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Required 2 Customer Officer, 3 Nos Accountant, Qualification: H.S./Graduate (M.F.). Salary: Rs. 7000 - 13,000/- Contact # 'NEEDS', Ganeshguri, Guwahati-5. Ph: 7896112800. SV/P/PA398/1

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Requires 5 Accountant (Fresh/Experienced) S - 10 - 35000, 1 Hospitality Trainer, 2 Purchases Executive, 1 Store Incharge S-15 - 25000, 2 Tablet Desk (F) S-15000 (Copywriter), 5 Telecaller S- 6000/- Ph: 9957594600. SV/P/PA404/1

Work in Ganeshguri, Famous Company required 2 Boys & 3 Girls for various Post. HSLC - Graduate (below 26) Rs. 7500/- 25000/- Contact: Ganeshguri, Nayanpur, Kaliyapur, Bylane-2, H.No. 1, M: 848944162, 8133085615. SV/P/PA405/1

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No Registration Fees. Govt. Register Company recruits 75 (MF) below 28. Earning: AM - 12000, BM - 30,000 and other post - 5000/-10000/- Free Lodging + Fooding + bonus. Contact: Christianbharti, 8876126442, 8812023893. SV/P/15807/2

(Official/sitting Jobs) at reputed Companies. Qualifications: H.S./ Graduate (M.F). Salary- Rs. 70000 - Rs. 120000. Contact before 12.08.17. At Pratishthit H.B-26, Jonai Path, Jonai B.H. Stop, R.G.B. Road, Guwahati-24. Ph: 9864325987.

Part-time Teachers minimum 3 years experienced, for Science & Arts, St. Antony's Junior College, Nagaon. 9435063145. SV/P/15803/3

Required Delivery Boy having its own bike/active with driving license #8473809256. SV/P/A3244/2

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A reputed Tea Company required two Doctors as GMD for their Tea Estates. Remuneration will be best in the Industry. Interested candidates including retired Doctors may apply to Box No. DB-266. The Assam Tribune, Convoy Road, Chirang Chapor, Dibrugarh - 786001. SV/P/PA398/1

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IN MEMORIAM

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NURSING
Kukhla provide experience nursing for oldage person, paralytic patient & baby care. Ph: 9878842303, 78684266262. Nursing/P/PA1362/5

COOK
Residently required. Cook for No. 10, N.M. Girish Hostel Nayapuri 3rd Byelane, H.No. 10-11, Gangeshwar. Phone: 9854203132, 9854263499. Hotel/P/PA140/8

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TYphoon Noru kills two, draws near Japan

TOKYO, Aug 4: Strong typhoon Noru brought heavy rain and strong winds to southwest Japan, killing two people, local officials said today as they warned of landslides and floods.

A man in his 60s on the remote island of Yamashima died Saturday after strong gusts made him fall hard and hit his head, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said.

A man in his 80s on neighbouring Tanegashima island drowned Saturday after he went to check on his boat and was swept into the water by early Monday.

The agency warned of possible landslides, floods, heavy rain, strong winds and high waves in the southwest.

"Because the typhoon is moving very slowly, some areas are facing increased risk of landslides and other disasters," it said. -AFP

Humans like faulty robots more than perfect ones'

LONDON, Aug 4: People prefer interacting with faulty robots significantly more than with those that function and behave flawlessly, a study has found.

Although social robotics is a rapidly advancing field, social robots are not yet at a technical level where they operate without making errors, researchers said.

Nevertheless, most studies in the field are based on the assumption of faultlessly performing robots.

Researchers examined the human interaction partners' social signals following a robot error, or the team's programmed faulty behaviour into a human-like robot's routine and let the participants interact with it.

They measured the robot's likability, anthropomorphism and perceived intelligence, and analysed the users' reaction when the robot made a mistake.

By means of video coding, researchers could replicate their findings from earlier studies and show that humans respond to faulty robot behaviour with social signals.

Through interviews and user ratings, the team found that erroneous robots were not perceived as significantly less intelligent or anthropomorphic compared to perfectly performing robots.

Instead, although the humans recognised the faulty robot's mistakes, they actually rated it as more likable than its perfectly performing counterpart.

"Our results show that decoding a human's social signals can help the robot understand that there is an error and subsequently react accordingly," said Nicole Mirini, PhD candidate at University of Salzburg in Austria. -AFP

Wildfire forces evacuation of Portugal water park

LISBON, Aug 6: A wildfire raging in northern Portugal amid scorching temperatures forced the evacuation of a water park and the closure of a highway, firefighters said.

Over 70 firefighters backed by 21 vehicles were battling the blaze in scrubland near Villa Caiz, located about 55 kilometres northeast of Porto, the civil protection agency said.

Firefighters evacuated the Parque Aquatico de Amarante and closed a stretch of the A4 highway as a precaution, according to Commander Jose Pereira, the head of the firefighters in the nearby town of Avintes.

Israeli PM aide says leader calm in face of charges

JERUSALEM, Aug 6: A close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he is relaxed and confident amid reports of the slew of corruption charges against him.

Sports and Culture Minister Miri Regev says today she has full confidence in the prime minister and denounced what she called a media campaign to topple him. Netanyahu himself did not address the latest developments at his weekly Cabinet meeting.

Israeli police recently announced that they suspect Netanyahu of being involved in bribery, fraud and breach of trust in a pair of cases.

Netanyahu's former chief of staff and longtime confidante has agreed to turn state witness and testify against his former mentor. This has raised speculation that Netanyahu could be indicted shortly.

Netanyahu has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and calls the accusations a witch hunt. — AP

Scotland Yard uses classical music to fight crime

LONDON, Aug 6: In a novel initiative, Scotland Yard is using classical music as its latest weapon to fight crime in London.

A Metropolitan Police officer was set to pump the tunes of Mozart from a speaker system into a notorious housing estate here in an attempt to calm the atmosphere, relax residents and disperse troublemakers. *The Sunday Times* reported. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, known as Mozart, is regarded as a prolific and influential composer of the Classical era.

Adam Weber, a 23-year-old constable in-charge of law and order on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, was inspired by the idea of classical music as a crime-fighting tool following a pilot scheme to pipe music into 40 London underground stations to reduce anti-social behaviour.

"Incidents of verbal and physical abuse fell, so I thought let's give this a go," he told the newspaper.

Relations between police and community at Broadwater Farm have been poor for decades. In 1985, there was a riot that resulted in the murder of a police officer.

When Weber was assigned to the estate, his instructor told him: "It's a maze that they know better than you. Good luck."

Weber, one of a new batch of recruits from the Police Now scheme that attracts graduates to policing to help drive reforms and innovation, also had the idea of asking the local authority to cut the electricity to a communal area in Tangmere block on the estate where gang members used to charge their phones. — PTI



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meets with European foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini before his swearing-in ceremony for a further term, at the Parliament in Tehran, Iran on Saturday. — UNI

ISIS luring women with false sense of empowerment: report

LONDON, Aug 6: The dreaded Islamic State terror group is luring foreign women recruits with a false sense of "empowerment", according to a new report by a UK think-tank.

The report compiled by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) said the reasons that drove hundreds of women to journey from Europe to ISIS territories were "complex".

"We talked to women who hadn't been radicalised but could understand why some of these girls might have gone to Syria and Iraq so they could live as 'good Muslims,'" said Emily Winterbotham, the report's co-author. She said the use of the term "jihadi bride" to describe all female ISIS members was truly representative.

"ISIS has been successful at selling that image to women. It's not just about the naive vulnerability of jihadi bride; it's women saying: 'This is in line with my religion, my political beliefs, the fact I want to live how I want,'" Winterbotham told *The Independent*.

Possible draws were found to include "rejection of Western feminism, contact with recruiters who offer marriage and adventure, peer or family influence, adherence to ISIS ideology, naivety and ro-

mantic optimism, and the chance to be part of something new, exciting and illicit", she said.

The author said the concept of "empowerment" differed from what would be shared by most non-Muslim Western women, being seen through a dominantly religious lens.

"Women are saying 'this is empowering for me but the irony is that's not going to happen once they get there,'" Winterbotham said.

"After speaking to men and women who knew female ISIS supporters or worked in de-radicalisation programmes, they found that some women saw the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) as a source of 'empowerment' despite its subjugation of women, violent enforcement of its interpretation of Sharia law," she said.

Winterbotham, a senior research fellow at RUSI, and co-author Elizabeth Pearson, a RUSI associate fellow and a PhD candidate in war studies at King's College London, conducted their research in the UK, Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

The number of foreign women living in the so-called Islamic State is uncertain. A 2014 report estimated that 18 per cent all European ISIS members were female and the total number is now believed to be more than 550. — PTI

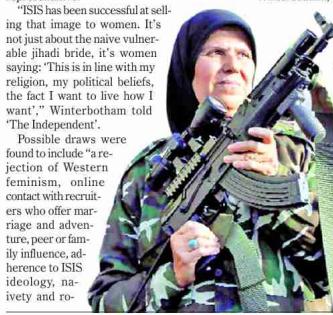
Sharif's nephew under scanner over marriage

LAHORE, Aug 6: A woman, who claims to be the wife of former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's nephew, demanded that a parliamentary committee probe her case like that of Ayesha Gulalai, who has accused opposition leader Imran Khan of sexual harassment.

Ayesha Ahad claims that Hamza Shahbaz, the son of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, "secretly" contracted his marriage with her in 2010 but later unceremoniously abandoned her. Shahbaz Sharif is the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif.

Her demand to set up a parliamentary committee comes after Gulalai accused that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and former cricket team captain Khan had sent her lewd messages and hinted at marrying her in her texts.

After Gulalai's allegations, the National Assembly on Friday decided to form a special panel to investigate the charges. Ahad now wants that a committee be formed on the similar lines to probe her case. — PTI



Myanmar probe finds no campaign of abuse against Rohingya

YANGON, Aug 6: A government-appointed commission today cleared Myanmar security forces of systematic rape, murder and arson against Rohingya Muslims, dismissing UN allegations of widespread abuses during a recent crackdown.

The commission examined the deadly violence which began in the northwestern Rakhine State in October last year after attacks by Rohingya militants on police posts near the Bangladeshi border.

The government is refusing to allow a UN fact-finding team to conduct its own probe into whether the security response amounted to "ethnic cleansing" of the stateless Rohingya minority. Giving their conclusions today, a state-backed commission said it found no evidence that Myanmar security forces car-

ried out a systematic campaign of rape, murder or arson.

Instead any "excessive actions" were likely committed by low-rank "individual members of the security forces".

"Some incidents of abuse" appeared to be fabricated.. others had little evidence," according to a press release by the commission.

It also took aim at a detailed report by the UN's Human Rights Office released in February this year. That report said it was "very likely" that crimes against humanity had been committed during the crackdown.

Based on interviews with 204 witnesses who fled to Bangladesh, the UN alleged Myanmar security forces gang-raped Rohingya women, butchered children and tortured men.

But "no such cases were uncovered" by the government commission, which said the UN findings lacked balance and failed to recognise the gravity of the attacks by Rohingya militants.

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is a nobel peace prize winner, is blocking a visit by a UN team.

She says the government commission is an adequate response to the violence, which left scores dead and displaced tens of thousands of Rohingya to Bangladesh.

Stateless, poor and subject to tight controls on movement, education and work, roughly one million of the Muslim group are hemmed into the impoverished border zone – which remains locked down and under curfew. — AFP

NEW YORK, Aug 6: People strongly value their reputation and will go to extraordinary lengths – such as preferring to kill themselves or cutting off their hands – to protect their image, a study has found.

History is filled with examples of people defending their honour, sometimes to death.

Ship captains, for example, were long expected to go down with their ships. Researchers studied whether that intense desire to maintain one's image prevail in modern times.

Researchers, including those from Florida State University in

'UK ready to pay 40-bn euro Brexit divorce bill'

LONDON, Aug 6: Britain is open to paying up to 40 billion euros (USD 47.1 billion) towards a so-called Brexit divorce bill to the European Union as long as a future UK-EU trade deal can be secured, a media report said today.

Three separate sources within the UK civil service and government with knowledge of the UK's Brexit negotiating strategy have confirmed the figure, dismissing previous reports that British Prime Minister Theresa May would agree to a 50-billion-pound bill as "too high".

According to the report published in *The Sunday Telegraph*, the UK government negotiators for Britain's exit from the European Union have been able to ascertain that the 27-member EU's actual opening position is around 60 billion euros – not 100 billion euros as previously suggested.

"The 27 say they can't knock off the bits of their 'bill' until the very end – but politically we can't move on money until the 27 member states start to show compromise. As a negotiation process, it just doesn't work," a senior civil servant based at Whitehall in London told the newspaper.

"We know their position is 60 billion euros, but actual bottom line is 50 billion euros. Ours is closer to 30 billion euros, even if the landing zone is 40 billion euros, even if the political add-ons are not all there yet," the official added.

A second Whitehall source confirmed the UK bottom line was "30 billion euros-40 bil-

lion euros" while a third political source put the figure in May's mind at "north of 30 billion euros".

Making such a large offer is likely to prove politically divisive for Theresa May.

Brexiters within the Conservative party will find it hard to accept paying such a sum, especially if it was not in exchange for a workable future relationship.

British Brexit negotiators concluded after second-round talks last month that the EU had created a non-negotiable stance by refusing to talk about trade until it had reached a settlement on citizens' rights, money and Northern Ireland. UK officials have been looking at a compromise by proposing a transition deal in which Britain would offer to continue to make net payments to the EU of some 10 billion euros a year for up to three years after Brexit.

According to the latest estimate, this continued EU budget payment for 2019-2021 could represent a partial down-payment on a final 40-billion-euros bill that negotiators hope will jump-start talks on trade and future relations. Britain ended with 52 per cent in favour of leaving the European Union in a referendum last year. — PTI

Abbas pledges to ramp up Gaza sanctions

GAZA CITY, Aug 6: Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas has pledged to increase sanctions on the Gaza Strip, drawing a fresh attack from its Hamas rulers.

"Since the coup, we have paid a billion and a half dollars to the Gaza Strip," Abbas said, referring to the 2007 overthrow of his Fatah movement by Hamas in Gaza. "We will not allow this to continue," the WAFQA official Palestinian news agency reported him as saying in Arabic.

"Either things will go as they are meant to be, or we will continue to reduce these funds," he said, accusing Hamas of stealing some of the two million residents.

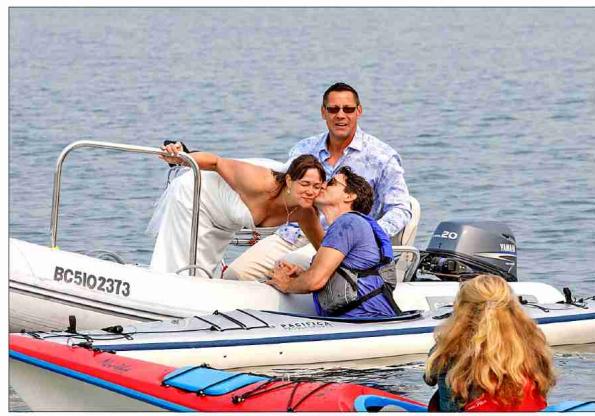
"We will continue the gradual stopping of financial allocations to the Gaza Strip un-

til Hamas commits to reconciliation" with the Abbas administration, the president said.

It accused Abbas's Palestinian Authority of working with Israel to isolate Gaza and bring suffering to its people.

Both sides have previously committed to reconciliation, but repeated attempts have failed.

The Palestinian Authority had been paying for some electricity to be delivered to Gaza since 2007, but in recent months has reduced the amount. Gazans now receive only a couple of hours of electricity a day, delivered from the territory's own power station and others in Israel and Egypt. — AFP



Newlyweds Michelle and Heiner Gruetzner, who were holding their wedding reception nearby, approach Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau while he was kayaking off Sidney, British Columbia, Canada on Saturday. — UNI

People can go to extremes to protect their honour: study



NEW YORK, Aug 6: People strongly value their reputation and will go to extraordinary lengths – such as preferring to kill themselves or cutting off their hands – to protect their image, a study has found.

History is filled with examples of people defending their honour, sometimes to death.

Ship captains, for example, were long expected to go down with their ships. Researchers studied whether that intense desire to maintain one's image prevail in modern times.

Researchers, including those from Florida State University in

the US, conducted experiments involving fake tests and combined data from several previous studies to learn more about how strenuously people will protect their reputation.

The team looked for examples in four prior studies on pride and honour.

They found many examples that showed people do still very strongly value their pride, honour and reputation. When asked if they had to choose between having a swastika tattooed on their forehead or having their hand cut off, for example, many volunteers

actually chose the latter.

Others were presented with the choice of living a long life as a known paedophile or being put to death right away. Researchers found that many people reported preferring death.

The team then carried out their own experiments involving giving volunteers fake tests designed to uncover hidden racism with the results to be made public.

The second part of their experiments involved offering alternatives to publicising the results, such as submersion of a hand in a bucket of worms –

nearly a third chose to go with the worms or other equally gruesome options.

The findings show that people very strongly value their reputations and many are likely to go to extremes to protect their honour if it should be placed at risk.

The research offers some explanation for why so many young people have taken their own lives after being subjected to online smearing and bullying, researchers said.

The study was published in the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. — PTI



Bank fraud prime accused held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: The prime accused in the IndusInd Bank misappropriation case, Olivia Dutta Choudhury, has been arrested from Nainital in Uttarakhand.

A team of Guwahati police was following the movement of Olivia and managed to get hold of her around 7 pm today, informed Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Ranjan Bhuyan.

The team, which was led by Supratim Lal Baruah, ACP Panbazar, arrested the accused from a bus area in Nainital.

Olivia will be brought to Guwahati on transit remand tomorrow, after which she will be produced before a local court here.

Olivia Dutta Choudhury is Manager (Operations) of the IndusInd Bank branch located at Bhangaghat here. Her husband, Shankar Sinha, Branch Manager of an IndusInd Bank in Gangtok, was earlier arrested in connection with the case, which relates to fraudulent transfer of money from customers' accounts.

Investigations reveal that more than Rs 2.5 crore was misappropriated from accounts of depositors mostly during June and July. The misappropriated money were then transferred to various fictitious accounts.

Books, clothes for students of flood-hit areas

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: The Himalaya Welfare Society of Pub Yojanagar here, in collaboration of Anand Nagar Sports and Cultural Club, Guwahati, donated text books, copies, clothes, food, etc., for school students of the flood-affected areas of Assam, stated a press release.

In a meeting held today the flood relief items were handed over to the office-bearers of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Ulubari here, to be distributed among the flood-affected people of Galpur, Lakhimpur and Morigaon areas.

Ragpickers are humans, too!

Like any other parts of the city, the Sipokhuri area is also not free from filth. Garbage and leftovers are found all over the area, especially on the footpaths and the roads, which is not only causing problems for the inhabitants of the locality, but also polluting the environment. Ragpickers, especially children, often collect the garbage and sweep up the place, but people do not have any sympathy for them. We, the people, create these ragpickers, but we avoid them later like a plague. It's really disheartening that the authorities concerned are doing nothing for the future of these ragpickers, who are mostly children. I would like to urge the authorities concerned to do something for the child ragpickers so that their whole future doesn't revolve around rummaging through garbage.

Laanya Sharma,
Gauhati University

citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to: citizensvoice3@gmail.com

The condition of the road at Charbari is also pathetic and needs immediate attention.

Nirmal Agarwal,
Rehaburi

Traffic jam menace

Almost every other day, the denizens of Guwahati complain about traffic jams on the city roads. To deal with this alarming situation, the authorities concerned haven't taken any con-

crete steps till date. Despite being well aware of the situation, how can the district administration allow protests and dharnas near the Diphukhuri? The area is very close to educational institutions and a popular tourist spot, too. But holding of protest programmes at this spot has become a regular feature, causing great inconvenience to the public. I would like to request the district administration to take some bold steps to stop this menace immediately.

Dipak Das,
Jorpurkuri

Senseless driving

One of the major problems causing traffic jam in the city is senseless driv-

ing by some people. Everybody wants to go first and this tendency often leads to traffic jams on the roads. The traffic jam problem is very acute especially after the Janata Bhawan as drivers take wrong turns, often willfully. If the city traffic authorities take the following two steps, the problem of traffic jam can be controlled to an extent:

(a) Traffic personnel on duty should be empowered to impose fines and they should carry fine receipt books with them while on duty.

2. Track driving should be made compulsory, at least 50 metres before the traffic point. It should be made compulsory from Khampani to Paltan Bazar and Ganeshguri to Panbari.

AK Barua,
Guwahati



Former Director of the National Book Trust NK Bhattacharyya speaking at the Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya Memorial Lecture programme at the Kanaklal Barua Auditorium in Guwahati, on Sunday. — UB Photos

Citizens write to CM urging him to help Lafikul's kin

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: A group of prominent citizens, including journalists and educationists, has written to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal over the killing of Lafikul Islam Ahmed, president of the All BTC Minority Students' Union (ABMSU). "In a conflict-ridden region like BTAD, Lafikul Islam Ahmed's activism touched many hearts. But his death on August 1 has brought together people of various communities. The show of solidarity and the peaceful protest following his assassination is indeed noteworthy," the letter written to the Chief Minister today stated.

The letter, while lauding the contribution of Ahmed as a progressive youth leader who raised awareness among the Bengal-origin Muslim community about child marriage, polygamy, dowry and domestic violence, also appreciated the Chief Minister's move to write to the Centre recommending a CBI probe and at the same time constituting a special investigation team (SIT) of Assam Police to look into the matter.

"We would urge him to follow up with the Centre so that the CBI can take over the case as soon as possible," the letter pointed out.

"He also highlighted the need for girls' education, and even created a women's wing of the ABMSU, where he served as its president till his

death," the letter highlighted. "Ahmed's murder leaves a big void in minority leadership in Assam, and void in the effort of those who, cutting across markers of identities, were working for peace and amity in the region," the letter, signed by as many as 43 prominent personalities in the State, added. The letter also appreciated the State Government's swift action in the matter.

"We request Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to consider providing long-term support to Ahmed's family. This would go a long way not only in showing political goodwill, but also in establishing a sense of social justice," the letter stated.

"It is our sincere plea to the media to respect their sense of privacy and to avoid any kind of misreporting that might negatively affect the family," the letter added.

Among those who signed the letter include Indrani RaiMedhi, Features Editor, The Assam Tribune; Monirul Hussain, former HOD, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University; Miguel Das Queah, child rights activist; Kenny Basumatary, actor and filmmaker; Kishalay Bhattacharjee, journalist and author; Kaustubh Deka, Assistant Professor, Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia; Mrinal Talukdar, senior Journalist; and Patricia Mukhim, Editor, The Shillong Times, among others.



Volunteers of the group Prodigy holding placards carrying messages on road safety, in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

Contributions of women to social awakening in Assam hailed

STAFF REPORTER

acy that is inspiring and largely relevant even today," he said.

Asserting that Assamese women have, over the centuries, contributed immensely to social awakening, exhibiting in the process not just a sense of social responsibility but intellectual brilliance as well.

This was observed by writer and critic Mayur Bora while delivering the Padma Bhushan Puspalata Das Memorial Lecture at the Pandit Tirthanath Sarma Bhawan today.

The lecture was organized as part of the fifth biennial convention of the Sadou Asam Lekhika Samiti Samiti under the aegis of its Mahanagar Zila Parishad.

Referring to a host of well-known as well as underhanded women of substance who enriched Assam's social life through their contributions in diverse spheres since the medieval times – literary, cultural, educational and social work – Bora said that almost all those women had also surmounted the imposing hurdles posed by a patriarchal society.

"They strove hard in their quest for excellence in their chosen fields and had to overcome daunting impediments put by a male-dominated society. They were successful in breaking stereotypes associated with women and left behind an enduring leg-

were and still are at a disadvantaged position due to the biased treatment meted out to them by society. But things have improved considerably in modern times with the spread of education and economic empowerment of women," he added.

Bora said that the change in Mahatma Gandhi's opinion of Assam from that of an awful place to an ideal land was influenced largely by the 15th-century saint-reformer Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and the credibility and capacity of Assamese women.

Rising the 'rootlessness' of the present-day Assamese society, especially the Assamese middle class, Bora said that the key to an uplift of the Assamese society lay in cultural awakening. "Unfortunately, we are witnessing a disturbing trend, for either aping the West or unabashed endorsement of the culture of the Hindi belt at the expense of our own unique identity," he said.

Health camp for Pobitora frontline forest staff

STAFF REPORTER

There will also be a free tuberculosis (TB) detection camp, where specialists from the Department of Health will conduct the screening and tests and any positive case detected will be taken up for free treatment.



Later, Dalmia Cement, in collaboration with Abikul, provided relief materials to the flood-affected people of Madanborti Suntilla village.

The flood relief campaign was flagged off by Pramila Rani Brahma. She also laid stress on further developing Pobitora as an important tourist spot.

Relief materials that included necessary provisions like food, toiletries, clothes and other household essentials, were provided to 200 flood-affected families.

Health camp

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: Police today arrested one Vivek Talukdar (20) for duping two students hailing from Dimapur, Nagaland, in the name of providing hassle-free admission into the Prajyotish College here a few days back.

Two other accused are on the run, police said. The accused had taken Rs 70,000 from both the aspiring students in the name of admissions and even supplied forged documents.

The matter came to light after the two students from Dimapur brought the matter to the notice of the Principal, after which the latter lodged a complaint with the Bharalumukh police station.

Health camp

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: Lions Club of Guwahati City association with Paltan Bazar Vishnu Jyoti Sangha organised a free health check-up camp at Paltan Bazar today.

Over 80 people were screened for blood pressure, diabetic and other diseases, a press release said.

Around 120 forest guards participated in the camp.

**সাংস্কৃতিক সংগঠনকালয়, অসমৰ সহযোগত
নটস্মৰ্যৰ উদ্যোগত দ্বি-বিংশতিম্ বার্ষিক
সাতদিনীয়া
নাট সামাজোহ**

১, ২, ৩, ৪, ৫, ৬ আৰু ৭ আগষ্ট, ২০১৭
প্ৰাণজ্যোতি সাংস্কৃতিক প্ৰকল্প
মাছথোৱা, গুৱাহাটী

আজিৰ নিবেদন
৭ আগষ্ট, ২০১৭ সোমবাৰ
নিশা ৬:৩০ বজাৰ
কোৰাছ বেপাৰটৰি
থিয়েটাৰ, মণিপুৰ নিবেদন

মেকবেথ কাহিনী : উহুলিয়াম ষেইন্সপীয়েৰ
ডিজাইন আৰু পৰিচালনা : বৰতন থিয়াত্ৰ
প্ৰেৰণ দুবাৰত বিনামূলীয়া প্ৰাৰ্থনা পত্ৰ মাছথোৱা আৰি, টি. এ. সেন্টাৰৰ পনা
সংজো কৰিব পাৰিব

**আজল শান্তীয়া
সভাপতি**
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**বসন্ত কুমাৰ বৰুৱা
সামৰণৰ সম্পাদক**
ফোন: ৯৮৬৪০২২৯৭২



MESSAGE FOR TODAY

If you don't run your own life, somebody else will.

- JOHN ATKINSON

The Assam Tribune

Potential threat

No doubt the observation by an Indian origin politician in Britain, that India is on the brink of a war with China, is somewhat hyperbolic, yet the continued stand-off at Dokla La does contain a potential threat of escalation. The impasse has been the outcome of a Chinese attempt to build a road through an area which Bhutan claims as its own, forcing India to intervene to stop the construction. However, observers of the international scenario aver that the Chinese action at a strategic point of India's border is an intentional response to the latter's stance in South China Sea and her alliance with the US and littoral countries of the region such as Vietnam. It may be noted that tiny Vietnam, bolstered by India's support, has even dared to challenge Chinese activities in South China Sea. A devious game is being played out; China has continued sabre-rattling without really indulging in further provocative action, allowing its State-controlled media to spew venom at her rival. For instance, the Chinese daily *Global Times* has aggressively asserted that Modi's hard line stance is "pushing India to war" and that the Indian leadership is gambling with the destiny of her people. Warning that India is challenging a far superior opponent, the newspaper has also written that the People's Liberation Army of China is eager for a fight, but is restraining itself because it cherishes peace.

Apparently, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's visit to Beijing last month and his talks with his Chinese counterpart Yeng Jichi have yielded no solution and the forces of the two nations remain in a state of eyeball to eyeball confrontation at Dokla La. While experts do not predict immediate breaking out of actual hostilities, since neither nations will benefit from such an outcome, the protracted nature of the confrontation is keeping tensions running high. This is not a sought for state of affairs, for sometimes a single false move might result in a spark turning into inferno. From their utterances it is clear that the leadership of both countries do not want hostilities to break out; India's Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj insists that a diplomatic solution is possible and that India is working towards that end. Indian diplomats need to shift into high gear now, conscious of the reality that the Chinese at the moment are attempting to assume the mantle of global leadership on the trade and environmental front. A petty dispute with a neighbour would come in the way of China's grandiose aspirations, so a proactive endeavour to defuse tensions might possibly yield results. India on her part needs to appreciate the constraints that shackle the Chinese leadership - keeping autocratic control over billions of citizens is no easy task - and has to play her cards keeping those in mind.

Onion prices

The humble onion never fails to make the headlines, while bringing tears - literally as well as metaphorically - to the eyes of the harrowed consumer. With prices of foodstuff hitting an unprecedented high in the markets, the hapless common man is finding it increasingly hard to cope with the worsening situation. Onion, the much-sought-after kitchen staple, has recorded a steep rise overnight, making it effectively out of bounds for the average consumer. There had been a rise at source at Nasik but the hike in Assam was manifest even before the fresh stock of onion (at higher rates) could reach the State's markets. Apparently, the unjustified hike in the old stocks was orchestrated by unscrupulous traders of the State immediately after coming to know about the hike at Nasik. Indeed, this has been the disturbing trend for all the commodities that the State imports from outside. With the administration and the Food and Civil Supplies Department choosing to ignore the developments, traders are simply fleecing the consumers. And even when there is a hike source, the price in the State invariably rises abnormally, not being commensurate with the hike at source. This lays bare the absence of any monitoring and enforcement mechanism. By letting the common man bleed, the Government has shown that it is little interested in addressing a matter of vital public interest like price rise. This has to change and the Government's response must go beyond terming price rise as an-all India phenomenon.

The situation calls for sustained monitoring and enforcement by the Government and the administration. Hoarding and black-marketing should be put down with a firm hand. Matters have worsened as the Food and Civil Supplies Department, which is supposed to keep watch on the prices of essential commodities and verify the traders' justifications for effecting hikes, remains virtually non-existent. Then, the prices of locally-produced vegetables have also skyrocketed in recent times. More than any shortfall in supply, the situation has to do with the thriving racket of middlemen and illegal syndicates. This ensures that the toiling farmers, too, are getting deprived of remuneration even as the consumers end up paying high prices. Securing market linkage and setting up cold storages at all the production hubs should have been a priority for the Government but it remains in a state of blissful stupor. The onion crisis has deepened in Assam because compared to the overall annual demand for onions at 4.5 lakh MT, a meagre 30,900 MT is produced locally and the rest is imported from outside. The productivity of onion in the State, too, is abysmally low at 3.62 MT a hectare against the national productivity of 16.79 MT. Efforts, therefore, are to be directed towards increasingly onion productivity in the State. For this, one has to bring in the necessary technological interventions.

Building a healthy society

■ Barun Barpujari

The health sector in Assam remains vital to the well-being and development of the State and requires continued focused attention. Assam has certain unwanted dubious distinctions, viz., highest maternal mortality rate in the country and also very high infant mortality rate. The incidence of cancer, diabetes and cardiac problems is alarmingly high. While it is important to extend and upgrade the health delivery infrastructure and services, it is also very important to create a healthy society whose need for medical treatment is progressively reduced over time. Hygiene, healthy lifestyle with increased physical activity, good eating habits and availability of good quality food and clean drinking water, clean energy etc., are essential for creating such a state of things. Effort needs to be directed towards this end as much as in improving the medical treatment facilities and delivery system.

The Assam Government has agreed to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Goal No. 3 vouches for good health and well-being, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Water borne diseases contribute to the high incidence of ailments in the absence of clean drinking water. The problem is exacerbated by the prevalence of open defecation and recurring flood water contaminating the drinking water sources. Provision of clean drinking water would greatly relieve people, both on account of recurring ailment and the expenditure on treatment thereof. Making clean drinking water available

across the State needs to become a mission of the State Health Department.

Different options and technological choices are available today to meet the requirement of clean drinking water. Centralized water treatment plants with distribution networks are the most prevalent choice. However, they are expensive to build and require a significant set-up to operate and maintain. While they work well in cities and towns, it is difficult to see them work well in remote areas at present where the ecosystem to facilitate such effort is not yet robust.

As opposed to such centralized water treatment and distribution systems, today there are 'point-of-use water purifiers' that remove various types of contaminants from water, making it safe for drinking. Some such purifiers are also designed to operate without electricity. These purifiers are easy to install and simple to maintain and, hence, are ideal for use in rural and remote areas.

Another area of health focus needs to be provision of non-polluting lighting source and cooking energy medium. The Central Government is attempting to address the latter issue through the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana which aims to provide clean cooking fuel, viz., LPG, to BPL families bearing the initial cost. In the absence of electricity supply, the poor people and those living in remote areas use crude wicker lamps (bottles with

wicks inserted through the stopper go as kerosene lamps) for meeting the lighting needs. Smoke emanating from incomplete combustion of kerosene is highly detrimental to health. During the winter season, with doors and windows closed, the environment inside the house becomes highly polluted and this air is inhaled by the inhabitants with consequent adverse impact on their health. Women and children, who largely remain confined indoor after

needs focused attention.

Healthy and clean food is a vast area and has many dimensions. The Government may increase its commitment towards organic farming to reverse the trend of indiscriminate use of inorganic fertilizers and chemicals to meet the growing market demand of food. One way to achieve this would be to increase acreage under cultivation and encourage greater participation of people to engage in organic farming through incentive schemes/higher price fixation of produce; the Health Department may work with the Agriculture Department to provide greater focus and encouragement on organic farming. The livestock and fishery sectors are important sources of protein in Assam. These sectors need focus and accountability on hygiene aspect and growth to meet the burgeoning requirement. Rearing of pigs requires considerable improvement in hygiene aspect.

dusk, are the worst sufferers. Providing a clean and better source of lighting, like solar lanterns/home lighting systems in rural and remote areas, would obviate the above problems while having the underlined additional benefits.

Open defecation is the root cause of several problems, including health. The Government may consider seeking participation of various institutions/organizations operating in the State to supplement its effort to create an open defecation-free State. Poor management of solid and liquid waste is one of the major reasons for a large number of health issues. This issue is of vital importance and there-

are the worst sufferers. Providing a clean and better source of lighting, like solar lanterns/home lighting systems in rural and remote areas, would obviate the above problems while having the underlined additional benefits.

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those becoming addicted to drugs.

It is under this background that discussion about the term 'social defence' derives its significance. Social defence is that defence which can be made available from members of the society to a special category of people for ensuring a sustained life. Social defence can be provided by Government, NGOs and civil societies. The three visible outputs of social defence are a happy end for parents which in turn is a solace for their children; increase in life expectancy or long life which brings rejoice for seniors and a secured, dignified and productive life for the elderly.

In India, the nodal agency for social defence is the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which focuses on policies and programmes for senior citizens and victims of drug abuse. The programmes and policies for senior citizens are aimed at welfare and maintenance of senior citizens. This is ensured by supporting old age homes, maintaining day care centres and introducing mobile medicine units. Programmes for victims of drug abuse include awareness campaigns and treatment of addicts and their detoxification. The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) is an autonomous body un-

der the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The main objective of this institute is to strengthen and provide technical inputs to the social defence programmes of the Government of India and to develop and train manpower resources required in the area of social defence. The main functions of NISD are conducting training programmes pertaining to care for senior citizens; drug abuse prevention and other social defence issues; offering consultation and organizing seminars on policies and programmes in the field of social defence. The other important function of this institute is to develop programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and cure for the drug addicts. The National Consultative Committee on De-addiction and Rehabilitation (NCCDR), of which Minister of Social Justice is the chairperson, advises the Government on issues connected with drug demand reduction; educational awareness; de-addiction and rehabilitation of drug addicts and formulates national policy for prevention of alcoholism and drug abuse and rehabilitation of its victims. There are eight National Resource and Training Centres which act as field training units of the National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention. These centres take up activity of training of volunteers/

service providers and other stakeholders involved in prevention of drug abuse.

The National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) has been established in our country to advise the Government in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the aged. The constituents of NCOP include Central and State government representatives, NGOs, citizen groups, retired persons' association and experts from the field of law, social welfare and medicine. Integrated programmes for elderly persons include activities like providing shelter, food and medical care; entertainment opportunities; encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building, etc.

In Assam there is an active senior citizens' association which has been raising voice and drawing attention of the Government on various issues. Activities of the association has been lauded by the people at large because, apart from demanding some facilities and incentives for senior citizens, they have taken up the noble job of felicitating and giving social recognition to those senior citizens who have made contribution to the society in some form or have shown excellent performance in some area of expertise, whether it is sports, culture or literature.

The State Department of Social Welfare can think of schemes and programmes through which it can give financial support to any welfare initiative undertaken by such associations or NGOs taking up welfare or enterprising activities for senior citizens. One such initiative "aging" in line with the National Institute of Aging in New Delhi and Chennai can be established in Assam also.

There lies responsibility on both the Government and the society to create a culture of respect for elderly persons, something which is yet to be seen its entirety amongst the present generation. However, amidst this, we can see a silver lining in the whole affair when we see some individuals, members of NGOs and young artists amidst the residents of the old age homes located in Guwahati on special occasions like Bihu, New Year etc., either to give them some gifts or to perform for their entertainment. The role of the media in encouraging these activities of the young generation is indeed a welcome step. Also, more and more institutions should come up in Assam to provide courses on geriatric care. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati has taken a lead in this direction by opening diploma courses in geriatric care which deserves appreciation.

■ Manoj Kumar Sarma

A lot of cases have been reported by the media in recent time about incidents of senior citizens being neglected and tortured physically and mentally by their own kith and kin at the frag end of their life. Ailing parents left unattended in hospitals, forcefully taking them out of their own houses, putting them at public places or at roadside only to be discovered and subsequently taken care by NGOs are some of such instances which are vivid in the mind of readers because few such incidents were widely publicized by the media of our State few months back. This is a grave situation. Hence, there is an urgent need for all in the society to support the senior citizens, the old and the ailing parents who miss the fortune to get good treatment from their sons, daughters or daughter-in-laws once they become incapable of earning because of their ailment or old age. Similar is the case with the drug addicts who are always considered a burden to the society without realizing the truth that if transformed, they could be useful and productive for the society. It is in fact the responsibility of the society to provide special care for this special category of people which includes parents, senior citizens and

Social defence: means for a sustained life

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, - It has been reported in your esteemed daily (July 30) that the Tea Board chairman PK Behravali, while speaking at the Assam Tea Planters' Association meeting held at the Tocklai Tea Research Institute auditorium on the challenges faced by the tea industry, blamed the lifting of barriers of the industry by the first AGP Government leading to the entry of many people to tea plantations. He further said that there was no level playing field in the industry after the small growers and bought-leaf factories came up in large numbers which is now affecting all the stakeholders. This has reflected that the chairman of the Tea Board is not happy with the growth of the small tea growers in the area and would like to hold the small growers responsible for the challenges facing the tea industry, even without going into the depth of such challenges.

Again in your daily, a news was

Small growers and Tea Board

flashed on August 1 last stating that the Central Government has announced the Tea (Marketing) Control Order 203 vide notification S.O. 21 dated January 3 thereby paving the way for the establishment of mini tea factories by the small growers with ease to produce not more than 500 kgs of made tea per day. The Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Nirmala Sitharaman, further said that in order to boost cultivation by the small tea growers, the Central Government through the Tea Board is providing financial assistance in plantation, rejuvenation, pruning, upgrade and field mechanization. Now it is seen that while the Central Government is trying to encourage the small tea growers through the Tea Board, the Board chairman instead is highly sceptical about the growth of the small growers putting a big question mark on the intention of the Central Government. Now it is very clear that if the principles of the Tea Board and intentions of the Central Government are not

in sync and if the challenges faced by the industry are not duly addressed while encouraging the small growers (involving lakhs of unemployed youth), this particular sector may not flourish in the coming days as desired by the Central Government. Yours etc., UTPAL BORPATRAGOHAIN, KB Road, North Lakhimpur.

Double tracking

Sir, - This has a reference to the news item 'At least 15 new Railways projects on N.E.' (AT, August 5). It is rather soothing to the eyes to read and palatable to the mind to hear about the development projects of the railways in the region but one thing that continues to bug us is that why priorities are not being set and proper weightage to the matter of completion of the double track network has not been given. Just laying of new lines and increasing the number of trains will not raise the standard of service unless it is assured that train communication will be smooth and punctual and very pertinently, only a

double line service can minimize or eliminate the wastage of time that accrues due to the fact that trains have to wait for extra time to get a clearance to use the main track which is overused, overburdened and mostly queued up. Yours etc., BHASKAR PHUKAN, Banminimaidam, Guwahati.

Ministry expansion

Sir, - This has a reference to

the news item 'Sonowal to expand Cabinet soon' (AT, August 6). Assam Chief Minister Sonowal would be in a big dilemma when he will choose new faces to induce into his ministry. First, Chief Minister Sonowal will have to satisfy his own party. Next, he will have to give few portfolios of his ministry to the AGP and BPF which are coalition partners of the ruling BJP. What matters is that Sonowal will have to be courageous in choosing new faces for his ministry. The selection of the new ministers should be based on merit and everyone in the ministry should be efficient and sincere. Indeed, only the right persons should become ministers. Already, the BJP-led Government in Assam has completed the first year of its rule but, the common man in the State is not satisfied with the performance of the Government. The common man has not noticed any remarkable development in the State. Assam being a backward State, the State Government has to perform in a smarter way. The common people in the State want to see a prosperous Assam. There is enough room for the Assam ministry to become smarter and sincere. Unless the BJP-led Government in Assam acts in a proper way, the State will never be developed and its people will continue to suffer. As such, all the ministers in the Assam Cabinet need to be efficient. Yours etc., MAHESWAR DEKA, Rangiya.

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



Participants taking part in 'Organathon' to create mass awareness about organ donation, Guwahati on Sunday - UB Photos

Ishu: sensitive treatment of a complex issue

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: *Ishu*, the newest production of Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), is a feature film that will instantly take the viewer to the world of a kid whose innocent and happy-go-lucky world turns topsy-turvy thanks to the superheroic acts of adults around him.

Set in a remote tribal Rabha village in lower Assam area bordering Meghalaya's Garo Hills, this Assamese film is based on noted Assamese writer Manikuntala Bhattacharya's popular novel *Ishu*, and marks the feature film debut of award-winning film critic and documentary director Upal Borpujari.

The film takes a look at the inhuman practice of 'witch hunting' that is prevalent in parts of Assam as well as some other parts of India, through

the eyes of an innocent child whose favourite aunt is branded a 'witch' by the evil village *bij* (quack), who conspires with another aunt to do so.

Treated like a fairy tale albeit set in today's times, *Ishu* is a sensitive take on how such incidents impact a child psychologically, with the narrative taking the viewer along protagonist Ishu's quest to find his mother who goes missing after being assaulted by the villagers at the instigation of the villainous quack.

The social evil of 'witch hunting' has been a recurring problem in Assam, so much so that the State Assembly unanimously passed the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill 2015, following years of sustained campaign by civil society organisations and an intervention by the Gauhati High Court.

The Bill, however, is



Upal Borpujari

yet to become a law.

Several incidents of witch hunting have been reported in Assam during this year too while according to data placed in the State Assembly, 93 cases of witch hunting were reported and 77 persons, including 35 women, were killed during 2015-2016.

"However, despite its sensitive and serious backdrop, my film treats the subject in a way that is suitable for view-

ers by children. In fact, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has given it U certification without any cuts," says Borpujari, who believes that children's films can effectively take up social issues if handled sensitively.

CFSI Chairman Mukesh Khanna said this movie will give a clear message to the people that social evils are bad and must be eradicated from society. "Children are the future of our country and should always be motivated. By presenting social evils like 'witch hunting', we are making circumstances worse for children and disturb their psychology. This will have an adverse effect on the children and will not help them in their career and overall development," he said.

"Movies like *Ishu* bring awakening in society about the ill-effects of social evils and educate people about their harmful aspects on society. CFSI will continue to make and promote such films whose themes are aimed at bringing

about transformation in society for the benefit of mankind, particularly children," Khanna added.

Incidentally, the script of *Ishu* was chosen as the only Asian entry into the 2012 Junior Co-Production Market of Cinekid International Film Festival, Amsterdam.

In the film, the lead role is played by 10-year-old Kapil Garo, who hails from Sonapur area near Guwahati. Kapil, who has given a performance with maturity much beyond his tender age, was selected for the role after the director and his team interacted with nearly 300 kids across Assam.

The film also stars two-time National Award (Special Jury Mention)-winning actor Bishnu Kharhgoria and National Award-winning Manipuri actress Tonthoingambu Leishangthem Devi, along with veterans like Chetana Das and Pratibha Choudhury and younger actors like Monuj Borkotoky, Dipika Deka and Nibedita Bharali.

Teachers' excellence awards instituted

STAFF REPORTER

mar Baruah; educationist Dr Suresh Mohan Malauta; Dr Dilip Kumar Kalita, Director Amdoram Borooah Institute of Language, Art and Culture (ABLAC) and educationists Binjal Kumar Hazarika and Dr Pulak Bhattacharya.

Nominations will be received through the principal/headmaster of the applicant's school. The last date for submission of nominations is November 30, 2017. The award ceremony will be held in January 2018.

The nomination forms are available at Bookland Publication or can be asked online by sending an email to bdmbnbook@gmail.com.

Each school will be allowed to nominate three teachers and a maximum of 100 teachers will be selected for the awards through intensive screening and follow-up by an expert panel. The awards would be open for any teacher from among the various public or government school of the region. There will be no fees involved and 93 of the 100 selected teachers would be awarded certificates, mementos and gifts. The other seven teachers would be selected for their position once shortlists are finalised.

Moreover, in recent times, there has been a paradigm shift in the policy of the Government of India in matters of creating infrastructure along the border with China. For years after the 1962 war, the Government of India refrained from creating major infrastructure like roads near the international border, apprehending that China might make use of it in case of any eventuality. But the policy has now changed and the Government of India has started construction of major roads in the area, which not only improved connectivity for the people living in the remote parts of the country but such roads would also come handy in the management of men and materials in case of tension along the international border, the sources added.

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: Guwahati Cycle Tour is organising a bicycle rally, 'Freedom Ride 2017', on August 15 to celebrate the Independence Day.

After singing of the National Anthem, the rally will start at 6:30 am from Latasil Playground and pass through various fields of the city for a total distance of 30 km before ending at Latasil.

"We are expecting about 150 to 200 cyclists for the event. We have made wearing a helmet compulsory for all cyclists participating in the event. This is to inculcate safety culture among the people.

We have restricted the age of participants above 18 years so as to have some control of the event," the organisers said.

Many cycling-related organ-

isations of Guwahati, both having commercial and non-commercial interests, are supporting the event.

Partnering organisations will provide technical support to cyclists in case of breakdown or repair. They will provide vehicles capable of carrying 5-6 cycles in case of total breakdown. Nutrition partners will provide snacks and drinks to the cyclists. A fully equipped ambulance will accompany the cyclists to provide first aid if required.

The ride will be led by two open-air vehicles with people from the partner fitness organisation.

There will be pacers on cycles who will guide the cyclists to ride in unison.

Meanwhile, the Guwahati Cycle Tour has submitted a petition to the Government of Assam requesting to cre-

ate cycling lanes around Guwahati.

"There is no dedicated path for the bicycle commuters, which is unsafe as all motorised vehicles burgle in the sides of the roads (normally where the cyclists ride) to sneak a way through. In the process, they cause threats to the cyclist," the organisers said in the petition to the Chief Minister.

It said that designated paths should be earmarked only for the cyclists. "Authorities should enforce the same for rest of the vehicles not to interfere into the cycling path," it said, identifying at least nine such roads where a separate cycling lane can be created.

"We have noticed in recent years that most of the schools which are inside the city create a havoc in city traffic as most of the parents drop and pick up

their wards in personal two-or four-wheelers. We suggest that every school should encourage cycling to school and restrict parents from dropping their wards to school. This will not only encourage the children to be independent but they will also imbibe the character of responsible citizens. Schools have to provide the students who come on a cycle with some incentives, while the authorities need to recognise the schools which introduce the cycling-to-school concept and ensure that enforcement of safety rules are strictly adhered to," the petition suggested.

Guwahati Cycle Tour was first organised on August 2 last year. The team comprises 15 like-minded members aged from 32 to 62 years and is also connected to most of the leisure cyclists in the city of Guwahati.

No unusual ...

(Contd from page 1)

have been difficult for them to retreat to their own country. The sources also expressed the view that the face-off in Doka-La would not last a very long time as it would be difficult for the Chinese to maintain their position once snowfall starts.

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DNA ...

(Contd from page 1)

The assistant general manager (CE), FCI, Regional Office, Guwahati-8 invited on behalf of Food Corporation of India online item/Rate/Percentage rate tenders under two bid system at <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for following works.

1. NIT NO. 3/2017/Name of Work: Changing of GI sheet routing by profile line "Hollow section" of 30 mm x 30 mm x 3.0 mm x 300 mm Region: Estimated cost: ₹20.16,362.00, Earnest Money EMD: ₹40,266.00 Period of Completion: 60 days Last time and date of submission of bid: 2.00 PM on 28.08.2017.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/BSNL. The press notice is also available on www.assam.bnsl.co.in.

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Japan marks 72 ...

(Contd from page 1)

Nagasaki. Some died immediately, while others succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses weeks, months and years later.

Japan announced its surrender in World War II on August 15, 1945.

Many in Japan feel the attacks amount to war crimes and atrocities because they targeted civilians and due to the unprecedented destructive nature of the weapons.

But many Americans believe they hastened the end of a bloody conflict, and ultimately saved lives, thus justifying the bombings.

The samples are likely to be sent to the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) which will keep the database. Blood, hair, ear tissues, etc., from each dead rhino – whether it died of natural causes or unnatural – will be collected and sent to the WII for preservation and profiling. In fact, a few samples have already been sent to the WII, sources said.

Today if you catch a poacher with a horn, it is not easy to link it with a rhino which died months or years back. If we have the indexing, we can match the horn. The database enables investigators to link poachers to crime scenes, a rhino that has been harmed or confiscated horn, along with other evidence," the official pointed out.



Former VC of Gauhati University Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury speaking at a felicitation programme organised by All Assam Scheduled Caste Students' Union, at the GMCH Auditorium in Guwahati on Sunday - UB Photos

Japan marks 72 ...

(Contd from page 1)

The implementation is currently planned for 2018 and the first set of data should be exchanged in 2019. The decision is not subject to any referendum – which means there should be no further procedural delay in its implementation.

The issue of black money has been a matter of big debate in India, and Switzerland has been long perceived as one of the safest havens for the illicit wealth allegedly stashed abroad by Indians.

The notification follows hectic parleys between India and Switzerland for introduction of the AEOI (Automatic Exchange of Information) on tax matters under the guidance of G20, OECD and other global organisations. – PTT

Swiss cite ...

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Govt silent on CBI request ...

While the first correspondence was done by the CBI in January this year, the remaining two letters reiterating the need for having a team of lawyers headed by a special public prosecutor were posted in May.

In fact, a proposal was also given to the State government, asking the latter to convene a meeting on the appointment of a special public prosecutor(s) for the CBI involving stakeholders, including Assam Police headquarters, CID, home department and judicial department among others, which has not materialised till date.

"Stakes are very high in all these crimes and the ramifications are widespread. Since we have limited manpower, it would have been better if it had been supported by a team of lawyers. These are important cases involving some very influential names and we need to make a watertight case. We are still awaiting the government nod in this regard," the sources added.

The CBI had even suggested names for the panel of lawyers to the government. "The sooner a decision is taken, the better it would be to begin in the interest of the investigation," the sources added.

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Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurating an exhibition at Shahid Bhawan, Mirza on Sunday. — UB Photos

DHSK Commerce College to host seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Aug 6: DHSK Commerce College, a pioneer higher educational institute here in association with Dibrugarh Zila Sahitya Sabha is organising a two-day UGC sponsored national seminar on 'Rupkonwar Jyoti-prasad Agarwala on the theme Jyoti-prasad Agarwala in Indian context: contemporary society, literature and culture' on September 15 and 16 next.

The organisers have called for research papers from researchers, students, academicians, social workers, media persons, NGO activists and others on the mentioned theme. Interested participants are requested to submit abstracts on the theme and sub themes within August 20.

Those seeking to participate can also visit the college website for more information, a release stated.

OBITUARY

Afroja Sultan

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: Afroja Sultan, a resident of Sunderbari, passed away recently. She was 40.

After passing HSLC from St Mary's School, Malignapuri and HS from Cotton College with 1st division, she pursued her graduation from Handique Girls' College.

She completed her MBA from Tezpur University and had been since employed with MNCs in Pune. While in service, she fell ill and was shifted to a Mumbai hospital where she breathed her last.

Her death was widely mourned. She is survived by her parents, brother, grandmother and a host of friends and relatives.

Kajal Debnath

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: Kajal Debnath of Gajipam, Kamrup died at his own residence on August 5 due to illness. He was 49.

He was working at Raha P&RD Dept under Raha Gaon Panchayat.

An amiable and popular person, his death was deeply mourned by different sections of the society.

He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and a host of well-wishers and friends.

Meghali Doley

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMIALI, July 6: Meghali Doley, an assistant teacher of Gogamukh Town MV School, died yesterday due to pregnancy-related complications. She was 40.

Meghali Doley joined the Gogamukh Town MV School as assistant teacher in 2010. Prior to this, she was also working in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya of Chinchampori. She was loved and respected by all in the locality because of her amiable nature.

She leaves behind her husband, a son and a new-born girl child. Her death was deeply mourned by various organisations in and around the area.

Resident doctors, medicines demanded at Raha Ranthal civil hospital

ANN Service

RAHALI, Aug 6: Though the State Health Minister is taking various steps to improve health services in the rural areas, these centres are still unable to provide better services to the common people due to the unavailability of the required number of doctors, medicines, nurses etc.

The 30-bed Raha Ranthal civil hospital is meant to cater to the health needs of more than 100 villages. It serves as a first referral health unit in emergency cases for the people of Raha and its outskirts. But no to

speak of other facilities, the health centre is running without a residential health and medical officer (MHO). Instead of a resident doctor needed by a large number of patients everyday, only part-time doctors are available.

The local people have therefore demanded the health authority concerned and the Nagaon Deputy Commissioner Shamsher Singh to look into the matter and take steps to ameliorate their plight. They have also demanded the authority to place a resident doctor immediately so that they need not wait for the arrival of the doctors from the district headquarters.

Lafiqul's murder case

Remove SP from investigation, AAMSU tells CM

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, Aug 6: The All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) has cast its doubt on the role of Kokrajhar Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajen Singh, who is investigating the Lafiqul murder case.

Several organisations, including AAMSU have de-

manded that Chief Minister, Tarbananda Sonowal remove Singh from the case. The members of the organisations, including AAMSU are of the view that the SP (Singh) might derail the investigation.

"The SP may manipulate the vital evidences. So, given the current situation, we have de-

manded a CBI enquiry to find out

the actual truth," AAMSU general secretary Rezau Karim Sarkar said. He also threatened to launch a massive agitation.

Kokrajhar MP Hiru Sarania also demanded that the Gov-

ernment book the culprits in-

volved in the murder and re-

moval of SP Kokrajhar from

the investigation in order to

find out the actual truth.

Shahida said that the pro-

grammes provide Indian as-

pirants with a brilliant opportu-

nity to develop professionally

and academically, network

internationally, experience

Great Britain and build last-

ing relationships with the UK.

While the application

dates for Chevening Scholar-

ships is from August 7, 2017 to No-

vember 7, 2017; the applica-

tion dates for the Chevening Fellowships is from August 7, 2017 to Sep-

tember 27, 2017.

Chevening is the UK Gov-

ernment's international awards scheme aimed at de-

veloping global leaders since

1983.

OIL renews 'Super 30' programme

BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, Aug 6: Oil India Limited (OIL), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centre for Social Responsibility and Leadership (CSR), a New Delhi-based NGO, for renewal of contract for OIL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project – 'OIL Super 30' for two academic sessions 2017-18 and 2018-19, for its centres, including Guwahati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh in Assam, Jodhpur in Rajasthan and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The results and success, since the launch of the 'OIL Super 30' Project from 2010-11, of the 'OIL Super 30' centres namely, Guwa-

hati, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Jodhpur and Itanagar, reveal that, of the 647 students enrolled in all the centres taken together, 596 have secured admission in some of the premier IITs/NITs/engineering colleges as well as medical colleges/universities of the country with overall success of 92%.

The MoU was signed in New Delhi on Friday in the presence of the OIL CMD, Utup Baral, along with the members of the board of the company and senior representatives from CSR.

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AASU opposes Deendayal Upadhyaya colleges in State

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, Aug 6: The State Government move to establish five colleges in the name of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was strongly opposed by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU). The AASU adviser Dr Samujal Kumar Bhattacharya said that the students' body will resort to agitational programme if the government failed to suspend their move.

While talking to the reporters at Morowa in Nalbari district before attending a function

yesterday Dr Bhattacharya said that if the government wants then it can establish one college in the name of the national scholar. Instead, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader called upon the government to establish colleges in the name of scholars like Laxminath Bezbarua, Padma Nath Gohar Barua, Anundoram Borooah, Bhamtar Deuri, Bineswar Brahma, Sitanath Brahma Choudhury, Modul Islam Bora, KK Handique, Braja Nath Sarma which is yet to be noticed.

Bhattacharya said that

Free eye screening camp

GUWAHATI, Aug 6: On the occasion of Independence Day, the Golaghat branch of National Programme for Control of Blindness in cooperation with M/S Radha Medical, Golaghat is going to organise a free eye screening cum cataract surgery camp at the Swadhi Kushal Konar Civil Hospital, Golaghat, an official release stated.

The free screening camp will be held on August 15 and the surgeries will be carried out consequently in a phase-wise manner.

Interested persons can contact the Eye Department at the Swadhi Kushal Konar Civil Hospital, Golaghat or the District Coordinator, District Health Society, NPCB, Golaghat, Pranikhy Kumar Dowerah.

Satriya exponent, US-based academician feted

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, Aug 6: Music College, Youth Club, Mangaldai while celebrating its annual function recently public facilitated a few eminent personalities of the State in the field of classical music and education.

Among those who were felicitated were an exponent of Satriya culture and the recipient of the Field Scholarship award Rabha cultural award Saliha Saikia, another Satriya artiste Sabita Saikia and Dr Hiranya Kr Naith, internationally-acclaimed academician and professor of Sam Houston State University, Texas among others.

The celebration in the district library auditorium featured several musical presentations by the students of the college including Satriya and Bihu dance under the direction of renowned Satriya and Bihu dancer Bhanu Debbarua, presentation of songs both classical and modern, and instrumental play under the direction of their respective mentors Mohsin Ali, Pranjali Kr Sarma, Kishori Saikia, Rinti Moni Deka etc.

The winners of different musical contests i.e., on classical songs, playing on the tabla, mandolin among the students of the institution were also presented certificates and awards during the function. Earlier Gurijyoti Das MLA, Mangaldai inaugurated the function by illuminating the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Govinda Upadhyaya, president of Youth Club, Rajib Kr Deka and Nani Gorap Nath, president and secretary of the management committee of the Music College respectively and other office bearers of the socio-cultural organisation. In the morning hours, a plantation programme was also carried out in the historical Maidan Maidan as part of the celebration.

The scientists also interacted with the farmers and discussed their problems faced while cultivation of the crop. Later, the group of scientists also conducted a training session on sugarcane cultivation. The training session at Akajan was attended by twenty five farmers.



Beneficiaries receiving free LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Sukafa Bhawan in Gohpur on Sunday. — UB Photos

Sugarcane Research Station scientists interact with farmers

CORRESPONDENT

SILAPATHAR, Aug 6: Three scientists from Sugarcane Research Station, Burlaikatisi — Dr Bigyan Ch Bordoloi, Chief Scientist; Dr Prasanta Goswami, Senior Scientist and Dr DD Singha visited demonstration plots of sugarcane cultivation at Simer Chaporai and Akajan at Silapathar on August 4.

The scientists also interacted with the farmers and discussed their problems faced while cultivation of the crop. Later, the group of scientists also conducted a training session on sugarcane cultivation. The training session at Akajan was attended by twenty five farmers.

Scientist from Krishn Vigyan Kendra, Dhemaji also participated in the long-day programme. The programme was inaugurated by Coordinator, Dhemaji KVK, Gunjan Gogoi. KVK, Dhemaji in collaboration with Sugarcane Research Station had started demonstration plots under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Sugarcane for farmers during 2015-16 in one hectare of land in Dhemaji district.

Looking at the good harvest by the farmers Gundador Doley, Tulshi Pait and Bipul Sonowal, others were also eager to cultivate the crop in the non-traditional areas of the district.

In line with the Prime Minister's call for Doubling Farm-

ers Income, KVK, Dhemaji has given thrust in the cash crop.

Rail blockade: The Takam Mising Porin Kepong (TAKM), All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and All Assam Gorkhal Students' Union (AAGSU) units of Dimow submitted a memorandum to the General Manager, NFR Railway, Mla of Jonai, Lok Sabha MP of Lakhimpur and Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji demanding a stoppage for trains on the Rangiya-Murkongseong train route at Dimow.

Over 500 activists participated in the programme led by Dimow Anchal TMPK president Hemchandra Pegu, Dimow Anchal AASU president Pranjal Konwar and Di-

mow Anchal AAGSU general Secretary Utam Parajuli.

The organisations enforced a rail blockade at Dimow railway line under Silapathar police station in Dhemaji district on August 3.

The organisations said a stoppage at Dimow would benefit over 50,000 people in the area.

Four panchayats — Dimow, Silasut, Muktar and Simenmukh — which have a population of more than 50,000 had submitted a memorandum for reoperation of the Dimow Station in 2008. A team from railways had visited the place on June 27 last. It is learnt that the railways had found that a station at Dimow was feasible.

Mass prayer held at Kokrajhar

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, Aug 6: The Kokrajhar district administration organised an all-religion mass prayer programme at Balajan Tiniali market in memory of those people who were killed by the extremists last year.

BTC Chief Hagrama Molikrui, Kokrajhar Deputy Commissioner Bibekananda Choudhury, senior police and civil officials, representatives of different political parties and students organisations paid floral tributes at the portraits.

It may be mentioned here that 14 innocent people were killed and 19 others were injured in a broad day light in the gruesome terror attack at Balajan Tiniali market in Kokrajhar on August 5 last year.

National Handloom Day observed at Assam University

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Aug 6: Along with the rest of the country, the National Handloom Day was observed at the Assam University by the Department of Field Publicity, under Department of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Saturday.

According to sources, besides the Central University, the day was celebrated across 70 other educational institutes across the country.

PWD Minister Parimal Sankulabaidya inaugurated the celebration along with Joint Registrar Dr PK Nath, Dean Students Welfare Prof Pranab Behari Mazumder, and Proctor of the university Dr Paritosh Mondal, news in-charge

of All India Radio Sanjeev Sharma and Field Publicity Officer Saswati Bhattacharya.

Local weavers Narayan Debnath, Tapas Biswas and Gopal Debnath from Irongoma also joined the programme at the Bipin Pal meeting ground.

Sharing some of his experiences of watching the weavers very closely carrying out their chores, the PWD Minister said, "In the field of technology-driven textile sector, handloom still occupies a special place and the efforts of the weavers have never gone out of fashion". He urged upon the Department of Field Publicity to encourage the weavers in their work so that they do not quit the profession.

Earlier, an audio visual clip on handloom was shown to the participants and a quiz competition on the handloom activities was organised in which students from the various departments of the university took active part.

AASU distributes free text books to meritorious students

CORRESPONDENT

Goswami, Jitimoni Bora, Mridul Saikia, Dergaon unit office bearers Abdulla Siddiki, Arindam Kataki, noted social worker Atul Goswami, teachers of DKD College AASU unit and DKD College Students' Union distributed free text books to as many as 150 meritorious but economically poor students of greater Dergaon.

The books along with some scholastic materials were distributed to the students at a meeting held at Marowary Panchayat on Saturday. The arrested youth has been identified as Rubel Sheikh. He was later produced before the court.

The books along with some scholastic materials were distributed to the students at a meeting held at Marowary Panchayat on Saturday. The programme of distribution of text book is being organised through the book bank of Dergaon AASU since 2015.

In this connection an open meeting chaired by the president of Dergaon AASU Polash Bora was moderated by the secretary of Dergaon AASU Milon Jyoti Khataniar. The meeting was attended by AASU central leader Sase Manuar Hussain, Raju Phukan and Dignata Nath, Golaghat district leader Abhibartan

participants of the quiz competition and the winners of the quiz contest. He also felicitated the women weavers Sumita Sinha and Paswote Devi from Rangnagar.

Bangladeshis youth arrested: Based on specific inputs, police arrested a 33-year-old Bangladeshi youth from Meherpur area of Silchar on Saturday. The arrested youth has been identified as Rubel Sheikh. He was later produced before the court.

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participants and a quiz competition on the handloom activities was organised in which students from the various departments of the university took active part.

Vice Chancellor of Assam University Prof Dilip Chandra Deka attended the closing ceremony of the celebrations and gave away the prizes to the winners of the quiz contest. He also felicitated the women weavers Sumita Sinha and Paswote Devi from Rangnagar.

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Manipur Governor Dr Najma A Heptulla speaking at a prize distribution ceremony in Imphal on Sunday. - Photo: Correspondent

Manipur to have 'flying doctors' soon: Heptulla

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 6: Manipur Governor Dr Najma Heptulla on Sunday said that the State will soon have flying doctors for the needy patients in far-flung remote areas.

The Union Civil Aviation Minister is ready to allocate Rs 25 crore to introduce helicopter services for the said purpose in Manipur, Dr Heptulla said while addressing a prize distribution ceremony of Japanese Hospital Manipur here.

JNIMS Director Dr Th Bhimo Singh, President of Japanese Hospital Manipur TM Rajen Aiyangba, and others attended the function organised by Japanese Second World War Victims Memorial Hospital Trust, Manipur.

Expressing serious concern over the health scenario in Manipur, Dr Heptulla said that time has come to remove the miseries of the people regarding health related matters.

On the relationship with Japans, she said, "The hospital is another step to foster further friendship and cooperation between Manipur & Japan."

She appealed the hospital authorities to go to the far-flung areas where medical facilities are almost nil to provide the much needed health services to the people.

In October last year, DMR Minister Jitendra Singh had announced to launch air dispensary to enhance the delivery of health care services in remote and faraway places in North East.

NEEPCO to develop Early Warning System for flood

SHILLONG, Aug 6: North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) today said it has engaged an international consultant for finalisation of Early Warning Systems for its hydro electric projects in Arunachal Pradesh, says PTI. "An international consultant has already been engaged for finalisation of Early Warning System to be operationalised during operation of Power House as well as Flood period," a NEEPCO statement said here.

The system is likely to be finalised very soon.

The early warning system would provide advance information of flood or other emergency situation to enable the district administration as well as the people to take advance action for relief, rescue and other measures.

The statement said that the havoc created by monsoon in June and July has affected Pumpee district of Arunachal Pradesh and certain portion of NEEPCO's hydro electric power project suffered minor damage there.

NEEPCO engineers are working hard to achieve the goal of commissioning the project within six months, the statement said.

Dam : Part of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) has clarified that the Dam under construction at Para Hydro Electric Power Project is in absolutely safe and sound condition, a press release said.

Drugs worth Rs 1.26 cr seized

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, Aug 6: A drug peddler was apprehended by Assam Rifles personnel and drugs worth Rs 1.26 crore seized from his possession, Assam Rifles said in a press release.

It claimed that Assam Rifles jawans apprehended one drug peddler at PVCB, Khudenghababi, Tengnoupal district of Manipur on Saturday.

At around 11.30 am a Maruti Alto car was stopped at Khudenghababi for checking. The search of the vehicle resulted in recovery of 280 grams of brown sugar and 2,950 WY tablets worth Rs 1.26 crore, which were found hidden inside the wiper and seat belt compartments, the release said. The peddler along with the recovered contraband items was handed over to Moreh Police Station, it added.

A correction

The heading in top story in North East Page on August 6 should read as Bluppen Hazarika Setu instead of Bogibeel bridge. The error is regretted.

Four students – Sudipta Nayak Puar, K Vitoika Awomi, Ankur Jyoti Phukan and Souvik Dey – who cleared the GATE examination recently, were given cash award of Rs 50,000 each. Prof NK Choudhury, former Vice-Gauthami University & Principal Advisor ERDF presided over the function.

During the monsoon this time, Arunachal Pradesh has recorded a deficit rainfall of 24 per cent, with 822 mm of rainfall, against a normal of 1087.2 mm, while Assam recorded a deficit rainfall of 15 per cent with an actual of 796.9 mm, against a normal of 936.4 mm.

Mizoram recorded the highest deficit of 75 per cent, with an actual of 212.8 mm, against a normal of 857.4 mm while Meghalaya recorded a deficit rainfall of 42 per cent with an actual of 1059.8 mm, against a normal of 1894.5 mm. The deficit in Nagaland is 35 per cent, with an actual of 520.6 mm, against the normal of 802.7 mm.

Mizoram and Tripura are the only two States which recorded surplus rainfall during this period. While Mizoram recorded a surplus rainfall of 38 per cent, receiving a rainfall of 1324.1 mm, against the normal of 959.9 mm. Tripura recorded a surplus of 21 per cent by receiving 1133.7 mm of rainfall, against the average of 936.5 mm.

Meanwhile, Guwahati yesterday

recorded day temperature of 36 degree Celsius (4 degree Celsius above normal). Pasighat recorded 34.4 mm (4.6 degree Celsius higher), North Lakhimpur saw a day temperature of 36.6 degree Celsius (4.6 degree above normal) and Dhubri recorded 33.1 degree Celsius (2 degree Celsius higher).

Rainfall: RMC sources said that rainfall activities would occur at most of the places over Assam-Meghalaya on August 6, 7, 8 and 9. Over the Nagaland-Manipur-Mizoram-Tripura (NMMT) Meteorological sub-division, rainfall activities would occur at most of the places on August 6, 7 and 8 and at many of its places on August 9.

Over Arunachal Pradesh Meteorological sub-division, rainfall activities would occur at many places on August 6 and at most of its places on August 7, 8 and 9.

RMC sources also informed that heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) would occur at isolated places over Assam-Meghalaya Meteorological sub-division on August 6, while the sub-division is expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.4 mm) at isolated places on August 7, 8 and 9.

Over the NMIM Meteorological

Two NE high courts support all-India service for lower judiciary

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: The high courts of Sikkim and Tripura have concurred with a proposal to have an all-India service for lower judiciary, a Law Ministry document says.

Nine high courts have opposed the proposal approved by the Committee of Secretaries for formation of an all-India service for lower judiciary, a Law Ministry document says.

Seeking to overcome the divergence of views, the government had recently suggested to the Supreme Court various options, including a NEET-like examination, to recruit judges to the lower judiciary. These were vacancies of 4,452 judges in subordinate courts in the country as per the figures released on December 31, 2015. While the sanctioned strength is 20,502, the actual number of judges and judicial officers in subordinate courts is 16,050.

"Adoption of the model followed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses could also be explored," the government had told the apex court.

The Ministry had suggested various models to the apex court so that vacancies in the subordinate courts are filled up fast.

Besides the NEET model, the Law Ministry had also proposed that a "centralised examination" could be held by a "recruitment body" for selection of candidates and it can work under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

It also proposed that the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) can also be asked to hold an exam to recruit judicial officers. The UPSC, it said, can modify its procedures and practices in consultation with the high courts to hold the specialised test.

The Secretary (Justice) has also suggested that some of the features followed by the Institute of Banking and Personnel Selection could also be followed to recruit judges in the courts.

At present, various high courts and State service commissions hold exams to recruit judicial officers. - PTI

MPYC condemns attack on Rahul Gandhi in Gujarat

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, Aug 6: Calling the attack on the car of Congress vice president, Rahul Gandhi as the murder of democracy, Meghalaya Pradesh Youth Congress on Saturday strongly condemned the attack in Gujarat when the party leader has been received from the high courts of Calcutta, Jammu and Kashmir and Gauhati, the document pointed out.

The high courts of Jharkhand and Rajasthan have indicated that the matter regarding creation of the AIJS is pending consideration, while the response has been received from the high courts of Calcutta, Jammu and Kashmir and Gauhati, the document pointed out.

"Most of the high courts want the administrative control over the subordinate judiciary to remain with the

respective high courts," it said.

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At present, various high courts and State service commissions hold exams to recruit judicial officers. - PTI

IIM urged to promote NE handloom products

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Aug 6: Meghalaya on Saturday urged the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong, to conduct research and strategise policies for promotion of handloom and handicraft products from the State and the Northeastern region.

Speaking at IIM, Shillong during an event to celebrate National Handloom Day here, M Parast, Director, Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation Limited, said, Meghalaya's handloom and handicrafts have many unique features and these can be marketed for promotion of the handloom industry.

National Handloom Day is celebrated across the country to mark the 'Swadeshi Movement' which is on August 7. The Day is dedicated to the weavers of the country. The Government has been laying stress on increasing weavers' earnings which would attract the younger generation to this sector.

Parast said that this sector can transform the economic status of the people if it is properly marketed. He said research and case studies are required and thereafter the marketing aspect should be strengthened.

He urged the huge talent pool from IIM, Shillong, to formulate proper plans and strategies and undertake research in this vital sector.

"We need to give identity to the products and the people," Parast said.

Director IIM Shillong, Amritabha De informed that of the APJ Abdul Kalam Centre of Research has already initiated research on various topics, including one on handloom.

De said that despite sweeping changes, the traditions of art and craft have been kept alive due to the continuous efforts of artists and craftsmen who weave their dreams and visions into exquisite handloom products and transfer their skills to their progenies.

He urged the huge talent pool from IIM, Shillong, to formulate proper plans and strategies and undertake research in this vital sector.

"We need to give identity to the products and the people," Parast said.

Tripura TMC MLAs meet Shah in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: At least six TMC MLAs of Tripura met BJP president, Amit Shah here yesterday in presence of Nedra convenor, Himanta Biswa Sarma and BJP State in-charge, Sunil Deodhar. President of Tripura State BJP Biplob Deb was also present. The Six MLA is schedule to formally join BJP tomorrow at Agartala. - Sp! Correspondent

GNLA cadres beat up 2 men

TURA, Aug 6: A group of cadre of Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) are the prime suspect in the brutal thrashing of two men at Halwa Billa village in South Garo Hills. The incident took place on Wednesday night after a group of six-seven armed GNLA men rounded up the two men and beat them up on suspicion of being police informers.

Interestingly, the police stated that the group behind the thrashing of the two civilians is the same which is suspected to have killed one Ojlet R Marak at Dambuk Agra village the same day. - Correspondent

Myanmarese held

IMPHAL, Aug 6: A Myanmarese was arrested in Kakching district of Manipur on the charge of entering India illegally, police said.

The foreigner, identified as Mohammad Abdul Hussin, was apprehended at Pallel check post of Kakching district on Friday.

He was travelling without valid travel documents. Myanmarese currency equivalent to Rs 47,000 was seized from him, police said. - PTI

Fast-track court to handle crimes against women

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 6: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said a fast-track court has been set up to handle cases of crimes against women in the State, he added.

Crimes against women have increased rapidly, but almost all those involved in the cases have been arrested, the Chief Minister claimed.

He welcomed the suggestions of Mla Mirabai to set up fast-track courts in all the districts of the State.

Meanwhile, the recent incidents of rape and attempt to murder a minor girl

at Viewland Colony, Senapati on August 1, killing of a Class XI girl student at Morsch Gate on July 23 and the recovery of a body 'possibly' of the Class XI girl student from Sawbunge on July 20, etc, as heinous crimes against humanity, the Women Action for Development, a Manipur-based NGO, strongly condemned such heinous crimes committed against the three minor girls and urged the authorities concerned to fast-track these three cases for speedy justice.



Residents of Haripur village under Rajabala police outpost in West Garo Hills gheraoing the outpost in protest against alleged police inaction in solving crimes, on Sunday. - Photo: Tura Correspondent

North East witnessing deficit rainfall since June

AJIT PATOWARY

During the monsoon this time, Arunachal Pradesh has recorded a deficit rainfall of 24 per cent, with 822 mm of rainfall, against a normal of 1087.2 mm, while Assam recorded a deficit rainfall of 15 per cent with an actual of 796.9 mm, against a normal of 936.4 mm.

Mizoram and Tripura are the only two States which recorded surplus rainfall during this period.

While Mizoram recorded a surplus rainfall of 38 per cent, receiving a rainfall of 1324.1 mm,

against the normal of 959.9 mm. Tripura recorded a surplus of 21 per cent by receiving 1133.7 mm of rainfall, against the average of 936.5 mm.

Meanwhile, Guwahati yesterday recorded day temperature of 36 degree Celsius (4 degree Celsius above normal). Pasighat recorded 34.4 mm (4.6 degree Celsius higher), North Lakhimpur saw a day temperature of 36.6 degree Celsius (4.6 degree above normal) and Dhubri recorded 33.1 degree Celsius (2 degree Celsius higher).

Rainfall: RMC sources said that rainfall activities would occur at most of the places over Assam-Meghalaya Meteorological sub-division, rainfall activities would occur at many places on August 6 and at most of its places on August 7, 8 and 9.

RMC sources also informed that heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) would occur at isolated places over Assam-Meghalaya Meteorological sub-division on August 6, while the sub-division is expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places on August 7, 8 and 9.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall would occur at isolated places over Assam-Meghalaya Meteorological sub-division, rainfall activities would occur at many places over Assam-Meghalaya Meteorological sub-division on August 6, while the sub-division is expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places on August 7, 8 and 9.

Over Arunachal Pradesh Meteorological sub-division, heavy rainfall would occur at isolated places over Assam-Meghalaya Meteorological sub-division on August 6, while the sub-division is expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places on August 7, 8 and 9.

Pass on input credit system benefit to consumers: Jaitley

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: The GST Council on Saturday appealed to the Indian industry to pass on to customers the benefit of the novel input credit system introduced in the new pan-India indirect tax regime that is available to suppliers of goods and services in the country.

"Many industries are not giving the benefit of input credit to customers, and we are hoping the market mechanism compels industry to pass on this benefit," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters here following the 20th meeting of the GST Council, which was also the first since the goods and services tax was rolled out on July 1.

"I make an appeal to industry, through the media here, to pass on the benefit of input credit to consumers," he said.

CAPSULE

IOC plans

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to nearly double oil refining capacity to 150 MT by 2030 and source 10 per cent of its crude from its own assets, said Chairman Sanjiv Singh. "In line with India's aspirations to become a refining hub, IOC plans to raise its refining capacity from the current 80.7 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to around 150 MTPA by 2030," though both brownfield expansions and greenfield capacity creation, "he said in the company's latest annual report. — PTI

Usha International

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Usha International targeting 50 per cent sales growth this fiscal driven by expansion of offline sales points, mainly in regional markets, and increased business volumes from e-commerce platforms. The company, which had a turnover of Rs 2,200 crore last year, has products available in over 450 regional stores and plans to increase it to over 600 by the year-end. — PTI

MobiKwik

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Mobile wallet company MobiKwik is looking at raising over \$100 million from investors this year to fuel its expansion. MobiKwik recently inked an agreement with Bajaj Finance under which the latter invested Rs 225 crore (about \$35 million) in the digital payments company for a 10.83 per cent stake. — PTI

PNB charges

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Come September, PNB customers will have to pay charges for depositing cash above Rs 5,000 in a non-current account even if it is located in the same city. Currently, the customers of Punjab National Bank (PNB) are levied charges only for depositing cash over Rs 25,000 at a non-base branch within the same city. — PTI

ShopClues foray

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Online marketplace ShopClues is entering the unboxed and refurbished electronic gadgets category and targets doubling its gross merchandise value with a customer count of 9 million by the end of this fiscal. "With a focus on the IVR and AI technology, ShopClues is structuring the massive opportunity around unboxed and refurbished electronics," Radhika Aggarwal, co-founder and Chief Business Officer, shopclues.com said here. — PTI

Escorts Ltd

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Farm equipment maker Escorts Ltd is gearing up to expand its agri solutions business offering a full range of mechanisation services to farmers on a single platform. Managing Director Nitin Mehta has said. Besides, Escorts is preparing to raise its tractor production capacity to 1.5 lakh units annually in the next two years, from the current 82,000 a year, he said. — PTI

Under GST, goods and services providers will get the benefit of input tax credit for the goods used, effectively making the real incidence of taxation lower than the headline taxation rate.

The GST law also has an anti-profiteering provision meant to ensure that businesses pass on the benefit of lower

Appeal to industry

tax incidence and availability of input tax credit to the consumers. It provides for screening committees at both Central and State levels under the aegis of the Council, which will investigate any complaints regarding profiteering and fine businesses found violating the provisions.

"The screening committee at both Central and State levels should act as deterrents to profiteering and my hope is that they are used as less as possible," Jaitley said.

The National Anti-profiteering Authority has been proposed with a three-tier structure including a committee at the State level to deal with local complaints.

While Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said in the briefing that the anti-profiteering screening committees would be set up in 15 days, the Finance Minister expressed the hope that the committees would not be required to go into action too soon.

Jaitley said that the Council also decided to implement the GST provision on e-way bills requiring goods more than Rs 50,000 in value to be pre-registered online before they can be moved. — IANS

Looking forward to serve nation: New NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Noted economist Rajiv Kumar today said he is looking forward to serve the country as the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.

"Look forward to serve the nation with my role @nitiaayog @pmoindia," Kumar tweeted.

He was named the new Vice-Chairman of the government think-tank yesterday, five days after the incumbent Arvind Panagariya announced that he would quit to return to academia.

In another tweet, Kumar said, "With India's simultaneous triple transition—social, political and economic—well of course, our country will be global exemplar @Niti_Aayog."

Kumar, who holds a DPhil in Economics from Oxford and a PhD from Lucknow University, is a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR).

Earlier, he was Secretary General of industry chamber FICCI and had also served as Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He was a member of the National Security Advisory Board between 2006 and 2008.

He has also served as chief economist of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and has held senior positions in the Asian Development Bank, the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Finance.

Kumar is also on the boards of several international and national institutions, including the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center in Riyadh, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and Asia in Jakarta, the State Bank of India, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

The appointment of the new post of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman was necessitated as the incumbent Panagariya on August 1 had announced that he will leave the government think-tank on August 31 and return to Columbia University. — PTI



Actor Sonakshi Sinha with Anand Mahindra, CMD of Mahindra Group, during the launch of the 4th season of 'Proud Fathers for Daughters', a Mahindra Group campaign for empowering the girl child, in Mumbai on Saturday night. — UNI

Godrej Interio to invest Rs 400 cr to boost production

MUMBAI, Aug 6: Godrej Interio, the furniture arm of Godrej Group, will be investing around Rs 400 crore in the next three years to enhance its production capacity, a company official said.

"We are looking at an overall investment of close to Rs 400 crore in the next three years, with new facilities coming up. We are coming up with a facility at Kharapur to expand our pro-

duction capacity. The facility will be more for steel furniture and we are already in the process of expanding for mattresses and sofa in Haridwar," Godrej Interio Chief Operating Officer Anil Mathur told PTI.

The commissioning of the plants will start in the middle of the second quarter of the next financial year.

"We are looking at a CAGR of at least 15 per cent for the next five years and the capacities are being added based on the bottlenecks which are there," Mathur added.

This year the company is eyeing a revenue of Rs 2,500 crore at a growth of 18 per cent.

"Our revenue projection for this year is close to Rs 2,500 crore and we are growing at 18 per cent. The revenue last year was Rs 1,920 crore. The growth is coming

from metros as well as tier-II cities. We are seeing a substantial growth coming from tier-II cities," he said.

Branched furniture accounts for a large portion of the company's revenues and Mathur said the company is coming with two different types of furniture, which can be distributed through multi-brand outlets and through various retail outlets. — PTI

from the bottleneck areas, we are seeing a growth coming from tier-II cities," he said.

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SEBI goes all-out to beef up cyber security

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: To firewall securities markets from cyber threats, SEBI is looking to further beef up policy framework on front and plans to appoint an adviser for such security and other IT initiatives.

SEBI has already asked stock exchanges and other institutions to keep a constant vigil on online threats globally and take lessons to put in place necessary safeguards.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will appoint an adviser for cyber security and information technology, who will be responsible for strengthening its regulatory policy framework in this space, according to the latest update with the regulator.

The adviser would monitor implementation of these regulatory policies across securities markets and also help enhance capacity building at SEBI and various market participants with respect to cyber security.

The officer would also develop a

stress testing mechanism to mitigate risk arising out of cyber attacks while a framework will be put in place for taking corrective and a prudent response in case of such an emergency at the regulator or market participants.

SEBI has invited applications from eligible persons for the post of Adviser,

officer would also formulate IT strategy and identify specific initiatives and five-year roadmap.

SEBI has invited applications from eligible persons for the post of Adviser,

and disaster recovery programmes and development of critical IT systems.

The person should have experience at a fairly senior level as head of a large unit of an IT company or an IT unit of a bank, financial institution or market infrastructure institution. The adviser will be appointed on contract and part time basis for three years.

SEBI, in May, had set up a four-member panel on cyber security to suggest measures to ring fence capital markets from such attacks.

Last month, the regulator said it will

undertake a comprehensive review of technology and systems at all market institutions, including exchanges, to safeguard the marketplace from cyber threats and technical glitches.

SEBI had held a meeting with the

stock exchanges on July 28 against the

backdrop of the recent case of technical

glitch at leading bourse NSE, due

to which trading had to be halted for

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Weighed down by the 'stigma'

Fat shaming doctors may harm obese people mentally as well as physically, says a study

Fat shaming done by healthcare providers can take a toll on overweight people's physical health and well-being, according to a study. The findings showed that obese people often fall victims to medical discrimination by doctors in the form of disrespectful treatment, lectures about weight loss, embarrassing comments, and a less thorough examination.

"Disrespectful treatment and medical fat shaming, in an attempt to motivate people to change their behaviour, is stressful and can cause patients to delay healthcare seeking or avoid interacting with providers," said Joann Chrisler, professor at the Connecticut College, US.

Further, overweight people often get excluded from medical research based on assumptions about their health status, meaning the standard dosage for drugs may not be appropriate for larger body sizes.

"Research has shown that doctors repeatedly advise weight loss for fat patients while recommending CAT scans, blood work or physical therapy for other, average-weight patient," Chrisler said.

In some cases, doctors also do not take fat

patients' complaints seriously or assume that their weight is the cause of any symptoms they experience.

"Thus, they jump to conclusions or fail to run appropriate tests, which results in misdiagnosis," Chrisler rued while presenting the results at the 125th annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Washington DC.

Weight stigma also leads to psychological stress, which can lead to poor physical and psychological health outcomes for obese people.

In addition, negative attitudes among medical providers can also cause psychological stress in obese patients.

"Implicit attitudes might be experienced by patients as micro-aggressions – for example, a provider's apparent reluctance to touch a fat patient, or a handshake, wince or 'tisk' while noting the patient's weight in the chart," Chrisler said.

"Micro-aggressions are stressful over time and can contribute to the felt experience of stigmatization," she noted.

Treatments should focus on mental and physical health as the desired outcomes for therapy, and not on weight, the researchers said. – IANS

Kids	Entertainment	Movies
BOLLYWOOD 13:00 The Tan And Lality Show 14:00 Chhota Bheem 14:30 Mighty Raj 17:00 Mighty Raj 17:30 Chhota Bheem	Star Plus 13:00 Disha Ka Pyar 13:30 Ek Asli Aisi Bhai 14:00 Love Ka Intzaar 14:30 Dosti Phir 15:00 Rishabh 17:00 Yeh Rishtaa Kya Kehe Hain 18:30 Tu Soch Na Man Saathi Pyar 19:00 Hole In The Wall 20:30 Chhota Bheem 21:30 Takeaway Castle 22:00 Chhota Bheem 22:30 M.A.D. 23:00 TeleShopping	HBO 18:30 Bin Kuch Kaha 19:30 Aali Denevring...Dehki Nahi... 19:30 Ek Asli Aisi Bhai 20:30 Pya Abha 21:00 Kumkum Bhagya 21:30 Dostii Phir 22:00 Woh Aisa Sa 22:30 Zindagi Ki Mahak 23:00 Aisi Denevring...Dehki Nahi... 23:30 Kundun Bhagya
COLORS 13:00 Roli No. 21 14:30 Bon I Omkar 15:00 Roli No. 21 16:00 Roli No. 21 17:00 Bon I Omkar 17:30 India Titans Go 18:00 Bon I Omkar 18:30 Horn Di Henry 19:00 River Monsters 21:00 India's Frontline Takeaways 21:30 Horn Di Henry 22:00 Naked and Afraid	Colors 13:00 Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki 13:45 Di Se Di Tak 14:15 Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki 14:45 Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki 15:15 Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki 16:00 Di Se Di Tak 16:30 Shakti-Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki 17:00 Kasaan 17:30 Rishabh 18:00 Kundun Bhagya	WB 21:00 Beyhadh 21:30 Kush-Pang Pyar Ke Aise Bi 22:00 Crime Patrol Day 100
CN 13:00 Roli No. 21 14:30 Bon I Omkar 15:00 Roli No. 21 16:00 Roli No. 21 17:00 Bon I Omkar 17:30 India Titans Go 18:00 Bon I Omkar 18:30 Horn Di Henry 19:00 River Monsters 21:00 India's Frontline Takeaways 21:30 Horn Di Henry 22:00 Naked and Afraid	Zee TV 13:00 Criminal Minds 14:00 Just For Laughs 14:30 Too Funny It 15:00 Too Funny It 16:30 A Half Hell Men 17:00 Doctor Foster 18:00 Too Funny It 19:00 Just For Laughs 20:00 Too Funny It 21:00 Kamal Haasan 21:30 Ek Shravani - Swashizmaan	HBO 14:10 Bruce Lee: The Legend 14:51 Step Up 15:31 The Legend 19:22 The Transcender Refused 21:03 Ghost Ship 22:41 Lights Out
Discovery CHANNEL 13:00 The Islandwide Bear Grylls 14:00 Food Factors 14:30 Food Factors 15:00 Dual Survival 15:30 Dual Survival in Africa 16:00 Destroyed in Seconds 18:30 What Happened Next? 19:00 River Monsters 21:00 India's Frontline Takeaways 21:30 Horn Di Henry 22:00 Naked and Afraid	National Geographic 13:00 OMAR Van Mata India 16:00 Forged in Fire 17:00 Storage Wars	Zee Cinema 13:00 Criminal Minds 14:00 Just For Laughs 14:30 Too Funny It 15:00 Too Funny It 16:30 A Half Hell Men 17:00 Doctor Foster 18:00 Too Funny It 19:00 Just For Laughs 20:00 Too Funny It 21:00 Kamal Haasan 21:30 Ek Shravani - Swashizmaan
ANIMAL PLANET 12:00 Copperhead 13:00 The Islandwide Bear Grylls 14:00 Food Factors 14:30 Food Factors 15:00 Dual Survival 15:30 Dual Survival in Africa 16:00 Destroyed in Seconds 18:30 What Happened Next? 19:00 River Monsters 21:00 India's Frontline Takeaways 21:30 Horn Di Henry 22:00 Naked and Afraid	STORAGE WARS 17:30 Baggage Battle 18:00 Only in Hollywood 18:30 Food Tech 19:00 Food Tech 20:00 Counters 21:00 Storage Wars	Zee Star Movies 12:00 OMAR Van Mata India 16:00 Forged in Fire 17:00 Storage Wars
HISTORY 12:00 Counting Cars 12:30 Street Wars 13:00 Metallica 14:00 Food Tech	National Geographic 12:00 Ultimate Finals 13:00 Deadliest Week Ever 14:00 India's Magic Kitchens 14:30 Do Or Die 15:00 Killers Survived 17:00 Monkeys 18:00 World's Weirdest 19:00 Animal Oddities 19:30 Science of Stupid 20:00 Do Or Die: Killer Tsunami	Zee Action 12:20 Insayiyat Ke Devta
ARTIES (March 21-April 19) ***** You could feel it was coming, when losing the path and pull of today's lunar eclipse. Know that most people around you could be emotional and over-reactive. A little self-restraint will go, and you will see results quickly. Tonight: Swap war stories of the day with a pal.	LOCKHORNS 12:00 Whatever Happened To The "Quiet" Part Of "Quiet Desperation?"	Zee News 07:00 Breakfast Live 08:00 Good Morning Assam 09:00 Good Morning India 11:30 Karta Barta (R) 12:00 Mid Day Live 13:00 Good Morning India 14:30 Afternoon Prime 17:30 Good Morning India 18:00 Good Morning India 19:00 Discussion Show 21:00 Live At 10 22:00 Nokte Guwahati 23:00 Nokte Golon
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** You could feel it was coming, but the last thing you wanted to do was to let your guard down. Be careful, as words spoken cannot be taken back. Tonight: Soak away your stress in a hot tub.	DENNIS THE MENACE 12:00 Car Show	News 18 07:00 Breakfast Live 08:00 Good Morning Assam 09:00 Good Morning India 11:30 Karta Barta (R) 12:00 Mid Day Live 13:00 Good Morning India 14:30 Afternoon Prime 17:30 Good Morning India 18:00 Good Morning India 19:00 Discussion Show 21:00 Live At 10 22:00 Nokte Guwahati 23:00 Nokte Golon
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** You could feel it was coming, but the last thing you wanted to do was to let your guard down. Be careful, as words spoken cannot be taken back. Tonight: Soak away your stress in a hot tub.	THE PHANTOM 12:00 The Phantom	STAR MOVIES 08:30 Broadband 09:30 Film News 10:30 What's News 11:30 Headlines 12:30 Gaeon Connect 13:30 Capital Express 18:30 Assamese Prime Time 19:00 Headlines 20:00 Prime Time Debate 22:00 North East Indian News
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** You feel the effects of the Moon more than any other sign. You are more prone to switch gears, mood swings and volatile self-expression. As difficult as it may be, try to get involved with anything with as many issues or hassles that are likely to arise. There is always tomorrow. Tonight: Defer to a loved one.	LOCKHORNS 12:00 Whatever Happened To The "Quiet" Part Of "Quiet Desperation?"	STAR Cineplex 08:30 Karmala Lakshmi 08:35 Preo...On Right to Education 09:30 Virgin Prasar 10:30 Swachh Bharat Mission 11:30 Headlines 12:30 Gaeon Connect 13:30 Capital Express 18:30 Headlines 19:00 Headlines 20:00 Prime Time Debate 22:00 North East Indian News
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** You feel the tug of today's lunar eclipse. If the forecast is any guide, you will be feeling tired and depleted and tired. Get as much rest as possible, try to get involved with anything with as many issues or hassles that are likely to arise. There is always tomorrow. Tonight: Defer to a loved one.	BLONDIE 12:00 The Phantom	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Your ability to low key and not get involved in what you view as无关痛痒的 things is important. Your best bet is to continue following your routine and doing what you do. In the long run and even as soon as tonight, this attitude will pay off. Tonight: Go ahead, be yourself.	THE PHANTOM 12:00 Dennis the Menace	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You have the intense desire to be a friend, whereas the friend is a friend indeed. The light and love of today could force you to stop and look yourself. As a result, you might opt to dive into a creative project or focus on other matters. Tonight: Be near music.	BLONDIE 12:00 Dennis the Menace	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** You could be unusually tired as you attempt to draw energy from your surroundings. Update on some level reflects close to you, or perhaps you are coming up with a change of perspective that you might not have anticipated. Recite the possibilities for what they are. Tonight: Head home.	HAGAR THE HORRIBLE 12:00 Hagar the Horrible	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You have the ability to make a difference, whereas the moment you do it, you seem to push against the currents of change. Understand the volatile nature of a financial matter. Know that you might not have the ability to stabilize it. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.	BLONDIE 12:00 Dennis the Menace	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** You are a great source of currents through others, and they might not be able to handle them as well as you can. You could see some chaos emerging around you. Be aware of what you can do to stabilize the moment. Know that you can control only yourself. Tonight: You call the shots.	HAGAR THE HORRIBLE 12:00 Hagar the Horrible	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Know when to pull back and say less. Your ability to move past a problem with ease will come across though your resilience and your ability to see others' roles in a key matter. Say little, and try to stay as neutral as possible. Tonight: Put up your feet and relax to good music.	BLONDIE 12:00 Dennis the Menace	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on
PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) ***** You know when to push and when to pull back. Your critics of the next, and the schoolmasters of ever after.	HAGAR THE HORRIBLE 12:00 Hagar the Horrible	STAR STAR 12:00 Cricket Countdown 23:00 KBD Raid on

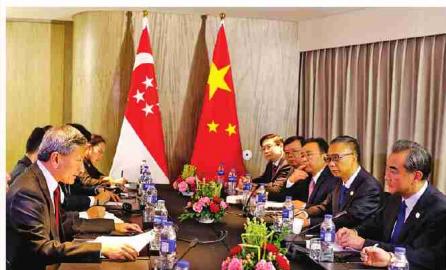
Thought for the day

An author ought to write for the youth of his own generation, the critics of the next, and the schoolmasters of ever after.

- FSCOTT FITZGERALD

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6051	
1	Field event (7)
2	Dreg (4)
3	Awards for damsels (6)
4	Steam bath (5)
5	Regaled or honoured with a feast etc. (5)
6	Dove sound (3)
7	Kind of fudge (7)
8	Clothing edge (3)
9	Large horns (5)
10	College officials (5)
11	Style of cooking (7)
12	Bird sound (5)
13	Long-line dance (5)
14	Country in SE Asia (7)
15	Gulf of : gulf off Gujarat coast ? (6)
16	Glide over snow (3)
17	Attempt (5)
18	A body organ (5)
19	Capture or apprehend (5)
20	Inactive (4)
21	Debtors' nose (1,1,1)
22	Units of force in CGS system ? (5)
23	Hero ISL Draft Special
24	Pro Kabaddi League 2017
25	India Tour of Australia 2016
26	India Tour of Australia 2017
27	India vs. Pakistan Test Series 2017
28	India vs. Sri Lanka Test Series 2017
29	India vs. West Indies Test Series 2017
30	India vs. New Zealand Test Series 2017
31	India vs. South Africa Test Series 2017
32	India vs. Australia Test Series 2017
33	India vs. England Test Series 2017
34	India vs. West Indies Test Series 2017
35	India vs. New Zealand Test Series 2017
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197	India vs. South Africa Test Series 201

Southeast Asian nations feud over China sea claims



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) and counterpart from Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan hold bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 50th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila, Philippines on Sunday. — UNI

ASEAN occupies key place in region's security architecture: India

MANILA, Aug 6: India today said the ASEAN occupies a central place in the "security architecture" of the Asia-Pacific region and has the "unique ability" to reflect the larger interests of the world.

Speaking at the 15th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting here, Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh said in the last 50 years ASEAN has put behind it many of the post-decolonisation debates of the region and navigated the Cold War adeptly to usher in an era of high economic growth that served as a model to others.

"Weathering the impact of the Asian financial crisis in 1997, it then went on to expand its footprint through the East Asia Summit process," he said. From the Indian perspective, the ASEAN occupied a central place in the security architecture of the Asia-Pacific region, Singh said.

"It is our view that precisely because ASEAN represents the cultural, commercial and political cross-roads of the region, it has a unique ability to reflect and harmonise larger interests of the world beyond it," he said.

With India marking the 25th year of its ties with the Association of South-East Asian

Nations, he said, "On our 25th anniversary, the flower of our relationship, which spans thirty dialogue mechanisms including annual summit and seven ministerial dialogues, is in full bloom, with the strategic, political, economic and cultural petals aglow."

"This bloom is being celebrated through a broad range of governmental, business, diaspora, cultural and civil society interactions in India as also in ASEAN nations which would culminate in a special ASEAN India Commemorative Summit. This Summit would be an affirmation of our shared quest for prosperity, stability and security," he said.

He said the Philippines, as chair, is ably stewarding the golden jubilee celebrations with the overall theme of "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World".

"In consonance, the theme of our silver jubilee celebrations, which commenced earlier this year, 'Shared Values, Common Destiny' is an acknowledgement of our shared socio-cultural, economic and political destiny," he said.

India is celebrating 25th year of its ties with the Association of South-East Asian Nations. — PTI

MANILA, Aug 6: Southeast Asian nations were battling today to find a compromise on how to deal with Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea, with Cambodia lobbying hard for Beijing, diplomats said.

Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) failed to release a joint statement as scheduled on Saturday evening, and tens follow-up negotiations the next morning could not end the stand-off, two diplomats involved in the talks told AFP.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, including waters approaching the coast of ASEAN members Vietnam, the United States and other Asia-Pacific nations.

ASEAN and China were due to approve a framework for a code of conduct in Manila on Sunday on how to deal with sea dispute.

Analysts have cautioned not to place too much significance on the agreement on a framework.

They say it comes 15 years after negotiations on the issue first began, and China has used that time to cement its claims with the artificial islands, while an actual code likely remained many years away.

Diplomats said they were still hoping the joint ASEAN statement meant to be released on Saturday would be agreed on before all the other meetings hosted by the bloc ended today. — AFP

"But the Philippines is trying very hard to broker compromise language."

China has in recent years expanded its presence in the sea by building artificial islands, which are capable of holding military bases.

Tensions over the sea have long vexed ASEAN, which operates on a consensus basis but has had to balance the interests of rival claimants and those more aligned to China.

While senior officials pressed on with negotiations on the seas dispute Sunday, ASEAN foreign ministers went into a round of separate meetings with their counterparts from China, the United States and other Asia-Pacific nations.

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UNSC adopts tougher sanctions on N Korea

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 6: The UN Security Council unanimously backed a US-drafted resolution to strengthen sanctions on North Korean exports in response to Pyongyang's intercontinental ballistic missile tests.

The 15-member body yesterday strongly condemned North Korea's ballistic missile launches on July 3 and 28 which have been stated were of "intercontinental" range.

The US-drafted resolution includes the strongest sanctions ever imposed in response to a North Korean ballistic missile test and targets its main exports, slashing their annual revenue by USD 1 billion.

"The Security Council increased the penalty of North Korea's ballistic missile activi-

ties. The North Korean leadership will pay for its continued nuclear and missile development will be the loss of one-third of its exports and hard currency. This is the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation," US Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Nikki Haley said.

"The United States is taking – and will continue to take – prudent defensive measures to protect ourselves and our allies. Our annual joint military exercises, for instance, are transparent, and defense-oriented. They have been carried out regularly and openly for nearly 40 years. They will continue.

"Our goal remains a stable Korean peninsula, at peace, without nuclear weapons.



ity to a whole new level. North Korea's irresponsible and careless acts have just proved to be quite costly to the regime.

"This resolution is the single largest economic sanctions package ever leveled against the North Korean regime. The price

We want only security and prosperity for all nations – including North Korea. Until then, this resolution and prior ones will be implemented to the fullest to maximize pressure on North Korea to change its ways," she said. — PTI

Wheelchair-bound man held with 250 gold bars in B'desh

DHAKA, Aug 6:

A 48-year-old wheelchair-bound man has been arrested at an airport in Bangladesh while trying to smuggle 25 kg gold into the country, customs officials said, calling it the biggest haul of the year.

Jamil Akter, a native of Nilphamari, flew to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport here from Singapore yesterday. He had kept 250 gold bars worth 12.5 crore taka in a vest

kept between his legs, Dhaka Tribune reported.

"Acting on a tip-off, our team confronted the man when he was crossing the green channel on a wheelchair, pretending to be unwell," Dhaka Customs House Preventive Team Assistant Commissioner Abul Kader was quoted by the report.

"He denied having any gold initially, but admitted to it later, during interrogation. We found

250 gold bars in a vest kept between his legs. The man has a chips shop in Singapore. He went in and out of the country 13 times in the last six months," the customs official added.

Customs officials were preparing to hand over him to police after filing a criminal case.

Another team found 6 kg gold abandoned in a flight of US-Bangla Airlines. — PTI

Handloom weavers weave not just cloth; but through the harmonious nature of their workplace, they also weave fabric of a cohesive, harmonious society.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

3rd NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY

7 August 2017

Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati, Assam



Chief Guest
Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister, Govt. of Assam

Presided by
Ajay Tamta
Minister of State for Textiles
Govt. of India

in the august presence of

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Minister of Finance, Health & Family Welfare,
Education, Khadi & Village Industries etc.
Govt. of Assam

Ranjit Dutta
Minister of Handloom & Textile
and Sericulture & Irrigation etc.
Govt. of Assam

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