

NEWS CAPSULE

J-K ultras kill 2

SRINAGAR, Sept 21: Militants today carried out a grenade attack on the motorcade of a senior minister of Jammu and Kashmir, killing one of Polwama district, killing two civilians and injuring 34 others, police said. The Minister for Public Works, Naem Akhtar, who was on a tour of Tral in south Kashmir, escaped unhurt in the attack. - PTI

Retro Judge held

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: The CBI has arrested retired Orissa High Court Judge Ishrat Masroor Qureshi and others in connection with a corruption case, agency sources said here today. The arrests were made late last night after a detailed search operation at eight locations. - PTI

1 gets lifer

SILCHAR Sept 21: The court of the Additional Sessions Judge here today sentenced Nazimuddin Sheikh, a resident of Gangapur in Barakpur, to life imprisonment for setting a 20-year-old woman ablaze after attempting to rape her in 2008. - Staff Correspondent

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

HORIZON

September 22, 2017

- Get graphic! Nilakshi Goswami
 - Religion and culture B Choudhury
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None has applied for asylum Rohingyas are illegal immigrants: Rajnath

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: Reiterating the government's toughening of stand, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today said that the Centre is firm on sending back the Rohingyas because they are not refugees, but illegal immigrants.

"We need to understand the reality that the Rohingyas from Myanmar who have entered India, are not the refugees. In order to get the refugee status, one needs to follow a process. None among them has followed that procedure," Singh said.



Addressing a national seminar on 'Good Governance, Development and Human Rights', he said that some 40,000 Rohingya Muslims

have taken refuge in India and are residing in Jammu, Hyderabab and the Northeast.

The Home Ministry on Monday submitted its affidavit in the Supreme Court on the deportation of Rohingyas to Myanmar, calling them a "security threat to India". The court will hear the issue on October 3.

Singh wondered why some people are objecting to the deportation of Rohingyas when Myanmar is ready to take them back.

"The Rohingyas are not refugees. They have not come (See page 4)

Pak has short-range nukes to counter India

NEW YORK, Sept 21: Pakistan has developed short-range nuclear weapons to counter the "Cold Start" doctrine of the Indian Army. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said today.

On his maiden visit to the US as Pakistani Prime Minister, Abbasi also said that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal was safe and secure.

On the assertion that Pakistan has the fastest growing nuclear arsenal in the world, Abbasi said: "As far as tactical nuclear weapons (as concerned), we do not have any field tactical nuclear weapons."

"We have developed short-

range nuclear weapons as a counter to the Cold Start doctrine that India has developed. Again, those are in the same command-and-control authority that controls the other strategic weapons," Abbasi said in response to a question at the Council on Foreign Relations, a top American think-tank.

"Cold Start" doctrine was developed by the Indian Army for a possible war with Pakistan. This doctrine involves various branches of the Army conducting offensive operations as part of unified battle groups. The doctrine intends to allow

India's conventional forces to perform holding attacks to prevent nuclear retaliation from Pakistan in case of a conflict.

"We have a very robust and secure command-and-control system over our strategic nuclear assets. Time has proved that it's a process that is very secure. It's a process that has complete civilian oversight through the NCA," Abbasi said.

The Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of Pakistan is responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding the country's nuclear arsenals. - PTI

State's bid to get GI registration for gamosa

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: *Gamosa*, the State's traditional multipurpose towel that occupies a special place in As-

samese culture, is soon going to make a bid to get itself registered as an item having Geographical Indication (GI) – a form of Intellectual Property Right (IPR). The State

Handloom and Textiles Directorate has initiated the process and engaged the Patent Information Centre (PIC) of the government-run Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) to take the required steps for the purpose.

Gamosa is facing a serious threat to its existence in Assam because of nefarious trade practices by some outside-the-State textile factories. It is expected that the GI registration certificate would prevent plagiarising of *gamosa* by such factories.

Mizanur Rahman, Additional Director of Handloom and Textiles, told this correspondent, "We are trying to secure GI registration for Assam's *gamosa*. We have been preparing to apply for the GI registration of this valued item of Assamese cultural heritage since August. The formal meeting of the technical officers of our Directorate was held for the purpose on August 15 last."

He informed that the ASTEC PIC, which has the expertise in this respect, has been asked to collect all the information and prepare the documents required for the (See page 4)

Rhino shot at by forest guards dead

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, Sept 21: An adult male rhino, which sustained bullet injuries last evening at the Agravati range of the Kaziranga National Park (KNP), succumbed to its injuries later, a Park official informed today. The rhino was fired upon by forest guards on duty when the pachyderm suddenly started chasing them. The guards had to fire at the rampaging animal in self-defence, said the official.

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Clarks

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ITALY

Govt must protect land from illegal migrants: Brahma

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: If the Government cannot protect its own house, outsiders will definitely try to intrude into it to create trouble, observed former Chief Election Commissioner HS Brahma, who is heading the Committee for Protection of Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Assam. He also admitted that it is possible for foreigners to get their names included in the voters' list in collusion of officials at the lower level.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, Brahma expressed the view that the failure of the Government to protect the reserve forests and other Government land from encroachment is very unfortunate and suspected illegal migrants have taken advantage of the situation. He said that the Government should immediately protect land from encroachment and land pattas should be given to landless indigenous people so that outsiders and suspected illegal immigrants cannot encroach upon it.

In its interim report, the Committee headed by Brahma had alleged that illegal migrants managed to grab Government and other land in active support of political leaders and fundamentalist forces. The report also said that a section of political leaders and corrupt bureaucrats were involved in transfer of land to outsiders. When asked to comment on the issue, Brahma expressed the view that it would not have been possible for the illegal migrants to enter India and stay here without connivance of some Indians. "Over the years, the illegal migrants have encroached upon forest land and other Government land. Even tribal belts were occupied. It could not have been possible with-

out active support of political leaders and some officials. Can I go to Bangladesh or Pakistan illegally and stay there without receiving any active support from anyone in those countries," he added.

Brahma said that members of the Committee visited different parts of the State and spoke at length to cross sections of indigenous people before submitting its interim report. He admitted that the situation is bad in a number of districts. Even in the Bodoland Territorial

Autonomous Council area, the situation is bad because of illegal occupation of Government land by outsiders. The situation is also very bad in some other districts including Barpeta, Nagaon, Morigaon etc and the Government must take immediate steps in this regard, he said.

At the same time, Brahma alleged that some political leaders were trying to "twist" the facts given in the report.

"I have heard some political leaders saying that in the interim report, the Committee had reported that illegal Muslim migrants had become majority in 15 districts of the State. We never mentioned such matter in the report. I only expressed concern over the fact that illegal migration is posing a threat to the identity of the indigenous people. There was no mention in the report about the number of districts. One should read the report properly before making any comment on it," he said.

The former Chief Election Commissioner also expressed his displeasure at a statement by former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, who questioned what Brahma did as the CEO to detect foreigners. Brahma said that it is not the responsibility of the Election Commission (See page 4)

Assam lawyer 'kills' biker in Delhi, arrested

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: Angry at being asked not to smoke in public, a 'drunk' lawyer from Assam allegedly rammed his car into the motorcycle of a 21-year-old youth near the AIIMS Trauma Centre in south Delhi on Sunday. The youth succumbed to his injuries yesterday following which lawyer Rabindra Krishna Mahanta was arrested.

Police had initially booked the accused for rash driving and causing hurt by an act of negligence, and released him on bail. But, after the victim Gurpreet Singh died, the police re-arrested Mahanta and slapped charges of murder on him.

The victim's family alleged that police had initially tried to ignore the true facts and sought to pass it off as a simple case of accident, which resulted in the lawyer getting the bail. However, once the victim's friend (See page 4)

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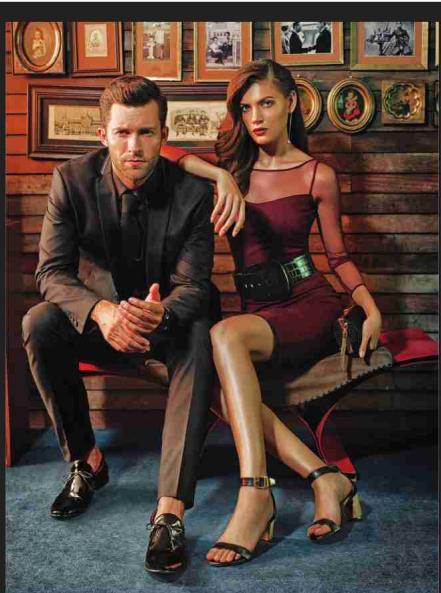
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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Prefer loss to the wealth of dishonest gain; the former vexes you for a time; the latter will bring you lasting remorse.

— CHILO

The Assam Tribune**Welcome initiative**

By now the realization has seeped into the powers that be that the ability to manage any river and extract the best out of it depends upon a thorough knowledge of its fluvial regime as well as other aspects. Despite this, however, a mega river system like the Brahmaputra and its tributaries have not received adequate scrutiny. On the contrary, the hazard management techniques adopted so far to tackle the grave problems of annual flooding in the Valley had been undertaken with an inadequate data base. It is in the context of the requirement for a holistic study of the river that one must laud the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, for thinking out of the box and launching three missions which include the Brahmaputra Biodiversity Bio Boat, smartly dubbed as B4. Credit must in particular go to Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan, for conceiving the concept of setting up a large barge upon the Brahmaputra which will have a well-equipped laboratory to analyse all components of the entire ecosystem. Having a work-plan developed by scientists of the Guwahati IIT, the B4 boat laboratory will be capable of analysing soil, water and environment in and around the river, as also plant and animal life, human health and agriculture. Being mobile, it will also have access to the tributaries and acquire substantial data on these barely studied rivers.

The data generated by the B4 laboratory will supplement those collected on the fluvial regime and serve to sketch a rounded profile of the river system, so necessary for its understanding and management. It will no doubt shed new light on the marine life still existent in the river, including the extent of the presence of the Gangetic water dolphin, freshwater alligators and other possible faunal presence. Because the process of survey and data collection would be continuous and prolonged, the quality and authenticity would be enhanced. No doubt certain organizations had in the past attempted to collect similar data – for instance, erosion in the island of Majuli has been subjected to scrutiny by scientists. But because of the lack of resources such studies have not been sustained or sufficient, thus the data collected by B4 would be able to add to those previously gathered. The other envisaged missions, in particular the Phyto-Pharma-Plants mission, apart from providing valuable inputs on the floral diversity of the Valley and surrounding hills, might even yield practical results. For instance, those behind these missions are hopeful that they might be able to identify plant species which will assist in curbing riverbank erosion in a natural manner. It is to be hoped that the entire mission remains free from bureaucratic interventions. The latter have already made a mess of harnessing the Brahmaputra and it is high time that scientists step into the picture.

Unwise move

The imposition of GST at high rates on the State's indigenous crafts and bamboo handicraft products has hit the industry hard, with sellers bemoaning a drastic fall in sales already. As the GST rates as high as 28% for cane furniture, 18% for bamboo products, and 12% for other handicraft items have the disturbing potential of rendering the traditional industry unsustainable, there is a clear need for a rethink on it. A traditional occupation for lakhs of artisans in the State and other parts of the North-east, the handicraft and handloom sector has not yet been able to fulfil its immense potential. Therefore, bringing it under a high GST regime stands only to hinder its future growth. The developments are also in stark contrast to the oft-repeated commitment of the Government to boost the sector through the required interventions. Given that Chinese handicraft already has made big inroads into the region's markets, any further weakening of the indigenous industry will only end up giving more leverage to Chinese products. Notwithstanding the fact that the region accounts for a high percentage of the country's total manpower engaged in handicraft and handloom sector, the industry by and large remains an unorganized sector, with the rural artisans being the worst affected. This has effectively distanced the artisans from institutional support for raw materials, finance, training and marketing.

It is time the Government gave a serious thought to rid the handicraft industry of the ills plaguing it. Matters such as technological assistance and market exploration for products warrant government intervention. Evolving a pragmatic marketing strategy apart, there is also a need for documenting the traditional handloom and handicraft motifs and insignia of the region for exploring the prospects of acquiring the GI tag and prevent cheap imitation by unscrupulous traders from outside. Value addition through technological intervention should be another crucial component of the overall strategy to put the industry on the fast-track growth path. The State Government should take a cue from the interventions made by the neighbouring Tripura Government where it is assisting the industry stakeholders pragmatically, helping it thrive even amid a competitive environment. Handloom and handicrafts are also an integral part of the region's culture, giving it a unique identity – so deeply ingrained is this art among the populace of the North-east. But sadly, the commercial potential of what could have been a flourishing industry has long been ignored, with the result that this beautiful art of the North-east has stayed largely confined to the boundaries of the region, barring of course a few products like the hand-woven silk of Sylheti which enjoys global demand. Today's globalized world offers immense possibilities for this great craft of the North-east to make its presence felt in the international market provided we do the groundwork.

Sexual harassment: Do we know the laws?**■ Partha Pratim Hazarika**

As reported widely in media, a college principal was arrested in the Barak Valley on charges of sending indecent messages through social media and sexual harassment on his students. The incident has parallels in other colleges and institutions of higher education (IHE) in Assam which have escaped the media's attention. Article 14, 15 and 21 of the Indian Constitution enquire the right to equal protection under the law, right to live free from discrimination and right to life and personal liberty. Sexual harassment violates the right to equality and dignity and is regarded as a form of violence against women. It is the primary responsibility of any civilized society to ensure that women, not only in colleges and varsities, but also in all spheres of society get a safer environment. To ensure this, we need to lay emphasis on prevention rather than punitive action. Therefore, building up general awareness on the issue of sexual harassment and its remedy is of utmost necessity.

Any kind of wrongdoing in the society has two kinds of civil and criminal – and our laws are framed accordingly. Media reports on the Silchar incident suggest that the accused had been taken into custody following the filing of an FIR by the aggrieved students. This is done as per the provision of criminal law. As the accused is the head of the institution, the chairman of the Governing Body of the college had to step in and form a four-member enquiry committee on the instructions of the Director of Higher Education (DHE) – the next higher authority for provincialized colleges in Assam. The report of the committee was

submitted to the DHE and next action would depend on its decision. If the media reports are true reflections of the actual happenings, this process is not in accordance with the provisions of the existing civil law, rules and regulations.

But, before going into legal provisions against sexual harassment, let us look into the genesis of the issue. It all started with Bhanwari Devi who was engaged by the Government of Rajasthan to recover her son under the practice of child marriage in 1992. She had prevented the marriage of a one-year-old girl who was met with resentment and harassment from men. She had reported the matter to local authority, but no action was taken. The inception became very costly for Bhanwari Devi as she was later gang-raped by those men. To seek justice for Bhanwari Devi, a PIL was filed by Vishakha and other women's group against the State of Rajasthan and Union of India. In a landmark judgement in 1997, the Supreme Court of India recognized sexual harassment as a violation of women's fundamental right to equality and issued legal binding guidelines which later came to be known as the Vishakha Guidelines. The guidelines had taken into account the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and also ratified by India.

Although the Supreme Court had

issued the guidelines against sexual harassment way back in 1997, it took the Government of India another 16 years to make a law against sexual harassment. In 2013, the Parliament passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act and the criminal laws under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) were amended by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013. The same year, the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare framed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Rules, 2013 which

harassment is still dealt by under IPC and CrPC. It may be noted here that the Act against sexual harassment does not preclude remedies under defamation or any other law. That means, an aggrieved woman can still seek recourse under other laws even if her case is decided under the Act of 2013 or relevant regulations and rules.

According to the UGC Regulations, all IHE should form an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) which would have the power of a civil court. The case should be heard by a woman complainant and not less than half of the members should be women. The ICC should also have a third party/NGO expert on issue of sexual harassment. Unfortunately, few IHEs in Assam have so far formed their committee. An attempt to collect data on institutes having ICCs, number of cases reported, number of cases resolved, etc., through the RTI route solicited no response from the DHE, Assam.

The UGC Regulations have provisions that make the authorities liable for punishment for not following it. It clearly states that any existing body like Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH), etc., should be reconstituted as ICC. Media persons may be aware that such an attempt in Jawaharlal Nehru University has created a controversy this week. It also stipulates that the IHEs include in their prospectus and display prominently at conspicuous places or notice boards the penalty and consequences of sexual harassment. The criminal aspect of such

were notified on December 9, 2013. The University Grants Commission took another three years to frame the UGC (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015 which was notified on May 2, 2016.

These UGC Regulations are the backbone of all civil cases relating to sexual harassment of women in IHE. The criminal aspect of such

formers like Badaruddin Shah and Babu Shah Monyath when many Buddhists were converted to Islam.

The Treaty of Yandabo signed in 1824 brought much relief to Assam from the atrocities of the Burmese army (then popularly called in Assam as Maan who plundered Assam) when the British East India Company defeated them, drove them to their country and signed the treaty. This treaty marked the beginning of East India Company rule in this region including Burma which became a province of British India. It was in the colonial period that workers from Cox's Bazar region of Bengal migrated to the Arakan region to work in the British infrastructure projects. The port of Sittwe then called Akyab was built by the British for trading with the outside world and developed it as the leading rice port in the world. This was viewed by the Burmese nationalists very negatively.

During the Japanese occupation of Burma, when the Buddhist majority allied with the Axis powers, the Rohingya fighters sided with the British with a condition that on independence, they would be provided with autonomy in the Arakans. But the British not only betrayed them but drove a communal wedge between the leading rice port in the world. This was viewed by the Burmese nationalists very negatively.

The Citizenship Act, passed in 1982 by the military junta effectively rendered the Rohingyas as a stateless group.

As a result of such draconian law, their right to study, work, travel, marry, practice their religion and access to basic health care, education, etc., have been restricted. Their land has been confiscated by the military junta. Since the 1970s, a number of crackdowns on the community have forced thousands to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh as well as Malaysia, Thailand and other South-East Asian countries. The community is spread across several countries including India.

In the early part of September this year, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned of the risk of genocide in Myanmar and called upon Premier Aung San Suu Kyi and the security forces of the country to end the violence. The UN Human Rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein urged Myanmar to end the "brutal security operations" calling it as "textbook example of ethnic cleansing". Bangladesh has urged India to put pressure on Myanmar to dissolve the refugee crisis. If India absolves the responsibility, than the international fundamentalist groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS may take advantage to create greater instability in the region close to the borders of India's North-east. The growth of these fundamentalist organizations will create a huge security risk for this region in future. A large number of NE insurgent groups are enjoying a safe haven in Myanmar. Further, India has its long-term economic interests of building an Asian highway passing through Myanmar connecting South-East Asia as part of its Act East Policy and infrastructure development at the Sittwe port. It will be interesting to see how India reacts to the overall crisis in near future.

■ Mahmood Hassan

The brutal attacks on the Rohingyas by the security forces in the Rakhine province of Myanmar have attracted the attention of the international community. More than four lakh people have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh fearing further attacks. Allegations of human right violations including extrajudicial killings, gang rapes, arson, infanticide, have been reported by the rights groups that the Government denies as "exaggerations". The Rohingyas are considered "stateless people" by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). This ethnic minority is described by the UN itself as the "world's most persecuted minority". The UN as well as several rights groups such as the Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch has expressed deep concern over the recent developments.

Even though the Myanmar authorities do not recognize the Rohingyas as their citizens, the historical records and evidences provided by the historians and travellers prove otherwise. The Rohingyas have mainly settled from historical times in the Rakhine state (formerly Arakan) with the capital at Sittwe (formerly Akyab). Arakan was a part of Bengal for a long period of history. The first

Muslim settlers arrived in this coastal region of Arakan in the form of Arab traders who built the first mosque and practised their religion peacefully back in the 9th century. The earliest king Anawratha of Bagan (or Pagan) allowed the first Muslim to settle in the river Irrawaddy delta in 1055 AD.

In the course of history, Persians, Turks, Moors, Bengalis, Chinese Muslims and Malaysians came and settled in this region. They married women from the local Burmese and ethnic groups. In the kingdom of Mrauk U set up in the region in the 15th century, more Muslims arrived who were allowed to settle. King Min Saw Mon (1430-34) of this kingdom developed a good relationship with the Muslims. This kingdom of Arakan had close relations with the Sultanate of Bengal. The Sandi Khan mosque was built in 1430. The Burmese king appointed Muslims to various important posts. The Buddhist rulers of the medieval period adopted Muslim names and adopted coins with Persian and Arabic inscriptions. The 16th and 17th centuries can be regarded as the "Golden Age of Arakan" when art, culture, music and literature flourished. Subsequently, Islam spread through the Sufi re-

formers like Badaruddin Shah and Babu Shah Monyath when many Buddhists were converted to Islam.

The Treaty of Yandabo signed in 1824 brought much relief to Assam from the atrocities of the Burmese army (then popularly called in Assam as Maan who plundered Assam) when the British East India Company defeated them, drove them to their country and signed the treaty.

This dialect is distinct to the others spoken in Rakhine state and throughout Myanmar. The dialect has close resemblance to the dialect spoken in the Chittagong tract of Bangladesh. But the Burmese nationalists deny the very identity of the community as they see them simply as illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

The Citizenship Act, passed in 1982 by the military junta effectively rendered the Rohingyas as a stateless group.

As a result of such draconian law, their right to study, work, travel, marry, practice their religion and access to basic health care, education, etc., have been restricted. Their land has been confiscated by the military junta. Since the 1970s, a number of crackdowns on the community have forced thousands to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh as well as Malaysia, Thailand and other South-East Asian countries. The community is spread across several countries including India.

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Letters to the EDITOR**Chakma-Hajong issue and politics of numbers**

per the 2011 Census for the Chakmas and Hajongs taking together in Arunachal Pradesh is as follows: Changlang – 40,883 (population); 18.18% (Decadal growth rate); 32 (Density: persons per sq km); Lohit – 4,523, 16.59% and 28; Papumpare – 2,065; 44.73% and 51. It is evident from the data that there is no significant difference between the Chakma decadal growth percentage versus the growth rate in the district. Scattered across three districts of Changlang, Lohit and Papumpare, they constitute a little over 3% of the total population – an insignificant number to make hardly any demographic or political impact for the people to really worry about, except for the Bordoma-Diyun constituency where they could become a factor. Hope this puts to rest any speculation or wild imagination and drives the discussion forward with actual data. Otherwise, all kinds of flip-flops on policies and misrepresentation of data will only widen the communication gap further. All concerned must use

these officially-enumerated survey figures and stick to the truth for a sincere and fruitful debate. Yours etc., MAHENDRA CHAKMA, Guwahati.

Original inhabitants

Sir – The news item "Protect land rights of indigenous people: AASU" (AT, Sept 19) which is in the context of the interim report of the Committee for Protection of Land Rights of Indigenous People, headed by former Chief Election Commissioner HS Brahma, has again pointed out a serious issue. It is observed from the news report that "few corrupt political leaders and bureaucrats were partly responsible" for the situation. In view of this, both the State and Central governments should take up the issue seriously so that the rights of the indigenous people would be protected. Anyone coming illegally from abroad is liable to be questioned. Bringing in Hindu Bangladeshi migrants settling them in Assam is the talk of some politicians of Assam with vested interests. We all know when the Partition of

grammes or workshops, etc., to ensure knowledge and awareness of the rights of women under the Act and publicly commit itself to a zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment. The UGC Regulations stipulate that sexual harassment be treated as misconduct under service rules. It also stipulates that ICC should be constituted within 60 days of the Regulations being notified. It has been more than 15 months since the regulations appeared in the official gazette.

In the case involving the college in Silchar the correct procedure would have been to constitute the ICC and let it handle the complaint. Once the ICC submits the report, the executive authority of the IHE should take action within 30 days of receipt of the report. Non-compliance of these Regulations may invite de-recognition of the institute, cancellation of affiliation from university and withholding of grants. On the other hand, under Section 260(a) of the Act of 2013, failure to constitute an ICC is punishable with fine up to Rs 50,000.

In the absence of the ICC, a complainant has an option to report the case to the Local Complaints Committee (LCC) formed by district civil administration. Many of the women are not aware about the existence of such a body. In the current case, because of the absence of an ICC the educational institute had formed an enquiry committee which in the eyes of law has either no or little sanctity. The enquiry committee so formed does not have the power of a civil court and hence the accused can claim procedural fault. There are instances of accused being exonerated by civil courts because of this procedural lapse. We need to build better awareness for prevention of sexual harassment.

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digital payment system as early as possible to make any such process smooth in future. Yours etc., PRODIP SARMA, Guwahati.

Laudable steps

Sir – It is laudable for the letter to the editor by Abhilekh Saikia (AT, September 19). I would also like to add a few lines accepting his views. The practice of the Assam Government to ask the candidates for depositing the application fee through Treasury challan is a decades-old practice introduced by the then bureaucrats and is still continuing. The bureaucrats never tried to make ease of the process in our State. They do not bother how long the candidates have to stand in long queues under the scorching heat first in the Treasury office and then at an SBI branch for depositing the fee. It is seen in the last few days in Guwahati itself that the candidates had to wait from 9 am till 2 pm just to deposit the fee. The State Government ought to introduce

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

48-hour stir demanding to reopen Cachar Paper Mill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Sept 21: Protesting against the apathy of the government to resume the closed Cachar Paper Mill, a unit of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, members of the Joint Forum to Save the Cachar Paper Mill started a 48-hour hunger strike on Wednesday.

Representatives of the Cachar Paper Project Mazdoor Union, CITU, Sramik Shikshak Karmchari Sammanay Samiti and other like-minded associations echoed their voices of dissent against the lack of response from the government which according to them has dragged lives of the employees and their families into utter jeopardy.

"The tall claims by the government of phenomenal progress arguably in all spheres, what is stopping it from resuming the only industry for the people of Barak valley?" questioned Subrata Nath of SUCI.

It may be mentioned that in a unanimous decision, all the trade unions have decided to stage consecutive protests on November 9 to 11 in New Delhi and around 100 cadres will join from the Barak Valley to protest against the injustice met out to the employees of the closed paper mill.

Anundoram Borooah Award distributed

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, Sept 21: Patience is less in the students of Bongaigaon, Chirang and Kokrajhar districts as they eat pork frequently, said Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahma while comparing the bright students of Barpeta district with the Anundoram Borooah Award, 2017, distribution ceremony on Wednesday. So, the minister urged the guardians to give their children 'Muhi' fish (a species of small fish) to eat for shark mind.

All total 2,067 students, who had secured 75 per cent marks in last HSLC and High Madrasat exams, of Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar and Dhubri districts were given away this award (which contains a laptop, an Assamese dictionary and a certificate) at a function held at ITI field in Bongaigaon town on Wednesday.

Minister Brahma also inaugurated the award distribution ceremony in presence of local legislator, Phani Bhushan Choudhury, AMTRON managing director, MK Yadav and Bongaigaon Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner Pegu presented a short account of Anundoram Borooah and inspired the students to follow the icon. Legislator Choudhury called upon the students to follow Borooah in their future career. However, Minister Brahma cautioned the students and guardians of the ill effect of android mobile phones.

Workshop on organic farming organised

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: The Society for Environment, Health, Awareness of Nutrition and Toxicity (SEHAT), Voice of Environment (VOE) and North East Wetland (NEW) jointly organised a seminar-cum-workshop on organic farming to transform Assam into an eco-friendly organic State at the Panchayat Office, Neeli, in Morigaon recently.

Dr Jaswant Ray from Delhi, the chief guest, apprised the participating farmers and local bodies about the value of organic farming and its effectiveness in protecting human



Activists of Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad taking out a protest rally against price hike of the essential commodities, in Golaghat on Wednesday. - UB Photos

'GST to solve tax evasion issue'

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Sept 21: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is considered to be very beneficial in checking tax evasion by the businessmen of the district, where illegal non-payment or underpayment of taxes has always been an issue.

While addressing a media workshop on Goods and Service Tax organised by the office of Additional Tax Commissioner (ATC) and office of DIPRO, Subroto Chakraborty, ATC, Dhurbi said, "With the implementation of the GST, tax evasion in the district will be a history." Many business houses

of the district were inspected and raided by the authorities for underpayment of various taxes. "But with the implementation of the GST, tax evasion by such houses will be nearly impossible," said Chakraborty, adding that every business transacted with the government and if someone tries to cheat, he will get caught within minutes.

Meanwhile, after the implementation of this new tax system, many people in the district are facing issues while filing their GST return. Some are also complaining that they are finding it tough to understand this new tax system. Addressing various issues

Chakraborty said, "GST is as easy as Facebook. Anyone who can use the social media can procure their GST number or file their return. All we need is to understand, under what slab, the product we are dealing with falls."

Chakraborty, in presence of DIPRO Bikash Sharma, and Dhurbi Press Club president Bijay Sharma, along with a host of other dignitaries, urged that the people should not panic, but try to understand the GST. "Although GST is very vast but if we deal with only the products or services, we do business and try to understand that way it will be very easy."

Free health check-up camp tomorrow

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: With growing age, certain physical parameters like heart conditions, bone pain or urological problems need frequent monitoring to avoid complications. The Guwahati branch of Government Pensioners' Association, Assam, as part of its social responsibilities

is planning to organise a free health check-up camp in the first phase of its diamond jubilee celebration on September 23. The camp will be held in association with Narayana Superspeciality Hospital. The president of the Association, Professor Balindra Kumar Sarmah, urged the elderly persons to avail the free health check-up facility from 10 am to 2 pm at Nirayana Bhawan of Guwahati branch of Government Pensioners' Association, Chandmari, stated a press release.

Rs 51,001 donated to CM's fund

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: The Guwahati city branch of Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists donated an amount of Rs 51,001 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund recently towards the flood victims of the State. The amount was raised from donations by the members of the Society. The Chief Minister thanked the Society for coming forward to help the flood victims and encouraged the members to come forward for such noble cause, stated a press release.

Dhemaji to host children's science meet tomorrow

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAMI, Sept 21: With an aim to generate scientific thoughts among the schoolchildren and to inspire the students to develop scientific attitude in their minds, the Dhemaji District National Children's Science Congress, while other 25 flags will be unfurled by 25 distinguished persons.

It will be followed by inaugural ceremony at 9 am. The ceremony will be chaired by Dr Buddhadeva Boruah, and it will be inaugurated by Roshi Arpanjor Korati, Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji.

Other dignitaries who are expected to attend the function are Nilesh Sawakare, Dhemaji Superintendent of Police; and Parmanand Chayengia, Chief Executive Councillor of Mising Autonomous Council.

The Dhemaji District Children's Science Congress is going to organise the silver jubilee congress of the organisation on September 23 at Gogamukh Higher Secondary School with a day-long programme.

In this connection, a reception committee has been constituted with Ifen Saikia, Principal of Gogamukh Higher Secondary School, as president, and Priya Dutta, headmaster of Bordolani Collegiate High School, as secretary.

On the occasion, the main flag will be hoisted by Dr Buddhadeva

Boruah, president of Dhemaji District National Children's Science Congress.

The ceremony will be presided by Dr Arup Kumar Mishra, Director of Assam Science Technology and Environment Council; Dr Amiya Rabjohni, retired vice-principal of North Lakhimpur College; Dhemaji MLA Dr Ranoj Pegu; Dr Ranjit Saikia, Principal of Silapather Science College; and Dr Jituranjan Chetia, Professor of Dibrugarh University as guests of honour.

At 12 am, an open quiz competition, an extempore speech competition as well as a speech competition on 'Mor Saponar Dhemaji', Milijuli Garbo Aha' will be held. It will be conducted by Kandarp Tamuli, former coordinator of Dhemaji District Children's Science Congress.

More than 500 science projects and science models will be presented in the silver jubilee celebration of the Dhemaji District Children's Science Congress.

Aid provided to storm-hit people at Harisinga



ADC of Udaguri BJ Manta conducting the oath-taking ceremony on the occasion of 'Swatchata Hi Sewa' at Harisinga on Wednesday. - Photo: Correspondent

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIAGAON, Sept 21: On the occasion of 'Swatchata Hi Sewa' celebration, the Udaguri district administration organised various programmes in the district, including ceremonial distribution of rehabilitation grants to storm-affected families of the district.

The programme was organised at Bhupen Hazarika Mukti Mancha, Harisinga on Wednesday. The event started with a cleanliness drive at Harisinga hospital launched by Rithon Daimari, Minister of PHE, Food and Civil Supply, at 11 am followed by the grants and aids distribution ceremony at 12 am.

BJ Manta, ADC of Udaguri and project director of DRDA, Udaguri, conducted the oath-taking ceremony where all the people, including the minister and officials, took the pledge of keeping of houses and villages clean. They also took the pledge of discarding polythene-based items for a pollution-free society.

Speaking about the implementation of new mission 'Swatchata Hi Sewa' in the district, Sadhana Hojai, Deputy Commissioner of Udaguri, welcomed all the distinguished guests and people present on the occasion.

Minister Rithon Daimari, attending as the chief guest, spoke on the need for involving common people in the mission. The meeting was also attended by Nitin Khade, Secretary to the Government of Assam, Information and Technology Department; Maheswar Boruah, MLA of Kaligaon; Suresh Tanti, MCLA of BTC, besides hundreds of people.

The minister distributed the rehabilitation grants to 940 storm-affected families of the district. Ex-gratia grants of Rs 5 lakh each were distributed to four families whose kith and kin were missing due to social disturbances in the past years.

The minister also distributed Revolving Funds to selected SHO village organisations and Community Investment Fund of Rs 2.5 lakh each to selected beneficiaries. A discussion was also held later at Udaguri Circuit House where Daimary said that he would take steps to promote eco-tourism in picturesque villages bordering Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh with introduction of 'Home Stay' amenities to tourists.

Deputy Commissioner of Udaguri was also present in the discussion with environment and wildlife activists.

National seminar on Jyotiprasad Agarwala ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Sept 21: The two-day UGC-sponsored national seminar on 'Jyoti Prasad Agarwala in Indian context: contemporary society, literature and Culture,' organised by DHSK Commerce College in association with Dibrugarh Zila Sahitya Sabha, concluded recently.

Prasad has asked the State government to allot necessary land for the venture. Also, the minister has made it clear that enterprise entrepreneurs must step up to set up a BPO at Silchar.

Several scholars, educators, researchers and students pre-

sented their papers on the subject during the two-day event. The seminar focused mainly on the thoughts, works and contributions of Jyotiprasad Agarwala.

Dr Nirajana Mahanta Bezbarua, Dr Jayanta Kumar Barua, Dr Prasanta Kumar Nath, Dr Bhupesh Bhagawati, Dr Nilanjyoti Senapati, Loknath Goswami, Dr Gayatri Devi Goswami, Dr Gyanendra Saikia, Padma Shri award winner Prahlad Chan-

dra Tasa and Dr Mridul Bordoloi, Deviprasad Bagrodia and Dr Purna Kumar Bhattacharya were the resource persons for the sessions.

The two-day national seminar was inaugurated on September 15 by Dr Rupom Saikia, Director, College Development Council, Dibrugarh University. The keynote address was delivered by eminent litterateur, educationist and former president of Assam Sahitya Sabha Dr Nagen Saikia.

Dr Ananda Bormudoi, known critic graced the programme as the guest of honour. Deviprasad Bagrodia, translator, Pulin Rabjohni, vice-principal of the institution, Krishna Kamal Borah and Ajay Singh, president and secretary of Dibrugarh Zila Sahitya Sabha respectively were also present in the function.

Reading library corner opened

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: The Resource Centre for United Nations – North East Region has opened a UN/UNESCO reading library corner at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Dibrugarh recently, stated a press release.

The centre was inaugurated by Aswini Sarma, Executive Director of Resource Centre for UN – NER in presence of Rev Fr VA Thomas, Principal of the Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Dibrugarh and Rev Fr Kamil Horo Rector of the DBHS School, Dibrugarh.

Books, journals, newsletters publications of United Nations, UNESCO, World Bank, UNDID, UNICEF, WHO, UNIFEM etc., will be available in the said library for the readers. UN publications on education, science & technology, culture, health, environment, climate change, human rights, communications & media will also be available in the library. This library is the first of its kind in Dibrugarh district.

Shakil Ahmed Khan, president of the Don Bosco Higher Secondary School alumni, Dibrugarh was also present besides the faculties and students of the school, the release added.



Union Minister of Law and Justice, Electronics and IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad, addressing a gathering on the occasion of the 79th birth anniversary of former MLA Bimalangshu Roy, in Silchar on Wednesday. - Photo: Correspondent

Delivering a talk on 'Digital Advancement in India – presenting New Opportunities for North East,' on the occasion of 79th birth anniversary of former Silchar MLA Late Bimalangshu Roy, the Minister for Information Technology said, "Digital India drive is designed to empower India and every Indian. IT plus India's talent is equal to India tomorrow, which is the vision of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We want to technological growth in North-east and As- sams has a huge potential to be a part of the one trillion dollar digital economy we aspire to achieve."

Prasad has asked the State government to allot necessary land for the venture. Also, the minister has made it clear that enterprise entrepreneurs must step up to set up a BPO at Silchar.

Several scholars, educators,

researchers and students pre-



People taking part in a cleanliness drive at Baganpara in Baksa district, on Wednesday. - UB Photos

US has significant issues with Iran N-deal: Tillerson

NEW YORK, Sept 21: The US has "significant issues" with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said after meeting his Iranian counterpart here amidst international efforts to implement the crucial agreement.

Iran inked the nuclear agreement deal with the US, China, Russia, France, Germany and the UK and is required to severely curb its nuclear activities in return for global sanctions relief.

At a speech to the United Nations General Assembly this week, US President Donald Trump described the deal as an "embarrassment". He later

told reporters that he had decided what to do about the agreement but would not reveal what he had decided.

The Trump administration has until October 15 to decide whether to certify that Iran is complying with the deal. If it fails to do so, Congress could re-introduce sanctions dropped when the accord was implemented.

Tillerson, who met Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif here on sidelines of the UNGA meet, said, "We clearly have significant issues with the agreement."

"The President has been

quite clear and articulate as to his concerns about the agreement itself, the thoroughness of the agreement, the enforcement of the agreement," he told reporters.

Tillerson said while Iran has been in "technical compliance" with the nuclear deal, the aspirations of the agreement have not been met.

"Regrettably, since the agreement was confirmed, we have seen anything but a more peaceful, stable region. And this is the real issue. That is why we talk about Iran defauling on these expectations, because those expectations clearly have not been met," he said.

He said since the deal was struck Iran has continued to



Rex Tillerson



Turkish armoured military vehicles are seen during a military exercise near the Turkish-Iraqi border in Silopi, Turkey on Thursday. — UNI

Clinton book sells more than 300,000 copies

NEW YORK, Sept 21: Hillary Clinton's *What Happened* had a big debut. It's about her stunning presidential election loss in 2016 to Donald Trump, sold more than 300,000 copies in the combined formats of hardcover, e-book and audio. Simon & Schuster told the Associated Press yesterday.

The book's hardcover sales of 168,000 were the highest opening for any nonfiction release in five years, according to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of retail print sales. Mark Owen's *No Easy Day*, a 2012 memoir about the killing of Osama bin Laden, sold more than 250,000 copies in its first week.

Sales for *What Happened* far exceeded the first-week numbers of more than 100,000 copies for Clinton's book about her year as Secretary of State. *Hard Choices*, which came out in 2014 as she was preparing to launch her run for President.

"What Happened" has been at or near the top of the Amazon.com best-seller list since its publication September 12 despite a suspicious early wave of negative reader reviews, likely posted by commentators who had not read the book and later pulled by Amazon.

"The remarkable response to *What Happened* indicates that, notwithstanding all that has been written and discussed over the last year, there is clearly an overwhelming desire among readers to learn about and experience, from Hillary Clinton's singular perspective, the historic events of the 2016 election," Simon & Schuster CEO Carolyn Reidy said. — AP

Iranians waiting for an 'apology' from Trump

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 21: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said today the Iranian people are waiting for an apology from US President Donald Trump for his "extremely offensive" rhetoric and "unfounded" allegations about his country.

Rouhani told a news conference that the Trump administration is seeking "an excuse" to pull out of the nuclear agreement that caps Iran's nuclear activities which is supported by his government and the five other parties – Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany.

"An option may be to start enrichment," he said, "not building an atom bomb."

Rouhani said Iran's 10-year agreement to purchase fuel for its nuclear reactor at Bushehr is coming to an end and if may want to produce its own enriched uranium for fuel, but "never, ever, at all nuclear weapons." — AP

Hassan Rouhani

open for Iran "that we see as beneficial to our country", but he dismissed Trump's "baseless accusation" that the nuclear deal may be providing

cover for Iran's eventual construction of nuclear weapons.

"The option that we say we have at our disposal ... Will never be going towards nuclear weapons," Rouhani said. "Iran has never sought nuclear weapons, is not now seeking nuclear weapons."

"An option may be to start enrichment," he said, "not building an atom bomb."

Rouhani said Iran's 10-year agreement to purchase fuel for its nuclear reactor at Bushehr is coming to an end and if may want to produce its own enriched uranium for fuel, but "never, ever, at all nuclear weapons." — AP

Myanmar mob attacks aid shipment for Rohingya

YANGON, Sept 21: Police in western Myanmar fired warning shots after a Buddhist mob tried to block humanitarian aid headed to an area where ethnic Rohingya Muslims were driven from their homes, police said.

No injuries were reported and police arrested eight participants.

Around 300 men started throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at officers protecting a truck delivering supplies from the International Committee of the Red Cross to a jetty in the Rakhine state capital, Sittwe, said police officer Phyu Wai Kyaw.

The mob followed a military crackdown in response to coordinated attacks by Rohingya militants on security forces. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims and Buddhist Rakhines are still in the area.

Though Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi assured diplomats earlier this week that humanitarian assistance was being

delivered to those in need, the government has blocked United Nations aid agencies that have worked in the area in the past.

Buddhists in Rakhine have accused international aid groups of favoring Rohingya.

"We are explaining to the community members who approached the boats about the activities of the Red Cross," said Maria Cecilia Goin, a communications officer at the ICRC Yangon.

"It's important for them to understand that we are working in a neutral and impartial way," she said, adding that the work is being done "with full transparency with the Myanmar authorities." — AP

India Club in London fights for survival

LONDON, Sept 21: The India Club in London, a hub for Indian nationalists in the UK during the independence movement in the 1930s and 40s, is fighting for its survival after plans emerged for the building to be demolished internally.

The Club has its roots in the India League, which campaigned for Indian independence in Britain, and is located near India House – the Indian High Commission in the UK.

It has functioned as an Indian restaurant and hangout for Indian journalists and intellectuals since 1946, with former Indian prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi among its guests over the years.



The Hotel Strand Continental in London that houses the India Club.

Now, the leaseholders of the six-storey Edwardian building

are seeking to convert the interior of the building into a modern hotel establishment.

"This is a tragedy. We have done everything possible to retain the ethos and spirit of the place. We intend to build as much community support as possible to preserve this piece of Indian history," said Yadgar Marker, the director of Goldsands Hotels Limited trading as The Strand Continental Hotel – which houses the India Club.

Parsi-origin Marker has been running the establishment with his wife, Freny, since they rescued it from ruin in 1997. — PTI

Nepal to re-measure Mt Everest height

KATHMANDU, Sept 21: For the first time, Nepal will re-measure the height of Mt Everest on its own, amid reports that the height of the world's highest peak has changed after the deadly 2015 earthquake in the Himalayan nation.

The height of the peak was last determined at 8,848 metres

in 1955, by an Indian survey. "The Department of Survey government of Nepal will re-measure the height of Mt Everest very soon," said Deputy Director General of the Department Neeraj Manandhar, who is directly involved in the task of conducting the survey. "There are reports that

NOTICE PHASE-I LOT

It is notified to all concerned that the APCDC Ltd., having its Head Office Opposite to Sarusajai National Stadium Complex, Sawkuchi, N.H.-37, Lakhara, Guwahati-781034, Assam proposes to dispose its 7.258 (Rupees Seven Thousand, Two Hundred, Fifty-Eight) Nos. of Un-Productive Rubber Trees under Phase-I Lot located at under mentioned Rubber Estates under APCDC Ltd. by Tender-Cum-Auction. The auction will be held at 2.00 p.m. on 10th October, 2017 (Tuesday). The interested party/parties may participate in the Auction and/or Tenderer are requested to note the following Terms & Conditions -

- (1) The Tender Papers should be submitted in sealed envelope super-scribing "Tender for purchasing Un-Productive Rubber Trees" and addressed to the Managing Director, APCDC Ltd., Opposite Sarusajai National Stadium Complex, Sawkuchi, N.H.- 37, Lakhara, Guwahati - 781034, Assam.
- (2) To participate in the Tender and/or Auction, an Earnest Money Deposit of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only for each Rubber Estates mentioned below is to be remitted in the form of Demand Draft payable at Guwahati in favour of the Managing Director, APCDC Ltd., Tender/Auction in separate Sealed Covers super-scribing the name of Rubber Estates. The Tender Papers will be summarily rejected, if not accompanied with the Earnest Money Deposit.
- (3) On conclusion of the Auction procedures, Tenders will be opened on 10th October, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in presence of the party/parties or in their absence if not present. The successful Bidder/Auctioneer will be required to remit the full value at the accepted rate including AGST and CGST as applicable before felling and removal of the trees by Demand Draft in favour of the Managing Director, APCDC Ltd., payable at Guwahati.
- (4) The Tenders in sealed envelope and Application to participate in the Auction shall be received upto 2.00 p.m. on 10th October, 2017 (Tuesday) and under no circumstances shall be accepted after 2.00 p.m.
- (5) Saleable of Phase-I Lot of Un-Productive Rubber Trees are in the following Rubber Estates -

Sl. No. of Rubber Estate	District	No. of Trees
01 Buraphar Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	474
02 Kanchanjuri Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	251
03 Harmoti Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	535
04 Diffalon Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	284
05 Dolamara Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	450
06 Diphu Central Rubber Nursery	Karbi Anglong	13
07 Chutianala Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	152
08 Upper Delai Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	44
09 Ouguri Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	2507
10 Rongagora Rubber Estate	Karbi Anglong	2548
TOTAL =		7,258 Nos.

- (6) The Party/Parties offering the highest rates will have to deposited 5% of Security Deposit on the total tendered value by Demand Draft which shall be adjusted with the sale price of the Rubber Trees in due course of time.
- (7) The Tenderer/Auctioneer participating in the tender/auction shall be required to produce their Identity Proof viz. PAN Card, GST Registration Certificate, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Financial Soundness Certificate etc. to the satisfaction of the Tender Committee, APCDC Ltd., Sawkuchi, Lakhara, Guwahati, Assam.
- (8) The Tenderer may obtain the "Tender Papers" on payment of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only either in Cash or in the form of Demand Draft for each Rubber Estates in the name of the Managing Director, APCDC Ltd., payable at Guwahati. The Tender Papers may also be downloaded from the Official Website : www.apcdc.org.
- (9) The Tender Committee, APCDC Ltd., reserves the right to permit/allow or not permit/not allow any person for participating in the Tender/Auction without sufficient identity proof produced.

Sd/- Managing Director,

Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation Ltd.,
Opposite Sarusajai National Stadium Complex,
Sawkuchi, N.H.-37, Lakhara, Guwahati-781034 (Assam)

“বিদেশীলৈ মোৰা ভাৰতীয় অধিক সকলৰ বাবে গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ পৰামৰ্শ”

❖ বিদেশীলৈ কৰ্মসংহালনৰ বাবে গৱেষণা কৰে বৈ বৈদেশিক মন্ত্রালয়ত গঞ্জীভূক্ত অভিকৰ্তাৰ (এজেন্টৰ) ভাৰতায়েতে মোৰাটোৱা বাধ্যতামূলক।

❖ বিদেশীলৈ যাওঁতে অপঞ্জীভূক্ত অভিকৰ্তাৰ (এজেন্টৰ) ভাৰতায়েতে মোৰাটোৱা অমোক্ত, হস্তান্তৰ আপুনি বিশেষত পৰিব পাৰে।

❖ বিদেশীলৈ মোৰাৰাৰ সময়ত অনা কোনো বাস্তুত দ্বাৰা প্ৰদান কৰা কোনো ধৰনৰ বয় বষ্টলৈ নাথাৰ দেন, অথবা আপুনি বিশেষত পৰিব পাৰে।

❖ বিদেশীলৈ কৰ্মসংহালনৰ বাবে মোৰাৰ আগতে প্ৰয়োজনীয় কৰ্ম দৰকতা (skill) অৰ্জন কৰিব মোৰাটোৱা বাক্ষণিকী।

❖ বিদেশীলৈ পোৱা মাঝেই ভাৰতীয় দৃতাবাসক অবগত কৰে দেন। বিদেশীলৈ আপেনামাৰ একমাত্ৰ বৰ্তু ভাৰতীয় দৃতাবাস।

❖ বিদেশীলৈ মোৰাৰ আগতে স্থানীয় আম কল্যাণ বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, লগতে স্থানীয় আৰক্ষী থানাত ভাৰতীয়ৰ বাক্ষণিকী।

(বিদেশীলৈ মোৰাৰ আগতে স্থানীয় আম কল্যাণ বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, লগতে স্থানীয় আৰক্ষী থানাত ভাৰতীয়ৰ বাক্ষণিকী)

“বিশেষ জানিবলৈ ইলে ভাৰতীয় বিনামূলীয়া নং ১৮০০ ১১ ৩০৯০ ত যোগাযোগ কৰক”।

আম আয়ুক্ত, অসম, গুৱাহাটী-১৬।

Salbagan thrash MP team to enter final

CORRESPONDENT

Cup Football Tournament.

UDALGURI, Sept 21: Salbagan Football Club of Gossainia today entered the final of the ongoing 24th Bodoland Cup Football Tournament. In the second semifinal at the Udaguri Stadium here today, the Gossainia boys outplayed Madan Maharaj Football Club of Bhopal 8-2.

The deadlock was broken

by Salbagan striker Mithinga Narzary in the 11th minute but the Nigerian striker of Madan Maharaj equalised in the 20th minute.

However, after the equaliser, Salbagan FC started

raiding the opponent territory with some planned moves and took the lead in the 41st minute through Langaram Basumatary. Joseph pumped in four goals in the 44th, 61st, 68th and 90th minute respectively while November Basumatary added another in the 60th minute. It was Sahil Thapa of the Bhopal outfit who managed to reduce the margin in the 81st minute.

Salbagan FC will take on Nongrim Hills Sporting Club of Shillong in the final which is slated for September 23.

Dipak Ghatowar chess from September 28

GUWAHATI, Sept 21: The Dipak Ghatowar Memorial International Rating Open Chess Tournament is all set to begin at the Bir Lachit Borphukan College, Sivasagar from September 28 to October 2.

The championship will be organised by the Sivasagar District Chess Association in collaboration with All Assam Chess Association and is recognised by the World Chess Federation and All India Chess Federation.

The organisers are expecting around 200 players from across the country. An amount of Rs 2,45,000 is at stake as prize-money in the championship. A total number of nine rounds in Swiss League format will be held in the five-day meet. Fide Arbiter Biswajit Bharadwaj has been appointed as the chief arbiter of the event.

Dipak Ghatowar was the president of the Sivasagar District Chess Association till the time of his demise in April this year. He was also the secretary of the All Assam Chess Association from 2004 to 2008.

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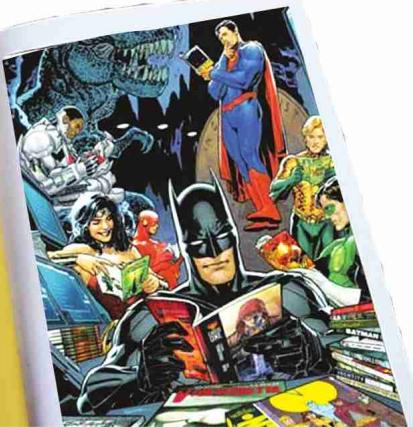
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Get graphic!

Nilakshi Goswami on how graphic novels have seen an increase in its critical acclaim as a popular mass cultural form.



Contemporary times have witnessed an insurgence of sequential art in its varied forms – right from newspaper strips to comic books to the more serious genre of graphic novels. Lewis Carroll's remark "What is the use of a book without pictures and conversations?" befittingly underscores the potential of a medium which presents a montage of both scripto-centric and ocular-centric representation, and of both word and image. However, there has been a sense of stigma attached to graphic novels – a genre often unjustifiably associated with matters of juvenile concern. Despite being an avid reader, the genre of graphic novels never held much appeal to me until I started my Masters and eventually decided to take it up as my doctoral research. A major catalyst in my romantic liaison with graphic novels has been an Iranian-French artist, Marjane Satrapi – one of the most versatile graphic artists who very redefines the genre itself by transposing this cross-discursive form of popular culture with the idea of truth and trauma. However, it is noteworthy that the cult of graphic-memoirs that Satrapi continues with her *Persepolis* series (2000) was a tradition started by Art Spiegelman with his *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* (1980) which was a Holocaust memoir in the form of a cat-and-mouse narrative. Although the genre of graphic novel had already gained popularity with Will Eisner's *A Contract with God* (1978).

While personal narratives such as autobiographies, memoirs, confessional writing, diary writing and so on intend to explore into the notion of truth-telling in its effort at retelling lives, graphic narratives take an additional recourse in this pursuit of meaning-making by employing the elements of visual culture. In the process,

these visual narratives become a means of presenting the unrepresentable, speaking the inaudible and expressing one's suffering that defies language and understanding in its most banal and exhibitionistic form. Contrary to spectral absences and imperceptible aporia that have been rendered commonplace, following the postmodern uncanny, personal graphic novels contend the idea of visibility, however convoluted and contingent. Given this, it becomes a prerequisite to understand the artistic and aesthetic sense of the genre within the ambit of cognitive sciences in order to resist any kind of characterisation that bases this art form as an illegitimate offspring of either the visual arts or the literary discourse. Thus, the quicksand of this amorphous expression and the anatomy of this expressive potential is challenging in its own way, considering the complexities involved in the art of graphic storytelling.

Although there has been a great deal of social skepticism associated with the idea of reading comic books and graphic novels, the past few years have seen an increase in its critical acclaim and its hold as a popular mass cultural form. As a matter of fact, the tradition of graphic novels has observed an unparalleled growth with graphic memoirs like Keiji Nakazawa's *Barcode Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima* (2004), Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (2006), Joe Sacco's *Footnotes in Gaza* (2009), Lauren Redniss's *Radioactive* (2010), to name a few, serving as a significant model in redefining and reformulating the idea of representation itself. And what's more! Lettering itself is treated visually in graphic novels which Eisner states as "Text reads as an image".

Lettering, as evident in the panel from Eisner's *A Contract with God*, is indeed, treated as a part of the visual idiom in proffering the narrative plot here. One can observe how the title of the graphic novel itself is conveyed symbolically through a tablet of stone rather than an old parchment or a paper – a graphical coding adopted to buttress the artist's intent. Thus, this nebulous multimodal form, emerging from this interface of the visual art and textual captions, thereby, ably produces an aesthetic response while tilting the viewer's expectations in unexpected ways by documenting the temporal possibilities of the narrative in a comic form.

In conclusion, as Scott McCloud explains, our identity as well as our consciousness is invested in different inanimate objects of our daily encounters. In the process, our clothes, for instance, could trigger different transformations in the manner others perceive us and we see ourselves. Similarly, it is one's ability to extend one's identity to inanimate objects that can cause pieces of glass to become eyes, spoons to be substituted for hands, pieces of plastic in earphones to become ears. Thereby, our awareness of these simplified extensions in turn is what allows all the things we encounter in life to be experienced in the realm of concepts and the realm of senses. Thus, to quote McCloud: "by deemphasising the appearance of the physical world in the favour of the idea of form, the cartoon places itself in the world of concepts." And considering how viewer-identification remains a specialty of cartooning, comics and graphic novels, in the recent times, are revolutionising imagination while enabling international dissemination of the everyday lives and its infringement into the world of popular culture.

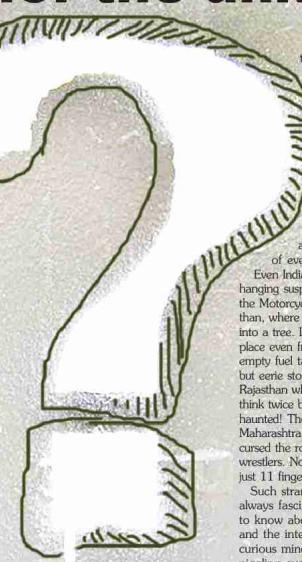
(nilakshi.gswm@gmail.com)

Search for the unknown

Shailashree Sarma

The world by itself is a mysterious place. Only when we are brave enough to explore the dark, and take the journey, we will discover that the world with its wonders and marvels also has deep secrets buried inside it. Some mysteries were, perhaps, god's parting gift to Adam and Eve and existed from the time Earth was created, while some developed over the years with a little contribution from mankind. We all know that a series of steps, framed protocols and planned course of action are the few ways required to rope in success but these are such mysteries that even science has decided to keep its hands off.

While many suspect the existence of dark magic and witches, others satisfy themselves with stories of paranormal creatures or 'ghosts'. But humans have not always succeeded in giving a name to some mysteries that have baffled one and all. There is the mysterious case of Elisa Lam who died in 2013 in a hotel's rooftop tank that has confounded many. While her death was termed 'an accident', CCTV cameras gave a twist to the case. It showed her entering an elevator and bumping into someone invisible and she behaving in a strange manner before her ultimate demise. There are a few other cases where the camera has been helpful in unearthed mysteries like in 1964, a man who was photographing his daughter captured what appears to be an astronaut standing behind her. He swore that no one was present at that time. Even Kodak inspected to confirm that the photograph was not faked/reddited. There is the other case of the 'falling body' where the Copper family, after entering their new house,



took a family photograph, but when the photo was developed, the family was shocked to see a body falling from the ceiling. And there, of course, remains the evergreen mystery of the Bermuda Triangle.

These mysteries, be it shared among family members when the younger ones hang on to every word that is uttered, or among friends at an overnight picnic, or with colleagues at the office, have always sent a shiver down the spine of every listener.

Even India is home to several such stories of cliff hanging suspense and mystery. Like the story of the Motorcycle God's Bullet Baba shrine in Rajashtan, where Om Singh Rathore crashed his bike into a tree. Later the bike would return to that place even from police custody with a literally empty fuel tank. Again, there lies the interesting but eerie story of the Bhangarh Fort in Alwar, Rajasthan where even the bravest of man would think twice before going as it is believed to be haunted! Then there is the levitating stone of Maharashtra where Hazrat Qamar Ali Darvesh had cursed the rocks that were lifted by the training wrestlers. Now the 70 kg rock can be lifted with just 11 finger tips by just chanting his name.

Such strange and intriguing stories have always fascinated humans. Whenever we come to know about such stories, we dig into books and the internet to find out more so that our curious mind can get some respite from the niggling questions. From our childhood days itself, we read mystery books and horror stories and that fascination lives on.

(sarmashailashree02pah@gmail.com)



Religion and culture

Bibekananda Choudhury

As mankind slowly came out of the cave and started living as a community, someone with a more intelligent outlook from the crowd stood out as the leader – though prowess mattered more, as it was a fight for survival every moment. But slowly intelligence took the lead. In the beginning, everyone was afraid of natural phenomena like thunder and lightning, incessant rains causing flood, erosion and landslides, earthquakes, forest-fires, storms, etc., and also about ailments and disease, and definitely death. Initially, they worshipped nature in its various forms – the rivers, the hills, the Earth, the Sun, the trees, etc., that are found in practice even today in festivals like Kali Bihu, Ali Aye Ligang, Chhath Puja, Bathow Puja, Ashokastami, etc.

Some of those who developed higher intelligence levels than others got the idea of controlling the others by concocting weird stories about supernatural powers leading to the events, including life and death. They convinced the masses about their ability to contact the powers that-be and assessed the progress of these events, and as such foretold some of them. And then they advised the people to offer various things to the deities to satisfy them and earn their favour. Slowly, people started giving names to some of these deities.

Along with that, some code of conduct was also put in place. It varied from place to place, keeping in mind the local climate, as visualised by the people who devised it. That's why we see completely different types of rituals for various life events in different parts of the globe. As people travelled all over, and settled down at various locations, they carried their traditions, cultures and also the rituals.

One part of these rituals was the sense of cleanliness. These people, involved in day-to-day hard labour, needed some respite, some occasion to celebrate, and with that came the pretext of buying new clothes, and above all, some religious orders came into practice to get the house, clothes and vicinity properly cleaned. In a hot and humid climate, more rituals were thrown in these regions so that people could stay clean and keep diseases, that mostly generated from unclean habits, at bay. And, while only a section of the people understood, the form of deities itself actually carried a cryptic message to lead a successful life.

Let us take the case of Durga – she is considered to be the able partner of Shiva, the God of creation, and, at the same time, of destruction. Shiva lived a most austere life – he did not even have proper clothing. Durga is the embodiment of women power – and it symbolises that if someone can inculcate in oneself different virtues and power possessed by different individuals for which one is famous and considered powerful in the society, any one would transform into an entity so powerful that practically nothing invincible would remain. The most graceful women, with discipline and virtues, can prove to be the most fearsome adversary – while at the same time, being a perfect mother and wife.

Let us get to the depth of this message, rather than dumbly paying obeisance to the Devi. Celebrate women power, nurture them to lead and protect the world.

(saswatibibek@gmail.com)

Thought is the key

Bryan Magee
the great philosophers

Thinking is what comes naturally to human beings, and this has often been seen as a distinctive mark of specialty in an uneven world. The processing of thought and what it entails, however, is a complex affair and is considered to be more than mere functionality. Although we all ask questions, only a few query them in ways that probe deeper to explore dimensions of knowledge that remain otherwise inaccessible. These questers seek to unravel not just the contours of 'knowledge', they also engage with concepts and ideas whose relevance may not be immediately discernible. Irrespective of the time they are placed in, the minds of these seekers are oriented to think out of the box, to ask where questioning itself may appear untenable. These questers are known as philosophers. For the common man, a philosopher is not quite in tune with the everyday circumstance of living, occupied as he is with questions of high thought — this is a perception that does the rounds often than is granted. Perhaps the presence of such a perception keeps philosophy at a remove from people who would be more at ease with other disciplines. Addressing this factor regarding how 'difficulty' as a catchword has been travelling alongside philosophy, Bryan Magee places the issue in context: "I suppose a majority of intelligent men and women regardless of education read novels and see plays; they take a newspaper reading interest

LOVING LITERATURE

Bibhash Choudhury

in politics, and through that and their work-experience pick up some economics; many of them read biographies, and thereby learn some history. But philosophy remains a closed book, except to the few who make a study of it." Magee's distillation of key questions of philosophy has seen his writings occupy many a bookshelf, but he has been much more than a writer on the subject of thought.

It was in the late 1980s that Bryan Magee initiated a television series where he conversed with leading thinkers of the 20th century to bring the great minds to the forefront of popular discourse. The conversations were designed to look at the thought of those people whose ideas have had a great bearing upon the shaping of the intellectual condition of the West. The resulting book, which went much beyond the transcripts of the conversations, was titled *'The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy'*. Why were Plato and Aristotle household names more than two thousand years after their deaths? A similar question can be asked about certain philosophers of more recent times. The answer, of course, is that their work is part of the foundations of Western culture and civilisation. But how? The book offers the beginnings of an answer to that question. — Magee explains how the classic mode of conversation can be an invigorating way of enriching our knowledge of issues we wouldn't have ordinarily considered necessary. Starting with Plato, that great fountainhead of Western thought, Magee continues to Ludwig Wittgenstein, the Austrian thinker whose engagement with language and knowledge has brought a complete re-orientation of how we look at the meaning-making process today. Each philosopher employs a different mechanism to engage with the question of knowledge, and in such pursuits lie the joy of the probe that they undertake. As Frederick Copleston points out in his conversation on Arthur Schopenhauer, philosophers try to 'understand' and 'interpret' the world in which they live, at the same time looking at possibilities of knowing that which may not be envisaged in material terms, thereby expanding the frontiers of the enquiry beyond the recognised realm. Lively and engaging, Magee's book of conversations draw the reader to visit the great thinkers of the Western world, reminding us that irrespective of where we reach, or what we gather in the pursuit of knowledge, it is 'thought' itself which is the key.

(utenga@gmail.com)

The National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on September 14 across India to mark the language that has its roots in ancient India. On this day, in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Republic of India. This year, on the occasion of National Hindi Day, the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the Rajdhanya Awards for the Year 2016-17 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The Rajdhanya Awards were constituted by the Department of Official Language to recognise the excellent contribution of ministries, departments and nationalised banks in the field of Hindi language.

In today's Master's Choice section do try out a set of questions on the 'World of movies', compiled by Mousumi Gogoi from Tezpur.

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

MASTER'S CHOICE

- Which 1984 period drama won eight Academy Awards for its fictional biography of the Austrian composer Mozart?
- What is the name of the 2015 film about a frontiersman on a fur trading expedition in the 1820s and his fight for survival after being mauled by a bear?
- Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger and Richard Gere starred in which musical crime film which won multiple awards in 2002, named after an American city?
- William Holden, Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins starred in which 1957 American war epic?
- Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman starred in which film which tells the story of an Indian boy who gets lost on the streets of Calcutta and is adopted and later tries to find his family?
- Who was the director of the multi-award winning film *'La La Land'*?
- What is the name of the character played by Hugh Jackman in nine of the ten X-Men movie franchise films?

Fall

One by one the leaves depart,
From the branches that held them close,
And day and night I fall apart,
Into the darkest depths I chose.

It's all about tears and smiles,
A journey through light and dark,
Screams and pain, and victory and vain,
A rising sorrow, and setting skies.

The chaos of laughter,
The resonating memories,

All that's gone,

But still remain.

One by one the leaves depart,
From the branches that held them close,
And day and night they kiss the Earth,
Which embraces them and lays them to rest.

Bidisha Das,

Via e-mail

Pearl of my eye

The glittering sparkle in your eyes,
The charm of your cheeks,
O' my sweetest, endearing friend,
Your nature is so humble and meek.

Hands of the clock might run on and on,
But we shall always catch up with each other,
As long as our friendship is unconditional,
About physical distances we need not bother.

You high-five your dreams with reality,
Overcoming all the stumbling blocks,
With your hardwork and God's grace,
May all the treasures of your life unlock.

Like a precious pearl in the sea,
Glorious you turned out to be,
Your aims and dignified achievements,
Flourished your life with glee.

Rashmi Dasgupta,

Dibrugarh

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Dharmakanta Kumbhakar



Lady's finger contains high amounts of vitamin B9 or folic acid. So it is highly recommended for women during pre-conception or for pregnant women.

Lady's finger a wonder vegetable

We all are familiar with the lady's finger (*bhindi*), which is a green, non-leafy vegetable. Its scientific name is *Abelmoschus esculentus*. A wonder vegetable, it serves as a tasty and integral part of our staple diet during summer months. Here are some of the benefits of the vegetable:

Digestion: A tender and mucilaginous vegetable, the lady's finger's dietary fibre content is very high and thus it has many digestive benefits. The fibres aid the process of digestion in the body by facilitating proper bowel movement. Pectin present in lady's finger swells up in the intestine and helps in easier elimination of waste from the intestine. Facilitating proper absorption of water, lady's finger ensures free motion disposal by the body, preventing constipation. It is also high in metabolism.

Diabetes: It helps prevent diabetes. High dietary fibre present in the lady's finger stabilizes blood sugar levels by regulating the rate of absorption of sugar from the gastrointestinal tract, inhibiting function of enzymes required for metabolism of carbohydrate and thus enhancing production



of insulin by regenerating beta cells of the pancreas. Eugenol, a type of fibre present in lady's finger helps in slowing down digestion and absorption of sugar from the blood stream.

Cholesterol: Cholesterol is a dominant content in the body that triggers obesity and heart disease. Lady's finger ensures lesser absorption of cholesterol with the help of soluble protein pectin present in it. Pectin helps in lowering bad cholesterol and prevents atherosclerosis by helping in elimination of deposited cholesterol and clots. Antioxidants like polyphenols present in lady's finger prevent oxidation of cholesterol and thus prevent artery blocking and heart disease.

Weight loss: The low calorie content in lady's finger (30 kcal/100 gm) and its high

fibre content makes it a suitable food for weight loss. It provides minimum calories and its high fibre levels help in keeping us full for longer. With regular usage of this vegetable, we can avoid obesity to a greater extent.

Antioxidants: Lady's finger has a higher concentration of antioxidants, which prevents damage to our cells from free radicals and protects our body from cancer. Due to high dietary fibre present in the lady's finger prevents colo-rectal cancer and pectin present in lady's finger prevents from melanoma.

Pregnancy: Lady's finger contains high amount of vitamin B9 or folic acid. Therefore, it is highly recommended for women during pre-conception or pregnant women as folic acid present in this vegetable can reduce neural tube defects in a new born baby. Folate helps not only in conceiving, but also helps in the development of fetus and prevention of miscarriage. Lady's finger contains iron, folate and vitamin K that helps in treating and avoiding anaemia. The folic acid present in lady's finger also improves our mental function providing good nutrition to our brain.

Immunity: Lady's finger is a rich source of vitamin C. It improves our immunity and protects us from several diseases and infections. It helps to maintain a younger looking and glowing skin. It aids in repairing body tissues.

Eyesight: The vitamin A and beta carotene present in lady's finger may be helpful in improving eyesight.

(drkdharmakanta@yahoo.com)

QUIZ ZONE

Sailen Baishya

Picture clue:

- She is widely remembered for hoisting the Indian National Congress flag at the Gowalia Tank maidan in Bombay during the Quit India Movement, 1942. Identify her. (Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat)



ANSWERS

- Amadeus.
- The Revenant.
- Chicago.
- The Bridge on the River Kwai.
- Lion.
- Damien Chazelle.
- Logan.
- Donald Duck.
- The Imitation Game.
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.
- Bernoulli family.
- Vasco da Gama.
- Los Angeles, USA.
- Operation Insaniyat.
- Italy.
- President of South Korea.
- Julio Iglesias.
- Sudarsan Pattnaik.
- Dr Aruna Asaf Ali.
- Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the controversial chief of the Dera Sacha Sauda.

FEELINGS

The hills

The hills.
Cloaked itself in a shroud of mist,
Gentle breeze whispered through tall pines,
The whisper fell in the ears,
Like a hum, as prayers,
Bead by bead,
Counted, one at a time,
And released.

Nadia Jasmine Rahman,
New Delhi

Salvation

A very cruel place it is,
Each step must be taken with care;
Truth is the absolute bliss,
But it is spoken in rare!

The so-called modern society,
Is another thing I pity;
I laugh my heart out,
At their rules and vows!

But deep inside I feel a pain,
For I couldn't do anything to make a change;
I'm stuck too in this chain,
Of which there is no salvation!

Anamika Das,
Pathasala

Indeed

Pain is magical,
It unconsciously
Transforms you
Into someone
Consciously
You wouldn't have
Seriously tried to be
In any way!

In the darkest night,
When all else fails,
Try instead
To close your eyes,
Love still leads the way!

One who
Patiently learns to live
With mountains inside
Hardly has any botheration,
Walking on a stony road,
Bare feet all the way!

Swapnajyoti Bordoloi,
Dibrugarh

8. Which much-loved Walt Disney character made his first appearance in the 1934 cartoon *'The Wise Little Hen'*?

9. This film tells the story of how Alan Turing and his team of mathematicians cracked the Enigma code in WWII. Name the film.

10. Which 1975 film is set in a mental institution and has the characters Nurse Ratched, RP McMurphy, and Chief Bromden?

READERS' CHOICE

11. This famous family of Switzerland has given nine scientists in four generations. Which famous family is it? (Abhijit Sharma, Guwahati)

12. What was the name of the Portuguese explorer who was the first European to reach India by sea, arriving in 1498? (Sneha Dutta, Dibrugarh)

13. Which city will host the 2028 Summer Olympics? (Bidyut Ranjan Deka, Nalbari)

14. Name the operation recently started by India to help Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. (Naina Devi, Guwahati)

15. Lombardy is a region in the north of which European country? (Jintu Boro, Udalguri)

16. The President of the United States lives in the White House. Who lives in the Blue House? (Umi Das, via SMS)

17. Which pop star played as a goalkeeper for Real Madrid until a car accident ended his career as a soccer player? (Abhilash Kumar, Dimapur)

18. Recently, a new Guinness World Record has been set in Germany for the tallest sandcastle which measures a spectacular 16.68 metres. Who won this record? (Arupa Sarma, Guwahati)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

20. He was born on August 15, 1967 at Sri Gurusa Modia village in the Gangangar district of Rajasthan. *The Indian Express* placed him in the 96th position in their list of the '100 Most Powerful Indians of 2015'. His initiatives have been recognised by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the most number of blood pressure readings, diabetes readings and cholesterol readings in 24 hours. Identify this person who was recently in the news for the wrong reasons. (Dr Jayanta Kr Sharma, Guwahati)

For a country whose birth was inspired by the concept of non-violence, it is, indeed, very sad to note that violent behaviour in our society, especially among the youth is increasing day by day. We all know that democracy in our country has never been free from troubles and that is why since independence we have been faced with anti-State elements, separatist tendencies and radical groups who have been up in arms. As we are rapidly moving towards urbanisation, the society is beginning to experience its negative fallout that's visible through a rising trend of violence in everyday life. The recent violent agitation by a few communities in some parts of our country to seek class reservation has shaken the authorities and the civil society out of their wits. This series of deliberate, planned bloodshed attempted on our country's jawans, law makers and innocent civilians, and the炳owning up of government property worth crores of rupees has been a matter of serious concern as it signals the growing culture of violence in our country. On one hand, we are threatened by terrorism from across the border, and on other hand, we face a much graver situation back home where our own countrymen are angry with the system. As usual, most of the intellectuals would blame the government for lack of development, growing unemployment among the youth in these regions and for the growing anger and violence. However, these are partly responsible factors because in reality, violence and vandalism of such a high degree reflect a reaction forced out of someone who is convinced of being wronged by an arrogant system. Poverty or unemployment alone cannot fuel such radical, organised attempts; it is the hopelessness in the justice of the situation that makes people respond so recklessly. We must understand a fact that the current situation, that we as the civil society and the state so much abhor, condemn and feel sorry for, has not arisen overnight but is our own doing.

When democracy was born in free India, it came with the hope of

including the voice of the masses. But in many pockets of our country, public will was bought with money power, snatched by muscle power, openly manoeuvred by corrupt elements and not earned. So, in that sense society driven by might is considered to be right, and that is why many young people, who had seen their families suffer a life of suppression and exploitation – physical, social and economic – saw violence to be the only way to make their voices heard. It's so pathetic that in a country known for its vast diversity and disparity, little has been attempted or rather done by the government to cultivate the spirit of non-violence, ideals of secularism and the feeling of hope, security, emotional integration, benevolence and brotherhood. For the youth faced with growing challenges, the country has failed to institute a system that would guide them to take the ethical course. On the other hand, they are continuously being "misguided" by vested interests, alien ideologies, commercial cinema, television and internet which justify and glorify the culture of violence, to avenge the "wrong".

Gandhi showed us that non-violence could be the basis for collective response to achieve social or political goals. He also spoke extensively about the need to imbibe non-violence at an individual level, in thought and in action. This can be best achieved through early education within the family first, and then the school, and finally the society at large. Education must thus become the central objective in our society, as all subsequent behaviour or action by individuals, would be influenced by it. Today the need of the hour is to create a mass awareness among the people to accept each other's opinion or action and live in harmony with each other. People in power should realise that value-building, especially among the youth, is the biggest call of our times. They must develop such a strong character that even grave situations do not prompt them to take up the course of violence, for violent means never create harmonious ends.

(nikunjji@gmail.com)

Non-violence: weapon of mass compassion



The haunted forest of Romania

The Hoia Baciu forest in Romania is known as the 'Bermuda Triangle' of the southeastern European country, known for the forested region of Transylvania. Known to be the world's most haunted forest, it covers an area of over 250 hectares. The forest has a reputation for intense paranormal activity and unexplained events. Reports have included ghost sightings, unexplained apparitions, faces appearing in photographs that were not visible with the naked eye, and in the 1970s, UFO sightings were also reported.

Visitors to the forest often report intense feelings of anxiety and the feeling of being constantly watched. Moreover, the local vegetation is somehow bizarre in appearance, like something out of a make-believe story with strangely shaped trees, and unexplained charring on tree stumps and branches.

The forest was named after a shepherd that disappeared in the area with a flock of two hundred sheep. Most people who live near the forest are afraid to enter it due to the stories and legends that have been handed down. They believe that those who visit the site will never return home. Many of the locals who have been brave enough to venture into the forest complained of physical harm, including rashes, nausea, vomiting, migraines, burns, scratches, anxiety, and other unusual sensations.

This dense forest first gained notoriety in the late 1960s when a biologist named Alexandru Sili snapped several amazing photos of a flying disc-shaped object in the sky above the forest. On August 18, 1968, a military technician named Emil Barnea captured a famous photograph of a saucer flying over the forest. In the 1970s, the area was a hotbed for UFO sightings and unexplained lights.

The most common phenomenon witnessed in the forest includes the sudden appearance of mysterious orbs of light. People also report hearing disembodied female voices breaking the heavy silence, giggling, and even apparitions. There are many cases of people reportedly being scratched.

Some people believe that the forest is a gateway to another dimension. One such story focusses on a five-year-old girl who wandered into the woods and emerged from the forest five years later, wearing the same un-tarnished clothes that she wore on the day she disappeared with no memory of what had happened during her time in the forest.

Courtesy: hoiabaciuforest.com

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

After demonetisation of high-value currency in India last November, the payment space has seen many activities. Several players, including e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart and taxi aggregator Uber, have forayed into it, taking advantage of the cashless/less cash initiative undertaken by the government. Even as grapevine says that Apple too is working on a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment solution for India, internet search giant Google has already launched 'Tez'.

The made-for-India digital payment system saw over four lakh Indians embracing it within just 24 hours of its launch. Google claimed that Tez has seen nearly 1.8 crore GMV done with over four lakh active users. Gross merchandise value or GMV is the total value of merchandise sold over a given period of time.

Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai, who was in India just after demonetisation, had himself discussed the idea of Tez with the Union Finance Ministry.

Built on the Indian government-supported Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Tez allows users, free of charge, to make small or big payments straight from their bank accounts.

The app, built specifically for India, works on most of the smartphones and is available in English and seven Indian languages – Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada,

Marathi, Tamil and Telugu. Tez works in partnership with four banks – Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India – to facilitate the processing of payments across over 50 UPI-enabled banks.

Google said it is also working on enabling and integrating credit and debit card payments through Tez. Google has also struck exclusive partnerships with four prominent smartphone manufacturers, whose models will come with built-in Tez.

Bluetooth module

If you're someone who loves the freedom of wireless audio, here is ZEBBE380, a Bluetooth module,

which has a 3.5mm jack, meaning any earphone or headphones of your choice can turn absolutely wireless once you plug on to this sleek lightweight module.

Available in black and white, this sleek lightweight

Bluetooth module comes with volume and media control buttons embedded in it for easy control and has a MicroSD slot for MP3 playback. It has a range of 10 metres.

This module comes in as a clip design, making it convenient for joggers, runners and travellers where they don't need to pull out their phones for calls or to shuffle songs.

Available in a mix of black and white colours, this Bluetooth module with earphones will be available in all leading retail stores across India.

(devolnath@hotmail.com)

“What do we understand by the phrase 'writing on the wall'?"

"Well, also known as 'handwriting on the wall', it is used as a warning about an imminent danger."

"Oh, that's why in a press conference recently the leader of the opposition party asked the government to read the writing on the wall!"

"Yes. This is often used as a clear indication of failure or disaster; so you shouldn't ignore the writing on the wall."

"Or handwriting on the wall, right?"

"Right. You know, this idiom has its origin in a Biblical story in the Book of Daniel, where during a feast held by King Belshazzar, a hand suddenly appears and writes

on the wall foretelling the downfall of the Babylonian Empire."

"Very interesting to know about its origin. By the way, what about your cousin Paul – has he amended his ways? He was always careless in his work and was warned by his boss several times, right?"

"Yes. That's why he had to change jobs every now and then! I also asked him to watch his steps on many an occasion, but he simply kept ignoring."

"That's bad. Anyway, tell me, do you mean you warned him when you asked him to watch his steps?"

"Yes. When you ask somebody to 'watch their steps' it means that they must be careful, or else they will be in trouble."

"So your cousin is still like that?"

"Yes, he is incorrigible. He is often late for work, can't sit in his office for a long duration, and sometimes picks up a fight with his colleagues! I always tell him to keep his head down."

"Head down?"

"I mean to stay out of trouble, or not to do anything that will get him into trouble. When you keep your head down it means you avoid doing anything that will get you noticed for all the wrong reasons!"

"You are right. Many people nowadays prefer to keep their heads down."

"Yes, for obvious reasons."

"Anyway, one should never ignore the writing on the wall."

"Right. You know, Paul knows about this idiom. In fact he is the one who told me the origin of it!"



Note: Readers can contribute anecdotes, funny quotations, puns or word play, and interesting bits of information about the English language to MYE. Send contributions to: 'Mind Your English', Horizon, The Assam Tribune, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003 or to: protimsharma@rediffmail.com. Contribute via SMS to: 9435055497.

Managing tantrums

Unmanya Dutta

A s a psychological consultant, I often meet many parents who complain of their child's temper and tantrums, especially in public spaces, where it becomes a lot embarrassing for the parents and they end up giving in to the demands of the child.

Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders state temper tantrums in children as a psychological condition, which needs full attention from the parents and experts to be managed at the right age and time.

Research shows some biological reasons behind this behaviour. Some parts of your child's brain develop late. One of these parts is the frontal cortex which is involved in the execution of the behaviours and control of our social behaviour. So the child naturally fails to control and regulate his/her behaviour effectively. So till the time this part of the brain develops, it is absolutely necessary that control of this behaviour is being monitored and supported by the parents. Some of the easy steps and ways to manage tantrums in children are:

Control your own emotions: When the child is already at the peak of her/his emotions, your emotion would throw the situation out of control. Instead of getting angry at your child, show some calmer emotions.

Distract your child: Just when you realise that your child is starting to talk and cry over a toy that you are not very keen on buying, take him/her to some other part of the store. Show him/her different things which interest him/her.

Hug your child: I agree that this would be the last thing you would want to do when your child throws a tantrum. But this would help the child to regulate his/her own emotions by getting a feeling that

there is someone who wants them to keep calm.

Offer a snack: Hunger is one of the major reasons why children throw tantrums. You can engage the child by taking him/her to the kitchen and ask what he/she would like for a snack.

Do not give explanations: Explaining things all the time may not be very helpful. Your child is too young to understand the logic of why you don't want to buy him that toy or do not want to fulfil his demand if he is the age category of 0-5 years.

Display calm behaviour: Your child learns a great deal of behaviour from you. What and how you behave when you are in a stressful situation will definitely shape your child's behaviour as well.

Set rules and follow them: Rules like "no shouting and throwing things" is a very common rule that can be followed in a house. When you frame the rule, make sure you follow it too.

Let them talk it out: If a child is throwing a tantrum, it means he/she is not able to express what he/she wants. Teach them ways of expressing the idea that is disturbing them, like pointing towards the kitchen when he/she is hungry, holding and taking you to the bed when he/she wants a nap, etc.

Praise calm behaviour: Just when your child does anything without throwing a tantrum like eating the cereal without any crying spells, you could just praise the child with few good words and a kiss.

Time out: Once a tantrum is being thrown, a child can be separated from the environment where the unwanted behaviour has occurred in order to do away with the behaviour.

These 5-minutes of "time-out" could help the child to calm his/her aggressive behaviour and temper.

(msud1289@gmail.com)

GRAPHIC PICK

Deborshee Gogoi



Expose kids to pets, prevent asthma

Children exposed to high indoor levels of pet or pest allergens during infancy are likely to have a lower risk of developing asthma by seven years of age, a new study has revealed.

The findings suggested that children who were exposed to higher concentrations of cockroach, mouse and cat allergens during the first three years of life were linked to a lower risk of developing asthma – that intermittently inflames and narrows the airways – by seven years of age. A similar association was found for dog allergens, the researchers observed. "Our observations imply that exposure to a broad variety of indoor allergens, bacteria and bacterial products early in life may reduce the risk of developing asthma," said James E Germ, Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US.

In addition, microbial environment in the home during infancy may be also associated with reduced risk of asthma, the researchers said.

Precious study suggested that exposure to certain bacteria during infancy may protect three-year-olds from recurrent wheezing, a risk factor for developing asthma. (IANS)

Men's business wear guide-II



Continuing from the previous column, here are a few tips that one can follow when it comes to men's business wear:

- Ensure your clothing is pressed and stain free.** To respect your clothing shows respect for yourself. Invest in a good tailor. Looking as if you slung on any old ill-fitting garment will never win you contracts or promotions. No matter how expensive a piece of clothing may be, if it doesn't fit properly it will look terrible.

- Never hang your kitwear.** Store your jumpers in a drawer or on the shelf above your wardrobe. Lose all wire coat hangers. Keep your jackets in shape by hanging them on proper wooden hangers. Use hangers for trousers too.

- The jacket is the key item.** The ultimate classic garment is a dark blazer in black, navy or charcoal. It works stylishly with dark or light trousers and can dress up a pair of jeans. Even if you do not regularly dress up for office, first meetings with a client can be a make or break time so start with a great first impression and

FASHIONABLY YOURS

Prasant Ghosh

wear a jacket.

- Wear rugged clothing if your business is based outdoors.** Clothing must always match with what you do and the image you are trying to create. Salesmen would look out of place in a suit but will look perfect in khakis and heavy cotton shirts.

- Brushing saves your suits.** Use a good clothes brush to freshen up your clothes. By brushing your clothes, they retain a fresh appearance without the need for dry cleaning.

- Leather.** You can simply update your watch with a new band. Treat and nourish your soft leather shoes and briefcase with leather conditioner to keep them soft and supple.

- Avoid wearing jeans when meeting a client for the first time.** I hear many men say that is not necessary to dress up in their business. Unless you are a tradesmen and the client wants a small job done it will still pay to put on a decent pair of pants and shirt when you meet a new and potential client. They will understand if you show up to do the job in your overalls, but they will be impressed if you dress to meet them on the first day.

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

WEST SIDE STORY

Drake's new tattoo!

ADDING to his extensive collection of eclectic inkings, Drake added another tattoo, this time of Denzel Washington. Toronto-based tattoo artist Jiral Berserk shared a snap of the tat on his Instagram feed on Sunday.

Drake has several portraits of people who are important to him tattooed all over his body, including his parents, his late uncle and grandmother, Aaliyah, Lil Wayne, and two of Safo. He also has a matching camouflage shark tattoo with Rihanna, and several more.

Selena's furry friend

SELENA Gomez was spotted with her new furry friend, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, by her side as she made her way on set in New York on Tuesday morning.

The 25-year-old singer cradled the puppy as she hurried on to the as yet untitled Woody Allen project, sporting a pair of black sweat pants which featured fringing around her ankles. She wore a matching small black T-shirt underneath a large wood coat.

She wore a pair of small round dark sunglasses over her dark brown eyes and wore her shoulder-length chestnut brown hair straight with a distinct part down the middle.

Dazzling Rihanna

GRAMMY winning artist Rihanna ensured all eyes would be on her at the launch of her Fenty Beauty make-up line during London Fashion Week in the English capital on Tuesday, as she stormed the red carpet in a vibrant purple gown that complemented her rich complexion. Rihanna, 29, who released her new make-up line Fenty Beauty in New York earlier this month, adorned herself in dazzling diamonds, rocking a glittering necklace that complemented her myriad of bangles and selection of rings.

AGENCIES



TRAVEL

Dr Chandan Kashyap

magnificently architected by bishop Khongthonger, a local teacher. If you thought that Mawlynnong conjured up its own sobriquet as being 'God's own garden', talk to some villagers. They will narrate a tale about how their elders inculcated in them the desire to appreciate nature's beauty and to preserve the village. Today, it is an example of how communities are able to manage their growth that is both open to the world while retaining their distinct indigenous traits. Mawlynnong has opened its door for the outside world to come and experience the unique lifestyle it thrives on.

The village also offers a sight of natural balancing rock – a strange natural phenomenon. It is a fascinating work of nature where this massive a rock now lies suspended on a small base of rock.



This strange sight gives the impression that the rock may be tilted anytime with a slight nudge. However, the rock has been able to stand the test of time and is therefore a place not only of great wonder but also one which is held in high reverence by the locals.

My next destination was Dawki, 20 kilometres south of Mawlynnong. It is flanked by the Umngot river which is popular for boating and fishing. An annual boating festival is held here every year. Dawki bridge is the oldest bridge in Meghalaya built in 1932 during British rule in India. Another fascinating creation of nature is the Borhill falls which lies between Dawki and Lyngkhat. Besides being a triple tiered waterfall, the Borhill Falls is prominent because of a huge number of beeswax hanging out of a rock facing the fall.

(drchandankashyap@gmail.com)

The wonders of Meghalaya

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes. — Marcel Proust

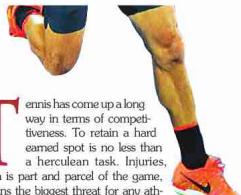
On early morning in June, I started my journey to the serene and scenic Meghalaya, with the idea of exploring it once again. Raja Sonar, the talkative Uber driver added spice to the otherwise mundane journey. We took a break at Nongpoh for some tea and snacks. I reached Shillong for some tea and snacks. I roamed around Police Bazaar and bought some popular handicraft items. There was a shower, which is a common feature there, and it got sun rays while roaming around the market place, a bright pink fruit caught my attention. It's called 'Shopie', I was told. On tasting, it was terribly sour. The locals advised me to eat it with a pinch

of sugar or salt. It strongly reminded me of the famous saying, "Don't judge someone by their looks; it can be deceiving. The next day, I set out for Mawlynnong. The village, known as the cleanest village of Asia, offers visitors the opportunity to witness natural beauty in abundance. Some of the memorable places that I saw there are the living root bridge, natural balancing rock and the 80 feet high mechan. This part of Khasi Hills boasts of many forms of spectacular natural beauty, but nothing parallels to the sheer marvel of the living root bridge.

The *machan* or observatory is a bamboo and cane structure which offers a bird's eye view of the village the Indo-Bangladesh border. The structure is



The comeback kings



Tennis has come up a long way in terms of competitiveness. To retain a hard earned spot is no less than a herculean task. Injuries, which is part and parcel of the game, remains the biggest threat for any athlete. The time to recover from injuries sustained sometimes takes longer than expected and making a comeback after an injury layoff is not a piece of cake.

But in the recent past, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have proved their critics wrong by making a strong comeback and regaining their lost glory. The 36-year-old Federer went on to clinch this year's Australian Open and Wimbledon to take his tally to 19 Grand Slam titles, while it was the 31-year-old Spaniard who lifted the French Open and the recently concluded US Open title. As far as the overall scenario of sports is concerned, an injury to a player aged over 30 doesn't evoke a collective disbelief. But tennis seems to be different.

After losing it to the last four of the 2016 Australian Open, Federer decided to skip the French Open. Going

SPORTPOURRI

Kausav Baruah

down to Milos Raonic in the Wimbledon semis, Federer announced his break from tour for the rest of the season owing to a knee injury. This eventually resulted in Federer dropping off the top 10 ranking for the first time since 2002. But in 2017 he returned to lift his 18th Grand Slam at the Australian Open. He went on to win back-to-back Masters titles at Indian Wells and Miami before making an interesting decision to skip French Open yet again. However, the Swiss legend cruised to his eighth Wimbledon title and the 19th Grand Slam singles title by beating Marin Cilic in the final.

On the other hand, Nadal who has been one of the most injury prone players in the ATP tour has time and again proved his critics wrong. 'The King of Clay', as fondly called by fans and critics, Nadal after the Wimbledon loss in 2015 withdrew from the US Open where he was supposed to defend the title. He was diagnosed with appendicitis for which he had to undergo a surgery, forcing him to skip the rest of the season. The year 2016 was also no different for Nadal as his struggle continued. He participated in Rio Olympics where he finished fourth in singles competition but managed to clinch the men's doubles gold medal along with Marc Lopez. Nadal was inconsistent for the remaining season and ended the year 2016 without a Grand Slam for the second year on a trot.

The Spaniard resigned again and made it to the Australian Open final before losing out the title to his long-time rival Federer this year. He regained his lost momentum by winning back-to-back Masters 1000 titles and went on to clinch the French Open where he dismantled Stan Wawrinka to win a record 10th Roland Garros title. Nadal silenced his critics in the best way possible with yet another Grand Slam win at the US Open recently. Although the US Open win came in the absence of five of the top 11 ranked men's players, Nadal's red-hot form off late is surely an indication that anyone with title aspirations will have to play exceptionally well in order to get past him.

It will be interesting to see how some of the big names including Novak Djokovic, Stan Wawrinka, Kei Nishikori, Milos Raonic and Andy Murray – all who missed out from action in the US Open make their comeback in the circuit.

(rkausav@gmail.com)

AT THE THEATRES

Sanjoy Ray

SIMRAN
DIRECTOR: HANSAL MEHTA
STARS: KANGANA RANAUJ, SOHUM SHAH, ESHA DEWARI

Hansal Mehta's *Simran* is a story of an apologetic 30-year-old Indian woman named Praful Patel aka Praful, based in the US who wants to lead an independent life without getting caught in to the whims of her parents.

However, things turn ugly for her when she suddenly finds her dream to buy a house in the US shattered, thanks to her tryst with gambling at a Las Vegas casino, eventually landing her in the trap of a loan shark.

Pressure mounts on Praful to repay the debt propelling her to take to bank robbery and this is where the problem starts both for the titular character and the script in general.

The film starts showing too many loose ends in the last half an hour or so.

Despite a stellar performance from Kangana, the script makes things hard to digest. Her string of cakewalk bank robbery and that too in a country like the US does not add up. To add to the under-baked second half of the script, the 'lipstick bandit', as she is referred to, sports almost the identical outfit while robbing the banks and yet manages to elude the eyes of the investigators. Simran, despite these hitches, will give you your money's worth as Kangana once again exudes her unparalleled acting prowess.

LUCKNOW CENTRAL

DIRECTOR: RANJIT TIWARI
STARS: FARHAN AKHTAR, DIANA PENTY, RONI ROY

Farhan Akhtar starrer *Lucknow Central* is about a small town aspiring singer who wants to make it big in the world of music. However, destiny seemed to have an altogether different plan as he himself framed in a murder charge of an IAS officer.

In pursuit of the escape route, Kishan (Farhan) befriends four co-prisoners and tries to hatch a jail-break in the guise of forming a musical band meant to perform in an annual inter-jail music competition hosted by Lucknow Central jail. Whether they succeed in executing the plan and whether Kishan manages to prove his innocence and achieve his dream is what the script precisely explores.

With Farhan in the lead and a plethora of actors with pretty high credentials in the crew, the narrative hardly fascinates and struggles to make the right connect throughout. Inspired by a real story, the narrative does give you moments of elation in between although they are too scarce.

Diana Penty who appears as an NGO activist working for prisoners' reformation goes with the motion and does not leave any impact.

(sanjoyray10@gmail.com)

