gear in some parts of the subdivision. The surging waters of the Sessa river affected several villages in Khamouguri, Baishistapur, Navapur, Shringarajan, Rangjan Mising etc., under Kabura Gaon Panchayat while a similar situation arose in the villages under Ronaonamukh, Lohitmukh, Pichala Sosanik, Kharaparia, Bortamuk, Bakardilam and Rangmali Gaon Panchayat areas. Though the water receded after a few days, the sand and silt that came along with the flood water buried hundreds of paddy fields and households. It ruined the dreams of the cultivators overnight.

According to information, villagers like Bhupen Hazarika, Benu Das, Jayanta Hazarika, Thulswes Hazarika, Narendra Das, Dharmeswar Hazarika, Ratneswar Das, Manoranjan Hazarika, Rupa Das, Dilip Das, Bagiram Das and Srimanta Das are the worst affected cultivators. Moreover, the campuses of Kalmoungia Lower Primary School and Rajiv Gandhi Lower Primary School were completely buried by the sand. A good number of families in Rangjan Mising village and Lougati village were also badly affected as the lower parts of their chong phar were buried upto three feet under the sand. Most of these villagers are cultivators and they have to solely depend upon what they produce in their agricultural lands. It may be mentioned here that these villagers had grown crops of Baro paddy during the last winter season but it was totally damaged by the wild elephants coming out of the Karziranga National Park. Following this, the villagers had grown Sali crops this time which was also destroyed by the recent flood turning the paddy fields into barren lands. The affected villagers allege that desert like environment was created by this natural happening in the villages like Nampikha Anguri under Pichala Sosanik Gaon Pancharay where people find it difficult

to get the administration provided relief materials and other help to the affected people during the flood, but the villagers have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to handle the aftermath of the situation particularly in the fields of sanitation, drinking water and medical health.

One nabbed; Bolero stolen STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 29: Jorhat police on Monday arrested a youth hailing from Majuli on charges of molesting a college student here a month ago. A case was registered at the police station after the girl lodged an FIR at the police station alleging that a Bolero SUV, owned by an auto driver had molested her at Malow Ali by-pass junction here.

A police officer said that Das had been giving the police a slip, but in the wee hours on Monday, he was nabbed by a police team from a rented house at the Malow Ali area here. In another incident, a Bolero SUV, owned by RK Pincha, a businessman, was reportedly stolen from the street here near his residence at Marwari Patty area here on Sunday night.

Sit-in-demo

DIPHU, Aug 29: The Karbi Students' Association (KSA), Students & Youth Council (SYC), Karbi Nimsos Chinglum Asong (KNCNA) and the All India Students' Association (AISA)'s Bokajan district committee left for Guwahati to stage a sit-in-demonstration there to demand creation of an autonomous State comprising Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.

The student leaders have informed that nearly 500 youths from different places of Bokajan are taking part in the demonstration not only on the statehood issue but also on the demand of scrapping of Clause 8 of the Bodo Accord. The demonstration will also focus on the alleged corruption going on in the 30 departments functioning under the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. — Correspondent

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One killed, one seriously hurt in road accident

CORRESPONDENT

One Station recently. The accident took place when the two youths who were coming from Majuli towards Dihukukhama through the National Highway-15 on a motor-cycle (AS-07 J 6035) hit an iron railing at Galagubdi. While Diplu died on the spot, Prasanta sustained serious injuries and was immediately rushed to the Dihukukhama Civil Hospital.

Both the youths were studying at Dihukukhama College.

Flood-relief distributed

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: The Nowrang College unit of the National Service Scheme (NSS) initiated a flood relief programme and distributed some essential materials to flood-affected victims of the five different villages viz., Balikila, Shantipur, Deuri Chilabandha, Borbhog Nangam and Borbari Chhatma Gaon under Kolabar subdivision of Nagaon district recently. This programme was jointly conducted by the NSS unit, Nowrang College Students' Union (NCSU) and the teachers and non-teaching staff of the college, a press release stated.

65 families get homes

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Aug 29: The dream of a permanent dwelling for 65 homeless families of Dhekaijuli in Sonitpur district became a reality recently as they entered their new homes constructed under PMAY-G scheme.

It was a great day in the lives of those 65 homeless families as they entered their new homes constructed under PMAY-G scheme in Dhekaijuli block under the Pancharat and Rural Development department. It means mention here that the Dhekaijuli development

block has taken initiative for fast implementation of the PMAY-G Scheme to facilitate the poor and needy rural people who are in need of a house. The beneficiaries formally entered their new homes in the presence of Dhekaijuli MLA, Ashok Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Government of Assam, MGVK Bhanu, Manoj Kumar Deka, Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur-cum-CEO, Sonitpur Zila Parishad, State BJP leader, Diganta Ghatwar, Shiva Bandra, Jitu Kishan, and district BJP president, Mrinal Saikia.

Bokajan MLA faces flak

CORRESPONDENT

said area, the MLA had promised to provide an open stage at Japralangso playing field saying that in the ensuing 2017 ZKYF, the youths will perform their cultural items over a stage.

Expressing their annoyance, they stated that though ZKYF is just a month away and the open stage is still nothing more than a dream till now, they felt cheated by the BJP MLA. They also mentioned that till now the MLA has made lots of promises but has not yet delivered anything to them.



'Sankalp Se Siddhi' prog organised at Morigaon

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Aug 29: Sankalp Se Siddhi (New India Movement) announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was organised here on August 25 under the auspices of the Krishi Vikas Kendra (KVK), Morigaon.

The exhibition held on the occasion was inaugurated by Piyush Hazarika, MLA, Jagiroad. The exhibition was organised to create awareness among farmers on the latest technologies developed by KVK Morigaon. Farmer groups – Soni Farmers Producers Organisation and Poohar working in close association with the Krishii Vigyan Kendra, Morigaon were invited for exhibiting their products, produced under technical

guidance to motivate the participating farmers. Trinaya Gramin Udyog run by Ilora Bora displayed fish pickles prepared under technical guidance acquired after attending training on fish pickling at College of Fishery Science, Rahi organised by KVK Morigaon. Improved poultry breeds like Vanaraja, Kamruja, Rainbow Rooster, Rhode Island Red, emu, quail and high-yielding varieties of pigs like Rani, Yorkshire, Ghurgo were displayed in the exhibition by the farmers.

The KVK, Morigaon has adopted a tribal village Gaoliya of the Tiwa community for doubling farmers' income by 2022. The formal meeting began with the felicitation of the dignitaries and lighting of lamps. Dr Monoranjan Neog,

Associate Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat addressed the meeting. He said that there are KVKs under AAU and all these KVKs will organise 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' programme from August 19 to 30.

Union Minister of State for Railways, Rajen Gohain initiated the process of taking of 'sankalp' by every one present in the meeting. After completion of the 'sankalp' taking programme, in his speech, he mentioned that lots of changes have taken place during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi viz., demonetisation, crop insurance, irrigation etc. In 2022, we will celebrate our 75th Independence Day in a corruption-free, developed and rich nation. Seventy-five percent of the Indian

population is earning its livelihood by agriculture-based activities. If we set a target of doubling of the farmers' income by 2022, then our nation will be counted among one of the richest nations in the world.

He suggested that as Morigaon and Nagaon districts have numerous water bodies and the fishery college is also situated at Raha, Nagaon, so the official should take technical support from the scientists and develop some improved fish species.

The Deputy Commissioner of Morigaon district, Hemanta Deka mentioned that the soil health card will be given to each and every farmer. He assured the minister that under the leadership of Ponalash Ahom as the Nodal Officer, a

team will work for fish production with the technical support from Raha fishery college. He stressed on maize production in the current financial year. The Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University KM Baruah said that to measure the income of the farmers in 2022, we should know the income of the family at present. So we have to do a baseline survey. He gave importance to agriculture and allied sectors and exotic vegetables production. He said that till now our effort was on production drive but from now onwards we should concentrate on the basis of need and demand of the situation. Senior scientist and head of Krishii Vigyan Kendra, Morigaon Dr Rujusmita Sarma Deka offered the vote of thanks.

Labanya Baruah: a tribute



Labanya Baruah, an elderly woman of Pub-Sarania area, passed away on August 18 at the GNRC Hospital, Dispur. She was 74.

Born on October 21, 1943 at Khoundchuk of Jakhelabandha, she died her schooling from Jakhelabandha LP School. She was the second child of Late Golok Khound and wife of Late Pratap Baruah who originally hailed

— Rekha Duahar Baruah


**WEATHER
NORTH EAST**

Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain expected to occur at many places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and light to moderate rain there is likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh.

Warning: Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places on September 1 and 2 over Arunachal Pradesh. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places on September 1 and heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 30, 31 and September 2 over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	32.0	24.6
Tezpur	33.8	22.2
Silchar	33.8	25.3
Dhubri	33.9	27.9
Guwahati	33.9	23.5
NLakshimpur	32.4	22.5
Shillong	24.3	15.9
Imphal	30.5	23.3
Itanagar	30.0	23.5
Aizawl	30.3	13.1
Mizoram	34.2	25.8
Kohima	27.5	18.0
Passighar	33.4	24.5
Cherrapunjee	24.8	17.9

2 militants nabbed, arms recovered

ITANAGAR, Aug 29: The security forces in Arunachal Pradesh apprehended two hardcore NSCN(R) cadres and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition in two separate incidents in Changlang district of the State.

Based on specific inputs about the presence of cadres in a hotel at the Mao lower market, a team of personnel from Mao PS led by its officer-in-charge Inspector R Khomrang cordoned off the hotel. Immediately the cadres tried to escape from the scene but were overpowered and apprehended by the cops.

The arrested NSCN (R) cadres have been identified as Khaspom Ngaimong (19) of New Khamlang village under Mao PS and Pengwang Kanglom (22). — Correspondent

Junior engineers' stage protest

AIZAWL, Aug 29: Junior Engineer Service Association of Mizoram (JESAM) launched a three-day agitation today by wearing black badges to protest against 'stagnation' and demanded the State Government to introduce non-functional grade pay.

Leaders of JESAM said that junior engineers (JE) constituted the largest among Government servants who could not get promotion due to 'stagnation'. They said that 249 JE's who have been working for more than 20 years without getting promotion, they pointed out. The JESAM leaders also said that they are greatly disappointed because they have no future prospect.

The leaders also said that despite repeated pleas, the State Government is yet to take any positive step in this regard. The JESAM added that the Government had granted non-functional 'senior grade' pay to SDO/EE in order to solve their problems. — Newma News

NORTH EAST

Supreme Court to hear plea on Sikkim's Gurdwara

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: The Supreme Court today agreed to hear a petition seeking to restrain the Sikkim Government from allegedly demolishing a Gurdwara in the State in the garb of renovating it.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra directed the petitioner to serve a copy of his plea to Sikkim's standing counsel the next day and fixed the matter for hearing tomorrow.

The petitioner has alleged that the State authorities have illegally removed the holy book from the Gurdwara without following any code of conduct under the pretext of renovation.

Responding to the query, petitioner Amritpal Singh Khalsa said the petition was filed in extreme urgency due to the threat of demolition of the Gurdwara being demolished without prior intimation to the Sikh priest.

The bench asked him to serve the copy of the plea to

the standing counsel of the State during the course of the day and fixed the matter for hearing tomorrow.

The petitioner has alleged that the State authorities have illegally removed the holy book from the Gurdwara without following any code of conduct under the pretext of renovation.

He claimed there was an "imminent threat" of the Gurdwara being demolished without prior intimation to the Sikh priest.

The plea has claimed that there were sufficient historic

books and documents which indicated that Guru Nanak, the first Guru of Sikhs, had gone to the gurdwara Gurudongmar.

It has sought the apex Court's direction prohibiting the authorities from carrying out any demolition or renovation work at the site.

The plea also said if the authorities wished to carry out any renovation work at the site, a prior notice of one month should be given to the priest so that appropriate action to shift the Guru Granth Sahib as per the Sikh code of conduct could be taken. — PTI



Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma laying the foundation stone for construction of a road from Chinabat to Mandalgad at East Garo Hills in Meghalaya on Monday. — UB Photos

International call centre racket busted in Shillong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Aug 29: Meghalaya police has busted an international call centre racket that was involved in duping the US citizens by impersonating as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials.

According to the police, the call centre and the gang involved in the racket was under surveillance for quite sometimes, "however, due to lack of proper information and firm evidences the sleuths waited till they were nabbed last evening."

"We conducted the raids af-

ter coming to know that some of the members of the gang were coming to Shillong," a senior police official said.

In the raid six members of the gang were arrested from Meghalaya and one from Kerala. The arrested included Nira Gurung, Sweety Sutriga, Pynskhem Mawthow

operatori and simple, although it involved technical know-how, in which they called up the US citizens posing as IRS officials and asked them to pay up their tax returns.

The callers usually asked the US citizens to pay their tax or face criminal charges for concealment of tax returns. "Usually the victims paid up the amount," the police said. The police said that the gang is part of a network that spreads across the country and raids are on to find the others involved in it.

It is also being investigated how the scammers are able to

get the data base of the US citizens although such scams have been reported throughout India in the past few years, which suggest of a wider network operating in the country.

In this present scam, it is being said that the headquarters of the gang is in Ahmedabad, Gujarat and therefore coordination with the Gujarat police would be sought to crack the case.

Although the investigation is on there are reports that each of the members of the gang operating from Cleave Colony got a minimum of Rs 4 lakh per month from the fraud.

and other income generating activities", he added.

Kire urged the department to continue uplifting the less privileged people in the rural areas, and to strive hard to bring the desired results in implementing the Central schemes in the State.

Parliamentary Secretary, Land Resources and Excise, BS Nganlang said, "Let us make the best use of the available resources and make ourselves self-sufficient."

Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar called upon the villagers to adopt the practice of crop diversification and develop resilient agriculture.

Maintaining that water availability is a problem facing most places of the State, he called for development of springhead water management projects to solve the problem especially during dry season.

Nagaland Minister for scientific cultivation

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Aug 29: A Minister from Nagaland has lamented that though 70 per cent of the State's population is engaged in agriculture, food production is grossly inadequate in the State forcing it to import food from other States.

He attributed the reasons to low productivity and reluctance of the farmers to use scientific technologies and farm mechanisation.

Speaking at the State-level Watershed Conference at Capital Convention Centre in Kohima yesterday, Nagaland Minister for Roads and Bridges Dr Neisia Kire said that Integrated Watershed Management Programme has been introduced in the State to encourage the farmers to take up cultivation and other income-generation activities.



Culminating the PMKSY-WDC, Batch II, the Department of Land Resources organised the conference.

He said PMKSY, to certain extent, has addressed these issues with the introduction of plantation crops such as rubber, cardamom, tea, coffee, etc. "Through this programme, many unemployed youths have been given support in establishing small-scale entrepreneurship

and other income generating activities", he added.

Kire urged the department to continue uplifting the less privileged people in the rural areas, and to strive hard to bring the desired results in implementing the Central schemes in the State.

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"Let us make the best use of the available resources and make ourselves self-sufficient."

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Maintaining that water availability is a problem facing most places of the State, he called for development of springhead water management projects to solve the problem especially during dry season.

"The negative impact of liquor can be clearly seen from the increased of alcohol-related deaths in the four hospitals in Mizoram. If the survey had covered other hospitals, the figures would have been much higher," said Mizoram Presbyterian Synod moderator Rev Lalzaihanga, who released the survey report.

"It has also been found that liberalisation of liquor has increased promiscuity that further increases the risk of HIV infection," he said. Another Presbyterian Church leader Robert Halliday, who heads the church's social front, also maintained that the prohibition had been beneficial in ridding Mizoram society of various social evils. "The Church has played a pivotal role in creating awareness against alcoholism and has organised many special drives against it. It has also been involved in rehabilitation programmes," he said.

hibition Act, imposed since 1997, and introduced a new law that allowed opening of wine shops in 2015.

The survey also interviewed 873 people, including 348 rural dwellers and 524 urbanites, on the impact of alcohol on Mizo society. It said around 63 per cent of the respondents are for total prohibition of liquor, while 93.81 per cent believed that alcohol causes negative impact on the society.

23.38 per cent in 2016, the survey found.

The survey also interviewed 873 people, including 348 rural dwellers and 524 urbanites, on the impact of alcohol on Mizo society. It said around 63 per cent of the respondents are for total prohibition of liquor, while 93.81 per cent believed that alcohol causes negative impact on the society.

Preparations on for Manipur Panchayat polls

IMPHAL, Aug 29: Hectic preparations are on for the panchayat elections scheduled for next month to elect new local body representatives in Manipur, including Zila Parishad, Pradarsh and ward members.

The polling of the elections will be held on October 7 between 8 am to 4pm.

Altogether 311 candidates, including 216 candidates for Zila Parishad, 511 for Pradarsh and 3204 for ward members of Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Jiribam, Kaching and Thoubal, have filed their nomination papers. The last date for withdrawal of their candidacies has been fixed on August 29, according to the State Election authority.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 7,16,813 persons including 3,48,139 males and 3,68,691 females are eligible to exercise their franchise right. Candidates, a copy of valid passport size photograph along with ACRs of last 5 (five) consecutive years should reach the undersigned within 30 days from the publication of the advertisement together with a copy of Treasury Challan of Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred) only, in case of SC/ST candidates Rs. 100.00 (Rupees One Hundred) only as application fees to be deposited in Treasury Office under the Head of Accounts "0070-Other Administrative Service etc".

Applicants with service particulars and candidates will have to appear before an interview board at their own expenses as soon when called for. No TA/DA will be admissible for the journey.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner
Barpeta
Janasanyog/CF/1292/17

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In pursuance of approval accorded by the Commissioner of Public Works, Guwahati, Gauhati, vide letter No FPT/28/17/2017 dated 18/07/2017, applications invited from interested candidates in the Standard Form of Application for filling up the post of "Head Assistant" for Barpeta Sadar Sub-Division under the amalgamated establishment of office of the Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta in the Scale of Pay (P.B-2 Rs. 14000/- + 4900/- + Grade pay Rs. 8700/- pm plus other allowances as admissible as per provision of R.C.P. 2017 and under the Assam Ministerial District Establishment Service Rule 1967.

The candidate should have worked at least 15 (fifteen) years of continuous service including 10 (ten) years as General Assistant in any of the Deputy Commissioner's amalgamated Establishment of the State of Assam. Preference will be given to the candidates having experience and working knowledge of different branches/Offices (under DC's Esstt.) in General Application stating Age, Educational Qualification, Present and Permanent Address including Experience of Incidence in the concerned service, service certificate and copies of certificates, a copy of valid passport size photograph along with ACRs of last 5 (five) consecutive years should reach the undersigned within 30 days from the publication of the advertisement together with a copy of Treasury Challan of Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred) only, in case of SC/ST candidates Rs. 100.00 (Rupees One Hundred) only as application fees to be deposited in Treasury Office under the Head of Accounts "0070-Other Administrative Service etc".

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Sd/- Deputy Commissioner
Barpeta
Janasanyog/CF/1292/17

CANCELLATION NOTICE

With reference to tenders published in www.assamtenders.gov.in the tenders related to the following schemes under RIDF-XXX stands CANCELLED.

Sl. no	Division	Name of scheme	Pack No.	Package Amount	NFT No.
1	Gauhati West WR Division	AE measures to protect villages situated in flood prone areas from the erosion of river Brahmaputra.	1	64,394,956.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
2	Gauhati West WR Division	Pro-Silvicultural measures to protect Sarvan-Barla Village and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Brahmaputra.	1	49,824,207.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
3	Gauhati East WR Division	Construction of check dams to control the erosion of river Brahmaputra at Kamakhali, Gargona, Dharaga & Garai area, Ph. Churang, Tengnoupal, etc.	1	74,219,871.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
4	Gauhati East WR Division	Construction of check dams to control the erosion of river Brahmaputra from Lengia to Diphengwa hill (From Churang to Tengnoupal) and other areas across LB embankment of river Kongong near Ganesh Hill.	1	31,518,954.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
5	Ghy East WR Division	Construction of check dams to protect Kalabagan area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra.	1	74,993,630.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
6	PGP (W.R) Mizoram	AE measures to protect Kalabagan and Pub Kalabagan villages from the erosion of river Brahmaputra.	1	34,794,664.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
7	Dibrugarh WR Division	AE measures to protect Bisingang and Pub Kalabagan villages from the erosion of river Brahmaputra.	1	47,103,485.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
8	Dibrugarh WR Division	Training of river Kanhang and Kula by practitioners to mitigate severe damage at Bradongon village and its adjoining areas	1	9,737,325.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
9	UA/LD Jorhat WR Division	Ridge of Brahmaputra dyke from Rongali to Neamati	1	44,555,319.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/5
10	Borgata WR Division	Anti erosion measures to protect Safakaram and its adjoining area from erosion of river Brahmaputra.	1	36,199,928.99	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/10
11	Borgata WR Division	Protection of Jayapur and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Brahmaputra and reconstruction of eroded land areas with its afforestation.	1	3,305,113.17	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/10
12		Anti erosion measures to protect Sundari Salia and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Narakanda (Ph.-I)	1	4,02,47,658.00	CE/CWWRtendering/2016-17/640/Pt/13

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

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Applications are invited in the Standard Form of Application published in Part IX of the Assam Gazette from eligible individuals for contract engagement at State Project Management Unit (SPMU), Guwahati and Urban Project Implementation Unit (CPU), Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh & Nagaon under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam. As far as the following post:

STATE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (SPMU)				
SL. No.	Name of Post	No. of Vacancies	Age Limit	Qualification/ Eligibility
1	Accounts Manager	1	25-45 years	Post Graduate in Commerce having minimum 3 years experience and knowledge in Computer Applications and Tally latest version. Minimum 55% marks in both Graduation and Post Graduation is desired.
2	Junior Assistant	1	25-45 years	Graduate Degree in any discipline with minimum 3 years experience in Government / Semi Govt. / autonomous organizations / Private company of repute and with exposure to software development & project management, database management, MIS, etc. Minimum 55% marks in both Graduation and Post Graduation is desired.

CITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (CPU)

SL. No.	Name of Post	No. of Vacancies	Age Limit	Qualification/ Eligibility
1	City Project Officer	4	25-45 years	Post Graduate Degree in Computer Science / MCA / B.Tech in Computer Applications / Minimum 3 years experience in Government / Semi Govt. / Autonomous organizations / Private company of repute and with exposure to software development & project management, database management, MIS, etc. Minimum 55% marks in both Graduation and Post Graduation is desired.
2	City Development Officer	4	25-45 years	Full Time Masters in Social Sciences (Minimum 2 years course duration) with minimum 3 years experience in Government / Semi Govt. / Autonomous organizations Private company of repute and with exposure to software development & project management, database management, MIS, etc. Minimum 55% marks in both Graduation and Post Graduation is desired. Good knowledge in Computer Application will be preferred.

Notes:

1. This engagement will be temporary on contractual basis and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam related only.
2. Initially this engagement will be for 11 months, based on performance and requirement of the mission, which may further be extended.
3. Application should be submitted on or before 15th September, 2017 up to 3:00 pm at the Office of the State Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Directorate of Municipal Administration, Gareshpur, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.
4. For detailed advertisement please visit <http://sbmrunbanasam.irv>

Sd/- State Mission Director
Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam
Janasanyog/CF/1283/17

CAPSULE**SAIL-Riyas tariff pact**

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Country's largest steel maker SAIL today said it has entered into a long-term tariff contract with Railways involving 15 zones for loading and unloading terminals. Different commodities applicable to the contract include iron and steel, pig iron, manganese, dolomite and manganese ore with a benchmark gross freight revenue (BGR) of Rs 3,417.74 crore and with corresponding tonnage of 19.3 million tonnes (MT) effective from September. - PTI

NTPC stake sale

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: The government today sold 46.35 crore shares in NTPC for about Rs 7,800 crore on the opening day of its disinvestment in the country's largest power producer. As many as 32,000 shares were offered to institutional buyers on the first day of the offer for sale (OFS), and the portion was oversubscribed 1.41 times. The government has decided to retain the entire oversubscription. At the floor price of Rs 168, the bid for 46.35 crore shares is worth Rs 7,790 crore. - PTI

MRF premium tyres

CHENNAI, Aug 29: Tyre major MRF Ltd today introduced luxury and premium range of passenger and commercial tyres here, which are targeted at serving high-end automobiles. With this new range of PERFINZA tyres, MRF now offers additional products for the luxury and premium vehicle segment. The tyres unveiled will initially serve the domestic market and later be shipped to overseas. - PTI

IHL MD & CEO

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Tata group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHL) today said it has appointed Dilipchandra Puriest Chhatwal as its Managing Director and CEO. He will take over from incumbent Rakesh Saria, who is stepping down on September 30. The board of directors of the company at its meeting held today approved the appointment of Chhatwal, the company said in a BSE filing. - PTI

July GST collection target exceeded with 64% compliance, says Jaitley

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said the government has collected Rs 92,283 crore as goods and services tax (GST) revenue for the first month of its rollout, exceeding the target while 21.19 lakh taxpayers are yet to file returns.

"Till now morning, 38.38 lakh, which is 64.42 per cent of the eligible taxpayers, have complied. If we take total amount of GST that has come for July till 10 am on Tuesdays, it is Rs 92,283 crore," Jaitley said here at a media briefing.

The taxpayers who are yet to file returns will have to bear a penalty of Rs 200 per day – Rs 100 for CGST and Rs 100 for SGST, Jaitley said.

Excluding those who registered in August and those who have opted for Composition Scheme, the total

number of taxpayers registered for the month of July is 59.57 lakh, who should be filing returns, he said.

"This number will keep on increasing. As of today there are 59.57 lakh people who should have paid tax for July," he said.

The last date to file the first GST returns was August 25 and for those claiming transactional credit, it was August 28.

The Finance Minister said that as per the stated tax collection target for July, the amount due to the Centre is Rs 48,000 crore, and for the States, the corresponding figure is Rs 43,000 crore.

"The combined target for Centre and States revenue per month is thus Rs 91,000 crore, which has to be met. We have already exceeded the target with 64.42 per cent taxpayers," he said.

"In the sum of revenue we see to be comfortable, but we will have to break up the figures to see if any particular State has not had revenue at the growth rate of 14 per cent, and that particular State will have to be compensated," he added.

The Finance Minister noted that not many people thought the revenue collection will exceed target in the first month itself.

"But we need to wait for a few more months to study the pattern. More efficient tax system checks evasion and brings non-filers into the net," he said.

The Rs 92,283-crore GST revenue is a gross figure, which includes Central GST of Rs 14,894 crore, State GST of Rs 22,722 crore and Integrated GST of Rs 47,469 crore (of which IGST from imports is Rs 20,964 crore) and cess is Rs 7,198 crore (of which Rs 599 crore is compensation cess from imports).

IGST will be allocated between Centre and States.

As far as GST registrations are concerned, a total of 72,33 lakh taxpayers have migrated from the previous indirect tax regime, Jaitley said. The new registrations apart from this have gone up to 18,83 lakh, he said. – IANS

Idea in talks with NE States for sourcing wood

HYDERABAD, Aug 29: Swedish furniture major Idea today said it is in talks with a number of State governments for sourcing wood for furniture even as it is setting up a large facility in Pune for stocking goods.

The States include Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and the north-eastern States.

"Today raw material is a biggest challenge for furniture in India. Wood (procurement) is a bit of a challenge. We are working with the State governments here (Telangana), Karnataka, Maharashtra and the North-east to see how the government can help to find the wood," Deputy Country Manager of Idea India, Patrik Anttoni, said at a press conference.

As per the commitment the firm has made to the Centre, by 2022, as much as 30 per cent of their products they sell in India will be sourced locally. "We are setting up a large facility in Pune which will be our distribution centre. By November the warehouse in Pune will be ready. It is a rented facility. We will have a 10,000 sq ft facility where we will stock the products," he said. – PTI

NOTICE for Extension of LAST DATE

The LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM for One year VFA Training Course on Elementary Knowledge in A.H. & Vety. Sc. at the School of Vety. Sc. & A.H., Ghungoori, Silchar for the Session 2017-18 is hereby extended till 11.09.2017 (5.00 pm) due to prevailing flood situation in Assam and to provide further opportunity to the candidates of the flood affected areas.

It is further clarified that intending male candidates need to apply in the prescribed Application Form, after downloading it from the Govt. of Assam's website assam.gov.in, instead of applying in Standard Form available in the market.

Sd/- Director
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Assam, Chenikuthi, Guwahati-03



Sudhin Mathur, Managing Director, Motorola Mobility India and Country Head, Lenovo MBG, with the lucky winners of Moto G5S Plus during the launch of the handset model, in New Delhi on Tuesday. – UNI

Better business environment

Enhanced access to low-cost capital needed: NITI Aayog

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Enhancing access to low-cost capital to businesses could serve as an important vehicle for improving the business environment, especially in poor States like Bihar, the NITI Aayog has recommended. In its report on 'Ease of Doing Business', the premier policy think-tank says that half the enterprises in different States are regarding the access to finance. This suggests that enhancing the access to low-cost capital to businesses could be an important vehicle to improve business environment, especially in poorer States such as Bihar," said the report.

The survey covers over

3,000 enterprises across India and makes an effort to assess ease of doing business from their perspective as opposed to the perspective of policy-makers.

"There is a large variation in the experiences of enterprises in different States regarding the access to finance.

This suggests that enhancing the access to low-cost capital to businesses could be an important vehicle to improve business environment, especially in poorer States such as Bihar," said the report.

It added that there is a robust correlation between a favourable business regulatory environment and greater economic activity with faster-growing States having more conducive business environment than slow-growing states.

"These results should provide the impetus to press ahead with the economic reforms agenda," it said.

The survey also found out a strong association between greater ease of doing business and higher rates of growth, the report said. – IANS

Ramping up petchem output

IOC to invest Rs 32,000 cr

MUMBAI, Aug 29: To meet

the rising demand for chemicals, especially plastics and polymers, country's largest public sector company Indian Oil will invest Rs 32,000 crore to ramp up its output by fiscal 2021.

This investment is part of the overall Rs 1.8-trillion capex planned for the next five to seven years, IOC Chairman Sanjiv Singh said here today.

The petchem business contributes a quarter of the most profitable PSU's profit, which rose to the highest at Rs 19,106 crore in fiscal 2017.

"We are investing more than \$140 million in marketing this year, which will be biggest spend since 2008. The increased investment will be focused on gener-

Diamond marketing

US, China and India," De Beers said in a statement here.

A majority of the investment will support De Beers' proprietary brands, Forevermark and De

Beers Diamond Jewellers, it said.

Stephen Lusser, De Beers Group's Executive VP of Marketing and CEO of Forevermark, said, "Total consumer expenditure on diamond jewellery for the last five years collectively has been the highest on record – and the outlook is positive. However, we can't take future growth for granted." – PTI

De Beers to invest \$140 mn in India, US, China

MUMBAI, Aug 29: World's leading diamond company De Beers Group today said it will invest over \$140 million for diamond marketing in India, US and China this year.

"We are investing more than \$140 million in marketing this year, which will be biggest spend since 2008. The increased investment will be focused on gener-

Diamond marketing

US, China and India," De Beers said in a statement here.

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Stephen Lusser, De Beers Group's Executive VP of Marketing and CEO of Forevermark, said, "Total consumer expenditure on diamond jewellery for the last five years collectively has been the highest on record – and the outlook is positive. However, we can't take future growth for granted." – PTI



ASSAM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY
(A State University of Government of Assam constituted by "Assam Science and Technology University Act, 2009")
Tetela Road, Jalukbari, Guwahati-781013 Website www.astu.ac.in

Extension of date for submission of application for the post of Academic Registrar, Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati

Last date for submission of application for the post of Academic Registrar, Assam Science and Technology University is extended from 31 August 2017 to 12 September, 2017 (3:00 P.M.).

Details of the advertisement is available in the University Website www.astu.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar

Janasanayog/CF/1279/17

Assam Science and Technology University

e-Tender Notice

Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Panbazar, Guwahati-781001 invites e-tender for fabrication & supply of 7(seven) Nos. Quick Response Tender (QRT). To participate in this e-tendering process, bidder must have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in. The details of the tender document are available at www.assamtenders.gov.in or www.fesassam.org. The bidders who have downloaded the tender document from the aforesaid website shall submit their tender only through online e-procurement portal website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The tender should be submitted online on the date and time as per prescribed schedule.

Sl. No.	Schedule	Start Date	StartTime	End Date	EndTime
1	Publishing Date	28.08.2017	5.00 PM	-	-
2	Tender Downloaded	28.08.2017	5.30 PM	18.09.2017	3.00 PM
3	Pre Bid Meeting Date	06.09.2017	4.00 PM	-	-
4	Bid submission Date	28.08.2017	5.30 PM	18.09.2017	3.00 PM
5	Technical Bid Opening Date	19.09.2017	11.00 AM	-	-
6	Financial Bid Opening Date	Will be intimated later			

Sd/- Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Guwahati

Janasanayog/C/3134/17

e-Tender Notice

Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Panbazar, Guwahati-781001 invites e-tender for supply of 10(ten) Nos. HDPE Rescue Boat. To participate in this e-tendering process, bidder must have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in. The details of the tender document are available at www.assamtenders.gov.in or www.fesassam.org. The bidders who have downloaded the tender document from the aforesaid website shall submit their tender only through online e-procurement portal website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The tender should be submitted online on the date and time as per prescribed schedule.

Sl. No.	Schedule	Start Date	StartTime	End Date	EndTime
1	Publishing Date	25.08.2017	5.00PM	-	-
2	Tender Downloaded	25.08.2017	5.30PM	18.09.2017	3.00PM
3	Bid submission Date	25.08.2017	5.30PM	18.09.2017	3.00PM
4	Technical Bid Opening Date	19.09.2017	11.00AM	-	-
5	Technical Power Point Presentation Date	Will be intimated later			
6	Financial Bid Opening Date	Will be intimated later			

Sd/- Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Guwahati

Janasanayog/C/3129/17

Criminalising marital rape will destabilise marriage: govt

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence as it could become a phenomenon which may destabilise the institution of marriage and an easy tool for harassing the husbands, government today submitted before the Delhi High Court.

The Centre, in an affidavit filed in response to pleas seeking criminalisation of marital rape, said the Supreme Court and various High Courts have

already observed the growing misuse of Section 498A (harassment caused to a married woman by her husband and in-laws) of IPC.

The reply, filed before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Hari Shankar, also sought to impel State governments in the matter to know their opinion to avoid any complication at a later stage.

"It has to be ensured adequately

that marital rape does not become a phenomenon which may destabilise the institution of marriage apart from being an easy tool for harassing the husbands," the affidavit, filed through Central government standing counsel Monika Arora, said.

The government was responding to various petitions seeking declaration of Section 375 (offence of rape) of the IPC as unconstitutional on the

ground that it discriminated against married women being sexually assaulted by their husbands.

During the day's hearing, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for one of the petitioners, argued that marriage cannot be viewed as giving a husband the right to coerced intercourse on demand. He said a marriage licence cannot be viewed as licence for a husband to forcibly rape

his wife with impunity and a married woman has the same right of full control over her body as an unmarried woman. He also referred to various judgments of foreign countries.

The hearing in the matter would continue tomorrow.

Marital rape (or spousal rape) is an act in which one of the spouses indulges in sexual intercourse without the consent of the other. - PTI

TN farmers eat raw meat as mark of protest

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Tamil Nadu farmers protesting at Jantar Mantar here today ate raw meat and accused the Central and State governments of not paying heed to their concerns.

The farmers had yesterday announced that they will be eating flesh from human bodies as their issues were not solved even after 44 days of their protest in the national capital. They had also hit human skulls and bones as a "mark of protest".

However, their leader P Ayyakkannu said they chose to eat some other meat as the police had stopped them from eating human flesh as a mark of protest.

They are demanding farm loan waivers, crop insurance and the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board by the Centre among others.

"We have pushed to the brinks and left with nothing other than protesting to tell the State in which we are living."

"They (police) have stopped us from eating flesh from human bodies. How else should we raise our issues to government who are not paying heed to our concerns?" their leader P Ayyakkannu said. - PTI

No bail for Haryana BJP chief's son

CHANDIGARH, Aug 29: A court here today dismissed the bail plea of Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala's son Vikas and his friend Ashish Kumar who had been booked on charges of stalking and attempting to abduct a 29-year-old woman.

The court of civil judge Barinder Pal Singh dismissed the bail plea of both the accused who were arrested on August 9, defence counsel Ravinder Pandit said.

The woman, daughter of a senior IAS officer, had accused Vikas (23) and Kumar (27) of stalking her. - PTI

Vacancies in SC rise to six

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: As Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant retired today, the strength of the Supreme Court has come down to 25 judges from 31 and one of the topmost priorities before newly-appointed Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra would be to fill the six vacancies in the apex court.

The total strength of 31 judges in the apex court includes the Chief Justice himself. A Supreme Court judge retires at the age of 65 years.

A senior government functionary said that the Centre would await the recommendations of the Supreme Court collegium to fill up these vacancies. - PTI

Downpour brings Mumbai to its knees



A local train running through waterlogged tracks following heavy rainfall in Mumbai, on Tuesday. - UNI

MUMBAI, Aug 29: Torrential rain accompanied by strong winds pummelled Mumbai today, disrupting rail, road and air services, uprooting trees, swamping homes, and bringing the megapolis and satellite towns to their knees.

People's woes were compounded by the high tide that prevented natural drainage of water into the sea.

Meteorological department sources said Mumbai recorded copious rain of 65 mm in just three hours.

Thousands of vehicles were stranded on arterial roads in Lower Parel, Dadar, Kurla, Andheri, Khar West, Ghatkopar, Sion and Hindmata areas that were under knee to waist deep water for several hours, many having broken down.

Trains were running late or stopped on all three suburban railway lines—Central, North and Harbour lines—as tracks were submerged at several points.

Having waited for hours on end with water showing no signs of receding, fidgety passengers

were seen jumping off stationary trains and walking along the tracks to their destinations.

Commuters were seen standing under knee deep water on the steps of buses in low lying areas like Parel. Traffic crawled at snail's pace on important roads, including the Eastern and Western Express Highway, Sion-Panvel highway and LBS Marg.

"The metropolis has received heavy rainfall since last night. Between 8:30 am and 12 pm today, the city received

85 mm rainfall," Sudhir Naik, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, told PTI.

According to the civic body's disaster management cell, at least 20 incidents of trees fall and one of wall collapse were reported from across the city but there were no casualties.

"Heavy waterlogging expected in coming hours due to heavy showers coupled with high tide. Pls chk ur route before venturing out," the Mumbai Police said in a tweet, adding

that the strength and downpour since morning, six to seven flights had to do go around while landing, four were diverted to nearby airports, mainly Ahmedabad. A Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport spokesperson said there was an average delay of 35 minutes. "Heavy rain and strong winds have drastically reduced visibility leading to diversions and go arounds even though the main runway is open," a Mumbai airport source told PTI.

The downed NID document may be collected on payment of a fee of Rs 500/- from the Office of the Registrar, Administrative Building, Cotton University payable through ICICI Bank Challan FEE.CODE 011 available in Cotton University website www.cottonuniversity.ac.in. Sealed quotations are to be submitted during office hours. Last date of submission of sealed quotations to the undersigned is 19th September, 2017 up to 2:00 PM and the quotations will be opened on the same day at 3:00 PM. Participating firms may attend at the time of opening of the quotations. Janasanyog/C/127/17

Registrar

Dera premises emptying out under security vigil

SIRSA, Aug 29: With members of the Dera Sacha Sauda living in its old headquarters having moved out, Army and security personnel are now placed by the sect's new complex which is still to be vacated by some 200 people, officials said.

No incidents of violence have been reported from Sirsa in the last two days, officials said.

Mobile internet services, suspended days before Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was sentenced to 20 years of jail yesterday, have been restored, they added.

Army personnel have put up barricades around 500 metres away from the new complex of the Dera and are urging followers who

are still here to leave the premises. The new facility came up about 12 years ago as the sect's popularity grew, leading to a demand for expanded facilities. The old complex was built by the sect's founder, Mastana Balochistani.

Deputy Commissioner Prabhat Singh told PTI about 200 people, mostly Dera employees, were still housed in the new headquarters here.

Deputy Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Haryana, Satish Kumar said around 700 followers had left the headquarters since the morning. "We provided buses for them so that they could return home.

Nearly all of them belong to Haryana or Punjab," he said. - PTI

CPI(M) won't join any poll alliance involving Cong: Yechury

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: The CPI(M) will not be part of any electoral alliance involving the Congress though it will continue to be associated with JD(U) rebel Sharad Yadav's 'save composite culture' campaign, joined by Opposition parties, including the Congress, the Left party said today.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said his party will attend meetings aimed at "protecting the composite culture for a larger cause", but added that it will not take part in any rally of the "mahagathbandhan" (grand alliance) with the Congress in the future too.

Yechury made the comment two days after the Left party skipped the RJD's 'BJP Bhagao, Desh Bachao' (Banish Bengal, Save Country) rally in Patna, attended by several key Opposition leaders.

The CPI(M) leader said that the composite culture movement is not to be confused with "mahagathbandhan" as the former has "got nothing to do with electoral alliance".

The CPI(M) had not partic-

ipated in the rally, citing presence of its arch rival and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"The question is being raised that the CPI(M) did not take part in Lalit's rally, but is attending Sharad Yadav's meet on composite culture.

"The 'save composite culture' movement has got nothing to do with electoral alliances or adjustments. Saving the composite culture is a larger issue," Yechury told PTI.

According to the CPI(M)'s stated "political tactical line", there should be no alliance or cooperation with the Congress and the Left party in the future too.

Referring to that position, Yechury said the Left party is sticking to the stance and that "there is no confusion on that".

"But the composite culture movement is not to be confused with mahagathbandhan. Laloo organised the mahagathbandhan rally. There will be several more such rallies, which we will not attend, but we will attend the composite culture meetings," the Marxist leader added. - PTI

The last date for applying Renewal applications shall continue to be 31 August 2017.

The Bank Account Number of applicants must be in his/her own name. The Bank Account No., IFSC Code, MICR Code etc. must be correct while applying online.

ELIGIBILITY: i) Post Matric Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs 2.00 Lakh.

ii) Merit cum Means based Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/guardian in their scholarship application.

For the year 2017-18 the Income Certificate issued by any competent authority is mandatory requirement for applying for any scholarship scheme for 2017-18. Where the documents are uploaded the income certificate shall also be required to be uploaded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

It is for information that the online verification/scrutiny by institutes is mandatory and requested to submit the verified list (certified copy) to the undersigned so that the duplicit if any may be dropped/ rejected from the verified list. If any queries, the institutes may contact the undersigned.

Students shall submit their online application forms to the concerned institutions for online scrutiny and the head of the institute will scrutinize the applications and submit it to the office of the undersigned for final verification through online.

The head of the institute are also requested to submit the hard copies of scrutinized list on or before 10th October 2017, to the office of the undersigned for further scrutiny.

For more details visit the website www.scholarships.gov.in and www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

NOTICE

Extension for award of Post Matric and Merit Cum Means Based Scholarship to the students belonging to the Minority Communities for the year 2017-18.

Fresh & Renewal applications under Post Environment Report (SoEr), Assam-2015. The detailed EOI alongwith Terms Of Reference (TOR) can be downloaded from the website: <http://103.249.1.163/assamforest/Notifications/OnlineApplicationForm.aspx>.

The interested organizations/institutions are invited to submit their Technical and Financial proposals in separate sealed covers to the Addl. Principal Conservator of Forests (P & D), Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Panjbari, Guwahati-781037 upto, 13th Sept, 2017 by 17:00 hrs. The separate sealed Technical and Financial bids may be dropped in a bigger sealed envelope by interested expert Institutions in the tender box to be placed in the office of Registrar of the P & D, PCCF & HoFF, Assam, 1st Floor, Aranya Bhawan, Panjbari, Guwahati-781037.

The financial bid offers of only those experts Institutions that are technically qualified will be opened.

The department reserves the right to accept any or reject all the offers received against the notice.

Sd/- APCCF (P & D), Assam

O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Panjbari, Guwahati-781037

Pt- +91-9435078867

The last date for applying Renewal applications shall continue to be 31 August 2017.

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ELIGIBILITY: i) Post Matric Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs 2.00 Lakh.

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For the year 2017-18 the Income Certificate issued by any competent authority is mandatory requirement for applying for any scholarship scheme for 2017-18. Where the documents are uploaded the income certificate shall also be required to be uploaded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

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For more details visit the website www.scholarships.gov.in and www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Sd/- Director

Char Areas Dev. Assam & Nodal Officer, Hengrabari Road Dispur, Guwahati-6

Email ID: director_cada@yahoo.com

Mobile: 7086055605

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paisa twenty five only are invited from the Govt. Register authorized stockists/ Dealers Suppliers of Sealed Stationery for Supply of Stationery and Consumable Items to Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh for a period of 1 (one) year. The Tender documents containing detailed information/terms and conditions can be obtained from our website www.assammcdicalcollege.in.

Sd/- Superintendent

Assam Medical College Hospital

Dibrugarh

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

The last date of submission of the tender for supply of Stationery, Hardware, Electrical, Water supply and Misc items to Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh is hereby extended upto 12.09.2017 instead of 01.09.2017 up to 4:00 pm. The tender will be opened on 13.09.2017 at 11:30 am. in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized repre-

sentative.

Sd/- Superintendent

Assam Medical College Hospital

Dibrugarh

COTTON UNIVERSITY

Panbazar, Guwahati- 781001

Assam, India

Website: www.cottonuniversity.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations from manufacturers/vendors/dealers/suppliers are invited in two bid system (technical and price bid) for supply and installation of Water Purifiers in Hostels of Cotton University.

S.N.O. NIQ No. & Date

Particulars

1 NIQ No.: CU/S&P/2017/1146
Date: August 29, 2017

"Supply and Installation of Water Purifiers in Hostels"

The due date of NID document may be collected on payment of a fee of Rs. 500/- from the Office of the Registrar, Administrative Building, Cotton University payable through ICICI Bank Challan FEE.CODE 011 available in Cotton University website www.cottonuniversity.ac.in. Sealed quotations are to be submitted during office hours. Last date of submission of sealed quotations to the undersigned is 19th September, 2017 up to 2:00 PM and the quotations will be opened on the same day at 3:00 PM. Participating firms may attend at the time of opening of the quotations. Janasanyog/C/127/17

Registrar

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

PREPARATION OF STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SoEr)

The Forest Department, Government of Assam intends to hire the services of empanelled experts Institutions for preparation of technical reports related to Environment like State of Environment Report (SoEr), Assam-2015. The detailed EOI alongwith Terms Of Reference (TOR) can be downloaded from the website: <http://103.249.1.163/assamforest/Notifications/OnlineApplicationForm.aspx>.

The empanelled experts Institutions are invited to submit their Technical and Financial proposals in separate sealed covers to the Addl. Principal Conservator of Forests (P & D), Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Panjbari, Guwahati-781037 upto, 13th Sept, 2017 by 17:00 hrs. The separate sealed Technical and Financial bids may be dropped in a bigger sealed envelope by interested expert Institutions in the tender box to be placed in the office of Registrar of the P & D, PCCF & HoFF, Assam, 1st Floor, Aranya Bhawan, Panjbari, Guwahati-781037.

The financial bid offers of only those experts Institutions that are technically qualified will be opened.

The department reserves the right to accept any or reject all the offers received against the notice.

Sd/- APCCF (P & D), Assam

O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Panjbari, Guwahati-781037

Pt- +91-9435078867

The financial bid offers of only those experts Institutions that are technically qualified will be opened.

The department reserves the right to accept any or reject all the offers received against the notice.

Sd/- Director

Char Areas Dev. Assam & Nodal Officer,

Hengrabari Road Dispur, Guwahati-6

Email ID: director_cada@yahoo.com

Mobile: 7086055605

The last date for applying Renewal applications shall continue to be 31 August 2017.

The Bank Account Number of applicants must be in his/her own name. The Bank Account No., IFSC Code, MICR Code etc. must be correct while applying online.

ELIGIBILITY: i) Post Matric Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs 2.00 Lakh.

ii) Merit cum Means based Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs 2.00 Lakh.

Students are advised to provide 'Annual Family Income' as per the Income Certificate issued by competent authority in their scholarship application.

For the year 2017-18 the 'Income Certificate' issued by any competent authority is mandatory requirement for applying for any scholarship scheme for 2017-18. Where the documents are uploaded the income certificate shall also be required to be uploaded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

It is for information that the online verification/scrutiny by institutes is mandatory and requested to submit the verified list (certified copy) to the undersigned so that the duplicit if any may be dropped/ rejected from the verified list. If any queries, the institutes may contact the undersigned.

Students shall submit their online application forms to the concerned institutions for online scrutiny and the head of the institute will scrutinize the applications and submit it to the office of the undersigned for final verification through online.

The head of the institute are also requested to submit the hard copies of scrutinized list on or before 10th October 2017, to the office of the undersigned for further scrutiny.

For more details visit the website www.scholarships.gov.in and www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Sd/- Director

Char Areas Dev. Assam & Nodal Officer,

Hengrabari Road Dispur, Guwahati-6

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The last date for applying Renewal applications shall continue to be 31 August 2017.

The Bank Account Number of applicants must be in his/her own name. The Bank Account No., IFSC Code, MICR Code etc. must be correct while applying online.

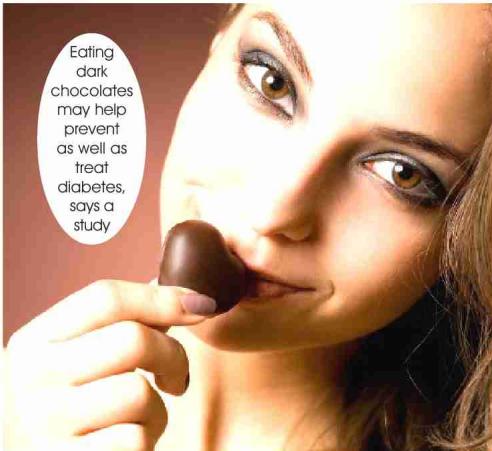
ELIGIBILITY: i) Post Matric Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs 2.00 Lakh.

ii) Merit cum Means based Scholarship: Students who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs 2.00 Lakh.

Students are advised to provide 'Annual Family Income' as per the Income Certificate issued by competent authority in their scholarship application.

For the year 2017-18 the 'Income Certificate' issued by any competent authority is mandatory requirement for applying for any scholarship scheme for 2017-18. Where the documents are uploaded the income certificate shall also be required to be uploaded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

It is for information that the online verification/scrutiny by institutes is mandatory and requested to submit the verified list (certified copy)



Dark chocolates for diabetes!

Love to gorge on dark chocolates? According to a study, compounds found in cocoa – the main ingredient of chocolate – can actually help prevent as well as treat diabetes.

The findings showed that cocoa compound named epicatechin monomers help the body release more insulin and responds to increased blood glucose better.

When a person has diabetes, their body either does not produce enough insulin or does not process blood sugar properly, because of the failure of beta cells, which produce insulin.

However, the study found that the increased presence of epicatechin monomers helped beta cells to remain stronger as well as enhanced their ability to secrete insulin.

"What happens is epicatechin monomers is protecting the cells, increasing their ability to deal with oxidative stress," said lead author Jeffery Tessem, assistant professor at Brigham

Young University (BYU), US. "The epicatechin monomers are making the mitochondria in the beta cells stronger, which produces more ATP (a cell's energy source), which then results in more insulin being released," Tessem added.

For the study, published in the *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*, the team first fed the cocoa compound to animals on a high-fat diet.

The results showed that by adding it to the high-fat diet, the compound would decrease the level of obesity in the animals and would increase their ability to deal with increased blood glucose levels.

"These results will help us get closer to using these compounds more effectively in foods or supplements to maintain normal blood glucose control and potentially even delay or prevent the onset of Type-2 diabetes," said study co-author Andrew Neilson, assistant professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. – IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY Birthday for Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017:

This year you will often be exposed to new ideas. You might feel much better with tried-and-true ideas, yet you will feel restricted by them. In a moment of optimism, however, you will opt to take a leap of faith. The end result will be positive. If anyone asks you for an unusual favor, then you are likely to hook up with someone who appreciates your individuality and precision yet able to take risks. Be careful not to project your issues on others, especially this person. If attacked, the two of you often debate issues and then make up. You are good at making up stories and reconnection with your basic bond more often. Allow the innate heat between you to build. SAGITTARIUS often is in conflict with your ideas.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** You become more entrenched in a problem because of your desire to be unique and to change your position. Your creativity emerges later in the day. An unusual resolution appears, whether you take a risk or not. You have the energy and determination to cruise through a hassle. Tonight: Roll out a good movie.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** One-on-one relating could revolve around a difficult topic or financial restriction. Either way, you break precedent and move through a situation of what you want to try to explain your desires to the person who could help you make an adjustment. You are more receptive regarding a financial issue. Do not push past established boundaries to achieve your long-term desires. Tonight: Clean up your act.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Deal closely with a child or loved one you care about. Visualize what you want to do. Try to explain your desires to the person who could help you make an adjustment. You are more receptive regarding a financial issue. Do not push past established boundaries to achieve your long-term desires. Tonight: Get as much done as possible before calling it a day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** You have the ability to move past any hassle quickly. Your mind explores options easily and demonstrates an unusual flexibility. A romantic or family member could trip you up inadvertently. Stay on target and be willing to continue moving forward with or without support. Tonight: Clean up your act.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Be forthcoming about an issue rather than close down. Others will be open to a conversation, and you will respond accordingly once you think about what is happening. A friend might feel a lot stronger about a key issue than you do. You cannot forged agreement, and it would be best not to try. Tonight: Watch the crowds are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** You are more likely to move in a new direction. Honor a fast change that could involve a child or loved one. Stay on top of a personal matter. You demonstrate an ability to move through a problem. Be aware that not everyone can follow you logic. Tonight: Clean out your last drawer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You could be more understanding if you understand what is happening between you and another person. You see a personal issue for different from a friend or loved one. Discussions might be important here, but confrontation or argument should be avoided. Tonight: Smile the lime light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You are able to move past a problem quickly. Understand what is motivating the other party. Stay on top of what is occurring. You instinctively react right-on when dealing with others in general. Use them well and move with a grain of salt. Much could change. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Others seek you out at work and in personal settings. A night out with friends is full of energy and interest. What occurs might be a letdown, but on the other hand, you had an opportunity to visit with some friends. Think twice about a fast change; you might be better off not acting on it. Tonight: Move the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Be more forthright when dealing with an important business matter. Honor the feelings of a boss or older relative, especially if the person has more experience with the issue at hand. Your energy surges and might be the source of a disagreement that normally would not occur. Tonight: Get to the gym to work through your stress.

Thought for the day

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.

— HOWELL FORGY

Kids

CN

colors

Rainbow

Di Si Tak

Eshwaran-Swamman

Fear Khatron Ke

Khatron Ke

Khatron Ke

Teen Titans Go

Prosecutors demand harsher punishment for Samsung heir

SEOUL, Aug 29: Prosecutors today demanded a harsher punishment for the heir to the Samsung empire, appealing against a court ruling that sentenced him to five years in prison for bribery.

Lee Jae-Yong, the de-facto head of Samsung Electronics, was found guilty last week of bribery, perjury and other charges related to payments made by Samsung to ousted President Park Geun-Hye's secret confidante, Choi Soon-Sil. Four other top Samsung executives were also convicted, with two jailed for up to four years, and the other given suspended terms. The prosecutors appealed part of the verdict that found Lee innocent of some of the bribery charges and said the punishment meted out to the five accused was too mild, the Yonhap news agency said.

"In light of the role the five accused played in the crime, which was the most outstanding among all wrongdoings committed by Park and Choi... the lower court ruling was too lenient," the prosecutors quoted as saying in the appeal. A day earlier, lawyers for Lee filed their own appeal against the conviction, claiming he is innocent of all charges.

In total, 8.9 billion won (USD 7.9 million) were paid in bribes in return for favours, including government support for Lee's hereditary succession at the group after his father was left bedridden by a heart attack in 2014, the court found. - AFP

Around the WORLD

Zuckerberg's second daughter

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 29: Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife welcomed their second daughter – August – into the world with a post on the social network.

As they did with the birth of their first daughter, Maxima, in late 2015, the couple wrote the girl a letter, but this one spoke of revelling in the wonder of childhood instead of visions of a better world on the horizon.

"You only get to be a child once, so don't spend it worrying too much about the future," said the letter signed by Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan.

"We've got you, and we'll do everything in our power to make sure the world is a better place for you and all children in your generation."

A Zuckerberg Chan Initiative established by the couple has pledged billions of dollars to improving life for their children's generation with goals such as eliminating disease.

The Facebook co-founder is among billionaires who have vowed to donate most of their wealth to charitable causes.

"With our work in science and technology, your generation could live dramatically better lives than ours, and we have a responsibility to do our part to make that happen," the couple wrote, referring back to a letter written to their first daughter after her birth.

"But rather than write about growing up, we want to talk about childhood. The world can be a serious place. That's why it's important to make time to go outside and play." - AFP

Game of Thrones finale

LOS ANGELES, Aug 29: The *Game of Thrones* Season 7 finale set a ratings high for the series by becoming the most watched episode ever in the past decade.

The 90-minute-long final episode, titled "The Dragon and the Wolf," saw a total of 12.1 million viewers tune in on Sunday, according to Entertainment Weekly.

The figure is up by 13 per cent from the previous record high two weeks earlier and 36 per cent higher than the Season 6 finale. The number climbs to 16.5 million if HBO's replays and streaming areas numbers are added.

For the second of its finale, *Thrones*, considered the most popular show on television, was overshadowed by leaks and a cyber attack on the network. The finale, however, was not compromised like the two earlier episodes which were leaked online in advance from HBO's streaming partners in India and Spain.

Shooting on the eighth and final season is slated to begin in October. The season will debut either in the later half of 2018 or, some say more likely, early 2019. - PTI



Thai dancers arrive in front of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of a cultural event to celebrate 65 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Thailand, in Sydney on Tuesday. - UNI

EU slams N Korea for missile launch

BRUSSELS, Aug 29: The EU today denounced North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile which overflew Japan as another breach of its international obligations and a "serious threat" to regional security.

"These actions constitute outright violations of the DPRK's international obligations, as set out in several UN Security Council Resolutions, and represent a serious threat to international peace and security," EU Foreign Affairs chief Federica Mogherini said in a statement.

"The DPRK must comply without delay, fully and unconditionally, with its obligations under all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and refrain from any further provocative action that could increase regional and global tensions," Mogherini added.

North Korea – the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) – fired a ballistic missile over Japan today in a major escalation that triggered global alarm and a furious response from Tokyo, which said it was "unprecedented, serious and grave threat."

The UN Security Council has called an emergency meeting at Tokyo on Wednesday's request.

"I express my full support to Japan and the people of Japan in the face of this direct threat," Mogherini said. She said the EU, which has imposed a se-



Japanese soldiers take part in a drill to mobilise their Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile unit in response to the missile launch by North Korea, at US Air Force Yokota Air Base in Fussa on the outskirts of Tokyo on Tuesday. - UNI

ries of sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear and missile programmes, would "consider further appropriate response in close consultation with key partners and in line with UN Security

Council deliberations."

Last month, Pyongyang staged two Intercontinental Ballistic Missile tests that appeared to bring much of the US mainland within reach for the first time.

At the time, US President Donald Trump threatened to rain "fire and fury" on the North, as Pyongyang warned it could fire a salvo of missiles towards the US territory of Guam. - AFP

All options on the table: Trump



WASHINGTON, Aug 29: US President Donald Trump today warned that "all options are on the table" after North Korea fired a ballistic missile that flew over Japan before plunging into the northern Pacific Ocean.

"Threatening and destabilising actions only increase the North Korean regime's isolation in the region and among all nations of the world. All options are on the table," he said.

address North Korea's launch of a missile that overflew Japanese territory, the White House said.

"The two leaders agreed that North Korea poses a grave and growing direct threat to the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea as well as to countries around the world," it said.

Trump and Abe committed to increasing pressure on North Korea and doing their utmost to convince the international community to do the same, the White House added. - PTI



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban at Budapest on Monday. - UNI

China hopeful of getting support for BRICS summit

BEIJING, Aug 29: China today hoped that all BRICS nations would play a role for the success of the grouping's upcoming summit in Xiamen, a day after India and China agreed to disengage their soldiers to end the Doklam stand-off.

India and China yesterday ended their 73-day stand-off in Doklam by withdrawing their troops from the area, a diplomatic breakthrough that came just days before the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit hosted by China. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Xiamen to attend the summit from September 3 to 5.

When asked whether China halted the work on a road in Doklam to end the stand-off that the BRICS summit could be held, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "Peaceful resolution of the issue through the diplomatic channels serves the common interests of all relevant parties."

"It shows the sincerity and responsible attitude of China as a major country," Hua said. She added the summit is the common cause of all the BRICS countries and ensuring its success serves the interests of

all relevant parties.

"We hope all relevant parties can play a role for the success of the summit. We hope to get the support and coordination from all relevant parties," she said.

When asked about the road construction in Doklam, Hua said China will take into consideration all relevant factors, including the weather, while building it.

"In order to meet the needs of defending the borders, improving the living conditions, China has long engaged in infrastructure development including the road reconstruction," she said.

Hua reiterated that "Chinese border troops will continue to station and patrol the Doklam area. We will continue to exercise our sovereignty with historic conventions."

She also parried a question whether China is in consultation with Bhutan, which has protested the Chinese troops' road building in Doklam. "So far we have resolved the issue of illegal trespass of the Indian troops," she said. - PTI

Suu Kyi faces criticism from loyalists

YANGON, Aug 29: As Aung San Suu Kyi launched a national struggle against decades of harsh military rule, one medical student worked tirelessly by her side, facing down gun-wielding soldiers trying to crush the surging pro-democracy movement.

For her activism and loyalty, Ma Thida suffered six years of mostly solitary imprisonment and nearly died of illnesses. Now a medical doctor, novelist and recipient of international human rights awards, Ma Thida has few kind words for the former mentor she once called "my sister who always remained in my heart."

The criticism by Ma Thida and other formerly ardent supporters is manifold:

they accuse Suu Kyi of ignoring state violence against ethnic minorities and Muslims, continuing to jail journalists and activists, cowing to Myanmar's still-powerful generals, and failing to nurture democratic leaders who could step in when she, now 72, exits the scene. Instead, they say her government is creating a power vacuum that could be filled again by the military.

Some conclude that Suu Kyi, who espoused democracy with such passion, always possessed an authoritarian streak which only emerged once she gained power. "We can't expect her to change the whole country in one-and-a-half years, but we expect a strong human rights-based approach," Ma Thida says

of the Nobel Peace Prize winner once hailed as "Myanmar's Joan of Arc" and spoken of in the same breath as South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.

International criticism has focused on Suu Kyi's lack of action or condemnation of violence targeting the country's approximately 1 million Rohingya Muslims, who have been brutalized since 2012 by security forces and zealots supporting the Buddhist majority in western Myanmar.

More than 1,000 Rohingya have been killed, while some 320,000 are living in squall camps in Myanmar and neighbouring Bangladesh, according to estimates by the US-based Human Rights Watch and the United Nations. Thousands

more embarked on perilous sea voyages to other south-east Asian countries.

After a new wave of violence and human rights crisis erupted last week, with ethnic Rohingya militants attacking police posts and leaving 12 security personnel and 77 Rohingya Muslims dead, her office said military and border police had launched "clearance operations."

She herself condemned the militiamen for what she called "a calculated attempt to undermine the efforts of those seeking to build peace and harmony in Rakhine state." As usual, she did not address the insurgents' counter-allegations that the attacks were aimed at protecting Rohingya villagers from "intensified atrocities" perpetrated by "brutal soldiers." - AP

Dark, scandalous life behind Mona Lisa's mysterious smile: Book

LONDON, Aug 29: Mona Lisa – the enigmatic figure of Italian polymath Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting – was married off to a much older slave trader at the age of 15, according to a new book which suggests that her dark life may hold the secret to her mysterious smile.

In the book, *Mona Lisa: The People and The Painting*, authors Martin Kemp from the UK and Giuseppe Pallanti from Italy reveal the events of the dark life of Lissa Gherardini, the painting's real-life Mona Lisa – and others involved in the work.

Gherardini, born in Florence in June 1479, was married at the age of 15 years to a much older Francesco

del Giocondo, who was a wealthy 30-year-old merchant and widower in 1495. A prominent Florentine businessman, del Giocondo kept slave girls to serve as maids throughout his life and for generations before, *The New York Post* reported.

"Since his childhood Francesco had lived side by side with some female slaves who had converted to Christianity, bought by his father, and after his father's death it was his responsibility to find new ones. Sometimes he bought more slaves than he needed," the authors wrote. He regularly bought girls from North Africa and converted them to Christianity with many working as maids at the del Giocondo house.



1,130 people killed in 2013 mishap

B'desh garment factory owner jailed for graft

DHAKA, Aug 29: A Bangladesh court today jailed the Rana Plaza owner for three years for graft, the first of many charges laid against him after the garment factory complex collapsed in 2013 and killed more than 1,130 people.

Soheb Rana was given the maximum three-year sentence by a special court in Dhaka for failing to declare his personal wealth to Bangladesh's anti-graft commission, one of a series of charges brought by prosecutors following the disaster.

"This is the first time he has been convicted and jailed since them," prosecutor Salahuddin Es-kander told AFP. Rana faces four other charges, including murder, over his role in one of the world's worst industrial tragedies. He and 37 others could be sentenced to death if found guilty of murder over the factory complex's collapse.

Rana was arrested just days after the accident at the border with India as he tried to flee Bangladesh. He became public enemy number one in the aftermath of the disaster as survivors recounted being forced to enter the factory to work despite complaining about cracks appearing on the walls.

Rana and 17 others have also been charged with violating building codes when extending the six-storey structure by a further three floors. The illegal construction was blamed by investigators for the tragedy. - AFP

14 killed in Egypt mishap

CAIRO, Aug 29: At least 14 people were killed and 42 others injured today when a bus and a pick-up truck collided after plunging from a bridge onto the road below in southern Egypt, officials said.

The Health Ministry said in a statement that the accident took place on a main road linking Beni Suef with the capital, Cairo. The driver of the pick-up truck, which was carrying poultry, told local media that he fell with his vehicle from the bridge but managed to get out of the vehicle quickly, then the bus fell over his vehicle. The driver is currently being treated in a hospital.

The bus, which was travelling from Cairo to the Upper Egyptian city of Menya, was carrying 62 passengers. Hospital sources said that some of the injured are in a serious condition.

Egypt has one of the world's highest accident rates owing to careless driving and poor road and vehicle conditions.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) ranks Egypt as the world's tenth worst country in road accidents after India, China and the US. - PTI

China landslide toll climbs to 17

BEIJING, Aug 29: The death toll in a landslide in rural southwest China's Guizhou province has risen to 17 and 18 people are still missing, a media report said today. The landslide hit 34 households in Naying county, local authorities were quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

At least 17 people were killed and eight injured with 18 still missing after the landslide, local authorities said. Over 2,000 people, including police, firefighters and medical staff, are at the scene and more than 80 emergency vehicles, 20 life detectors, 17 digging machines and eight drones are involved in the rescue work, it said.

Local authorities have sent tents, quilts and camp beds to the site after the disaster to carry out relief efforts for the affected people. Search efforts are continuing, it said.

Following the landslide, China yesterday issued a Grade IV emergency response. A Grade IV response is the lowest in China's four-tier emergency response system. It means a 24-hour alert, daily damage reports, and the allocation of money and relief materials within 48 hours.

Landslides are a frequent danger in rural and mountainous parts of China, particularly after heavy rains. Mountainous Guizhou is one of China's poorest provinces. - PTI

Sharapova stuns Halep, Muguruza advances

NEW YORK, Aug 29: Former world number one Maria Sharapova made a triumphant return to Grand Slam competition after a 15-month doping ban, outlasting second-ranked Simona Halep 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at the US Open.

The 30-year-old Russian, who had only one hardcourt tuneup match due to a nagging forearm injury, swatted 60 winners with 64 unforced errors, setting the tempo and baffling Halep at times in a tension-packed thriller at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I just thought this was another day, another opportunity, another match but this was so much more," Sharapova said.

"You sometimes wonder why you put all the work and this is exactly why."

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova closed her remarks to a supportive crowd by saying that behind her fancy dress and sparkly crystals, "This girl has a lot of grit and she's not going anywhere."

Sharapova, who tested positive for the banned blood booster melonium at last year's Australian Open, improved to 7-0 in her all-time rivalry with Halep, extending her mastery over the 25-year-old Romanian.

An emotional Sharapova punctuated her shotmaking, at times erratic and other moments spectacular, with screams and fist pumps. She was energetic even at rest, closing her eyes and bouncing her legs as she sat at her chair.

After the final point, Sharapova dropped to her knees as a replay appeal

showed what she already knew.

She rose and greeted Halep at the net, thanked the umpire, then batted back tears as she blew kisses to spectators, sobbed at times and mouthed "Thank you" to fans that were devoted throughout the two hours and 45 minute drama.

"You never know what you're going to feel until you win that match point," she said. "It was so worth it."

Sharapova won only 5 of 22 break points in the match while Halep won 4 of 10 and produced only 15 winners against 14 unforced errors.

It was Sharapova's first Grand Slam match since a quarterfinal loss to Serena Williams in last year's Australian Open.

Sharapova, whose major titles include the 2006 US Open, advanced to a second-round matchup against Hungarian Timea Babos, whom she has never played.

Sharapova, ranked 146th, returned in April with the French Open snubbed

for a wildcard entry and she missed Wimbledon with a knee injury.

Asked about her low points, Sharapova said, "There were definitely a few but I don't think this is the time to talk about that."

Sharapova walked onto the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium to rousing applause from a seriously supportive crowd.

Sharapova wore a black dress, visor, socks and shoes, the same style she sported in taking the trophy nine years ago on the New York hardcourts.

Two early exchanges of breaks left the first set level at 4-4 before Sharapova held

and broke Halep with a forehand winner to draw first blood after an hour.

In the second set, Sharapova double faulted away a break to hand Halep a 5-4 edge, then Halep saved three break points and held to force a third set.

Halep sent a backhand beyond the baseline to hand Sharapova a break and 2-0 lead in the final set. The Russian held to 5-3 and served for the match, escaping a break point when Halep netted a forehand.

A Sharapova backhand winner to set up match point bought large applause but the only thunderous ovation came when Halep hit a forehand long to end it, boosting Sharapova to 18-0 in night matches at Ashe.

"It's prime time baby," she said. "I love it."

Reigning Wimbledon champion Muguruza advanced and British seventh seed Johanna Konta was ousted in other women's matches.

Spanish third seed Muguruza defeated American Varvara Lepchenko 6-0, 6-3. Muguruza, last year's French Open champion, can reach the US Open third round for the first time on Wednesday by defeating China's Duan Ying-Ying.

"Coming to US Open and having a dark past in the results, I keep it with low expectations," Muguruza said.

Serbia's 78th-ranked Aleksandra Krunic upset Australian-born Konta 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"It's definitely not an easy loss to take," Konta said. "She played consistently much better than I did." — AFP



Maria Sharapova saw off World No. 2 Simona Halep 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on her dramatic return to Grand Slam competition after a 15-month doping ban. — AFP

T20 Global League will help SA cricket: SACA

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 29: The South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) has expressed hope that CSA's inaugural T20 Global League would help in improving the overall game of the South African team.

"It will be important to ensure that the T20 GL is appropriately nested into South African cricket and that it's good for the game as a whole in South Africa," said SACA Chief Executive Tony Irish.

"The rest of our cricket must go on and our existing domestic teams and competitions have to continue to produce the best Proteas teams possible in all formats," he added.

Irish shared the benefits of the new League, which starts in November, with the SACA members.

"The global cricket landscape is changing rapidly and CSA has undoubtedly made the right decision to create a world class T20 league in South Africa."

"Not only will our local cricket be broadcast to fans all over the world but the league is also capitalising on key factors in the cricket market, including the increasing shift of global media rights resources towards T20 leagues around the world and the introduction of new investment by private team owners into the South African game," he said.

The Chief Executive hoped that the League will play its significant role in the "retention of player talent in South Africa". — PTI

Zverev, Cilic labour to first round wins

NEW YORK, Aug 29: Alexander Zverev battled into the early hours of Tuesday to defeat a surprisingly troublesome Darian King 7-6(9), 7-5, 6-4 at the US Open.

The fourth seed, wearing a striped headband, pinstripe shirt and knee-high socks, admitted to staying up beyond his bed time following a first-round win over King on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The German will next face Borja Coric of Croatia.

Zverev, who came into his encounter against King with a 1-2 record at the final Grand Slam championship of the year, didn't have things all his own way as he failed to impose his game, appearing frustrated at times and committed 64 unforced errors.

The fourth-seeded German got all he could handle in the first set from the little-known 25-year-old, who made it through qualifiers to become the first player from Barbados to compete in a



Alexander Zverev of Germany reacts during the first round match of the US Open against Darian King of Barbados at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York, on Tuesday.

serve that helped bring him five titles this year lacking its usual punch.

On the other hand, Coric defeated Jiri Vesely 7-6(5), 6-2 in two hours and 28 minutes.

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No stepping down as Sri Lanka cricket boss: Sumathipala

COLOMBO, Aug 29: The president of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Thilan Sumathipala has refused to heed the call for resignation from the legendary captain Arjuna Ranatunga.

"There is no need to resign, the administration is not at fault for the teams poor showing," Sumathipala said today.

Ranatunga, the current minister of Petroleum, said he had written to both the President Mithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe asking that they should intervene to put Sri Lanka's cricketing fortunes back in order.

He demanded the sacking of the Sumathipala administration and appointment of an interim committee to run SLC.

Sri Lanka lost the Test series 0-3 to India and are currently 0-3 down in the five-match ODI series. If they lose

the next two games, they will have to play in a qualifying round for the 2019 World Cup, to be held in England.

Crowd trouble erupted at the last two ODIs with angry fans throwing bottles on to the field and holding up play.

Sumathipala, the current deputy speaker in national parliament, was elected to head the SLC in 2016 after a long reign by politically appointed interim committees.

Sumathipala said his administration has laid long term plans to resurrect the country's cricket but it will take 3-4 more years to yield results.

Ranatunga claims that Sumathipala's administration is responsible for dwindling cricketing fortunes, where Sri Lanka has slid in all three ICC rankings.

Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera announced last week

about plans to have a two-day

brain storming of all state hold-

ers to assess where Sri Lanka

had gone wrong.

The former greats — Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene — are of the view that Sri Lanka's first class system needs a revamp with a four-day provincial tournament to be competed by the cream of national cricketers.

They feel that the present sys-

tem, with too many mediocre

teams taking part, does not con-

tribute to producing players of

high quality.

Sumathipala's administration

is accused of encouraging more

clubs to participate in the first-

class tournament with the aim of

winning votes in SLC election.

Not even the President or the

Prime Minister could contest

SCL elections and win, the vot-

ing system is so corrupt, Ranata-

ngakera claimed. — PTI

It's not going to be easy any more, says Sindhu

HYDERABAD, Aug 29: International matches have been

more competitive and demanding characterised by long rallies, feels PV Sindhu, who had to settle for a silver after losing a marathon final at the World Championship.

In a battle of attrition marked by energy-sapping long rallies, including a 73-shot rally, Sindhu and Japan's Nozomi Okuhara fought for an hour and 50 minutes before the Indian lost the match by a whisker.

Talking about the nail-biting final, Sindhu said: "Mentally and physically, it is just tiring. But at that point of time, you just think that you have to get that point. Because, if you see, women's singles, men's sin-



Lin Dan

that included hitting a coach. And he has hinted at retirement before, only to plough on.

Iln proved his enduring quality in Scotland, where South Korea's world number one Son Wan-Ho in the semifinals, before going down to the 23-year-old Axelsen in what felt like a changing of the guard.

"It is unbelievable to beat Lin Dan, I have been watching him for years," said the Dane.

As he nears the end of his career, Lin has been chipping away his tournament appearances, and he has been hitting at the top, like 36-year-old Roger Federer who has enjoyed a resurgence this year to win two Grand Slams.

Lin has fallen to seven in the world rankings and fans on China's Twitter-like Weibo, where he has 3.75 million followers, said he lost the final to Old Father Time rather than his Danish opponent.

"The best players will always lose to the Dane," he said.

Lin's coach, however, was not so sanguine. "It's a massive loss when I was flying in, we flew right over it," Williams said. "A certain excitement I get to play there. It's a privilege. It's an honour. I take it quite seriously. Everybody does."

Asked what her career timetable might be, the oldest woman in the US Open said, "I don't know. We'll see. I have no plans. Zero."

Well, she has one. With 23-time Grand Slam winner Serena serving birth in the next few weeks, Venus will be an aunt for the first time as an adult. It's one of the few adventures the sisters haven't been able to fully share in their careers.

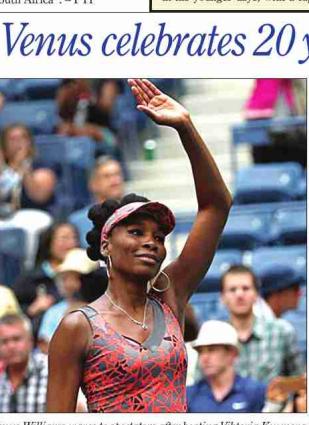
"It's definitely a different experience, especially for her and I, because we spent our whole lives focused on work," Venus said. "So when you have an experience that is not work, it's pretty intense. It's a completely different experience for both of us."

Tour life without Serena has Venus spending more time down Memory Lane than just a landmark night at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"It's definitely have adjusted at this point. It takes time," Venus said. "There are moments where you have very distinct memories of togetherness."

"I've been able to remember those and be fond or have some longing or happy memories, all those feelings. But the plan is hopefully that it won't be forever."

Until Serena is able to return as doubles partner and singles star, something she has said her goal would be to do in time to defend her Australian Open title in 2018, Venus will have to settle for some coaching advice from afar. — AFP



Venus Williams waves to spectators after beating Victoria Azarenka in the first round of the US Open.

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. It is a 9x9 grid in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

Khel Ratna Jhajharia wants State governments to do more

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Devendra Jhajharia today became the first para athlete to receive India's highest sporting honour – Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna – and said the State governments "need to do more" for the disabled athletes.

Jhajharia received the award from President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhawan along with Sardar Singh, who became only the second hockey player to get the prestigious Khel Ratna on the National Sports Day.

Javelin thrower Jhajharia is the only Indian to win two Paralympic gold medals – 2004 Athens Games and 2016 Rio Games – while star mid-fielder Sardar has been the architect of Indian hockey team's many victories in the last few years.

"It's a historic day for Indian para athletes. There are five crore such athletes and they need more support," Jhajharia told PTI in an interaction.

"The State governments need to do more. There should be separate grounds

with facilities such as ramps and easy movements for wheelchair-bound athletes and blinds," he said.

The 36-year-old Jhajharia, who created world records while winning both his gold medals, said he would like to dedicate this award to his mother and his seven-year-old daughter:

"My mother has been my support all through. She has done a lot for me. Jhajharia, who clinched a gold medal at the 2013 World Championships, said:

The 31-year-old Sardar has faced allegations of sexual harassment by an Indian-origin British hockey player. He, however, denied the allegations and the government committee, led by justice CK Thakker, chose him for the honour.

"I did not think of such things. After sending application, I did not think of it (award). I was just focusing on my game. With this award and with my age, I need to be more responsible with my game," Sardar said.

Sardar had become India's youngest captain when he led the side at the 2008 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup at the age of 22.

"I want to do well at the Asian championship. When you do well, all the recognition and awards automatically come to you," Sardar, who was accompanied by his parents, said.

A recipient of the Padma Shri – the fourth highest civilian award – in 2013, Sardar has two Asian Games medals – gold in 2014 Incheon and bronze in 2010 Guangzhou.

Cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara, one of the 17 Arjuna awardees chosen this year,

did not attend the ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan due to his County commitments in England.

All the players received their awards and citation from President Kovind, who recently received Prahalad Mukherjee.

Jhajharia was not the only para athlete whose achievements got official recognition this year as Mariyappan Thangavelu and Varun Bhati also received the honour.

Khel Ratna awardees: Devendra Jhajharia (Para-Athlete) and Sardar Singh (Hockey).

Arjuna Awardees: VJ Surekha (Ar-

chery), Khushbir Kaur (Athletics), Arokia in Rajiv (Athletics), Prasanth Singh (Basketball), L Deveno Singh (Boxing), Cheteshwar Pujara (Cricket), Harmapreet Kaur (Cricket), Onam Bembem Devi (Football), SSP Chawasia (Golf), SV Sunil (Hockey), Jasvir Singh (Kabaddi), PN Prakash (Shooting), Anthony Almraij (Table Tennis), Saketh Myneni (Tennis), Sathyawart Kadian (Wrestling), Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para-Athlete) and Varun Bhati (Para-Athlete). – PTI



President Ram Nath Kovind presenting the Arjuna Award to boxer L. Devendro Singh in a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, on Tuesday. – UNI



Footballer Onam Bembem Devi being receiving the Arjuna Award from President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi, on Tuesday. – UNI

Argentina bid to rescue World Cup qualifying campaign

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 29: Lionel Messi and his Argentine teammates were put through their paces on Monday as they trained ahead of a crucial pair of World Cup qualifiers.

Messi was joined by the likes of Sergio Agüero, Mauro Icardi, Paulo Dybala and Angel di María in preparation for the upcoming matches against Uruguay and Venezuela. The Barcelona talisman looked focused during the session as he performed a series of drills and was spotted in deep discussion with his manager, Jorge Sampaoli.

Agüero was also in the thick of the action, two days after coming off the bench for Manchester City in their late victory over Burnley.

Argentina face a battle to qualify for Russia 2018 – they currently sit fifth in the South American qualification group with just four games remaining.

As it stands they would enter

an intercontinental play-off match against the winner of the Oceanic region of qualifying, likely to be New Zealand.

Sampaoli has a star-studded squad to choose from in the upcoming matches, though he surprisingly omitted Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuaín from his selection. West Ham midfielder Manuel Lanzini was forced to withdraw through injury but City defender Nicolas Otamendi and Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero joined Agüero as the three Premier League stars involved.

Argentina face a tough-looking trip to Montevideo on Thursday night to take on Uruguay before they host Venezuela in Buenos Aires five days later.

Maverick tactician Sampaoli fielded a remarkable 2-3-5 formation in Argentina's 6-0 friendly victory over Singapore last

time out.

And with such an array of attacking options to choose from the former Sevilla boss could be tempted to try something similiar against Uruguay – with the likes of Messi, Agüero, Icardi, Dybala, Di María and Joaquín Correa all included in his latest squad. They are currently one point behind fourth-placed Chile in the group – who were controversially awarded three points after Bolivia were found guilty of fielding an ineligible player against them in a 0-0 draw back in September.

Brazil sit nine points clear at the top of the group, ahead of Colombia and Uruguay who are second and third respectively.

Two-time champions Argentina last failed to qualify for a World Cup in 1970 and were the runners-up in 2014 after losing 1-0 to Germany in the final. – Agencies



Lionel Messi and Sergio Agüero compete for possession during an Argentina training session ahead of their crucial pair of World Cup qualifiers.

Warner, Lyon put Australia back on track

DHAKA, Aug 29: David Warner scored an unbeaten half-century to steady Australia as they chased a challenging victory target in the first Test against Bangladesh here today. Warner, who remained unbeaten on 75, scored the bulk of the runs as the visitors advanced to 109-2 at stumps on the third day, still needing another 136 for victory.

Nathan Lyon earlier claimed 6-2 to dismiss Bangladesh for 260 in their second innings and give Australia a decent start.

Bangladesh looked confident when spinner Mehedi Hasan trapped Matt Renshaw leg-before for five and Usman Khawaja hoisted a catch to Tajul Islam at square leg of Shakib Al Hasan in the next over.

Australia, teetering on 28-2, nearly lost another wicket when skipper Steve Smith appeared to have been stumped off Mehedi and walked.

But he was called back after replays showed his foot had dragged slightly behind the crease as wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim broke the stump.

Smith was dropped again by Imrul Kayes off Mehedi three. He went on to score 25 not out and put an undefeated 81 with Warner for the third wicket.

Warner, who faced 96 balls and hit 11 fours and a six, also had his share of luck when he was dropped by Soumya Sarkar on 14 off Shakib.

Scorecard
Bangladesh 1st innings: 260
Australia 1st innings: 260
Australia 1st innings: 217

Gaurav assures India of medal at World C'ship

HAMBURG, Aug 29: Wild card Gaurav Bidhuri today became only the fourth Indian boxer ever to secure himself a medal at the World Championships after defeating Tunisia's Bilal Hamdi to enter the semifinals of the mega-event here.

Gaurav prevailed in a split decision in the bantamweight (56kg) quarterfinal contest to make the last-four stage, becoming only the second from the country to do so in his debut World Championship. The only other Indian to have achieved the feat was Vikas Krishan, in the 2011 edition.

Besides Vikas, Vijender Singh (2009) and Shiva Thapa (2015) have been the country's other medalists at the marquee event of the sport.

But there was slight disappointment as well for the continent when Amit Phangal (49kg),

another impressive Indian debutant in the event, bowed out in the quarterfinal stage.

The Asian Championships bronze-medallist went down to Olympic champion and second seed Hasobyan Dusmamatov of Uzbekistan in an unanimous verdict, ending what has been a fine campaign for the 21-year-old.

Gaurav took the ring next for India and was on the offensive from the word go. He had his opponent on the ropes on more than one occasion with his combination punches and also left him with a cut on his forehead in the opening round.

It went bad to worse for Hamdi after he ended up getting a warning for failing to keep his head up in the second round.

The Tunisian, despite his bloodied face, upped the ante in the final three minutes and delivered some good right hooks but Gaurav had done enough by then to seal the issue in his favour. – PTI

Brathwaite, Hope hold firm against England

LEEDS (UK), Aug 29: First-innings century heroes Kraigg Brathwaite and Shai Hope kept England at bay as the West Indies remained in a chance of an improbable win in the second Test at Headingley on Tuesday.

The West Indies were 86 for two at lunch on the fifth day, still needing a further 236 runs in a minimum of 67 overs to reach an imposing victory target of 322.

Brathwaite, dropped on four, was 49 not out and Hope 11 not out.

Stuart Broad may have been

unfortunate in having Brathwaite dropped in the slips but, after removing Kieran Powell, his luck evened out with the paceman's freak run out of Kyle Hope, Shai's older brother.

SCORECARD (at lunch)

England 1st Innings: 258

West Indies 1st Innings: 427

England 2nd Innings: 402

West Indies 2nd Innings: 50-5, 322

K. Brathwaite not out 49, K. Powell c Stokes b Broad 23, K. Hope run out (Broad), S. Hope not out 11. Extras: (b3) 3. Total: (2) 46-5, 5-53. Bowlers: Anderson 9-4; 18-0; Broad 2-2; Lyon 9-4; 18-0; Broad 10-1-46-1; Ali 7-1-14-0; Woakes 3-1-5-0. – AFP

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Brathwaite was visibly emotional while recording her first win in a Grand Slam after a very long time. The victory came against a fancied opponent and it will be interesting to see if Maria can back this performance up with consistency and go deep in the draw.

British hope Johanna Konta was ousted in the first round by unranked Krunić in 3 sets and that only endures my

opinion that she is a reflection not only

tremendously exciting with the comeback girl winning in 3 sets. Maria looked hungry even if she was understandably erratic and Simona must consider herself distinctly unfortunate to be handed out a nightmarish draw in her first match of the last Grand Slam of the year.

Halep was unlucky to be broken early in the first set when she failed to challenge a line call which would have put her back on even keel. Both players struggled to hold their serve and that is a reflection not only

on their outstanding returning abilities but also on the slowness of the Arthur Ashe centre court. From what I have seen in my practices so far, I have to admit the various courts seem to be paced differently. While the centre court is slow and may suit Rafa Nadal's game, a few of the outside courts are much faster and could be ideal for the bigger hitters.

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National Sports Day observed

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: Along with the rest of the country the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) observed the National Sports Day with a day-long programme today.

The Day is observed on the occasion of the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand.

The USTM Run was organised to mark the occasion and the students at the Khangura ground in the morning which was flagged off by noted cricketer Abu Nechim Ahmed and Everester Manish Deka.

In the afternoon, the organisers felicitated Manish Deka, scribe Putin Saha, Imtiaz Ahmed, Jayanta Saha, Partha Charakravarty, Uday Borgohain, Sunil Bora, Niloy Bhattacharya, sports organiser Babhajit Goswami, among others in a function in the University campus.

Manish Deka, Pro VC of the USTM Dr RK Sharma, Assam Police Registrar Dr Ajmal Baidya, USTM Director Dr Asima Begum, also spoke on the occasion.

Among the girls, Azian Dimnisha Ch Marak bagged the first prize while Amadeep Boro won the first prize among the boys.

Directorate of Sports observes National Sports Day: The Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare and Sports Authority of Assam, like previous years, observed the National Sports Day holding various activities.

The event started at the sports pool complex in Sivasagar. Later in the day a hockey match was organised at the Majhuna Md Tapabnia Stadium, Bhopara.

At Silchar: On the occasion of the National Sports Day the Cachar District Sports Authority organised a friendly hockey match between Ithokha Athletic Club and DSA Silchar.

The match ended in a 3-3 draw. The District Sports Officer, Cachar, Phanindra Modoi said, "Such an occasion will foster brotherly feelings among the sportspersons."

TT championship inaugurated

DELHI, Aug 29: The 3rd Inter-State Tennis Championships was formally inaugurated today with the promise of nurturing grassroots-level talent and empowering the country's kids to compete at the highest level.

Around 4000 boys and girls will compete over the next three days in 22 States across the country, hoping to make it to the finals to be held later this year.

In Aizawl, Itanagar and Imphal itself, over 300 kids will get the opportunity in different

categories to showcase their talent.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar, while declaring the championship open, said that the country was inspired by PV Sindhu's epic performance in the Badminton World Championship a couple of days ago.

"We have made great progress in badminton in recent years. I would now want our players to do the same and shine at the highest level," he said.

"The championship is the right step in that direction. It will give aspiring table tennis players a level playing field to pursue their dreams."

NSA Trophy Football

CORRESPONDENT

TIIH, Aug 29: ASEB, Guwahati secured their place in the semifinal of the NSA Trophy Football Championship organised by Nalbari Sports Association defeating Global Academy of Kokrajhar 5-2 in the last quarterfinal match at Gurdon HS playground today. Chamata Anchali, Krimi Sangha will take on Assam Police Blue in the first semifinal to be held tomorrow at 3 pm.

Squash coaching

GUWAHATI, Aug 29: The Assam Squash Racket Association, will conduct a regular squash coaching camp at the squash court situated in Sivasagar. The camp will start from September 5, stated a release.

Interested players may collect forms for enrollment at the coaching venue from August 30. The State squash body will also launch the Assam Squash Academy soon, added the release.

Anirban Baruah, joint secretary of the Assam Fencing Association has been elected as the joint secretary of Fencing Association of India (FAI) in its general meeting held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh recently.

Baruah is expected to play a major role in the development of fencing in Assam.

He is the first person to be elected as the joint secretary of FAI in Assam. He has been instrumental in the growth of fencing in Assam and has helped in the development of the sport in the state.

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