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ACHEIEVEMENT

Chandni Shyam, a research scholar in the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by Gauhati University for her thesis entitled "Studies on the Diversity of Squirrel Species and Ecology of Malayan Giant Squirrel Ratufa bicolor (Sparrmann, 1778) in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Jorhat, Assam." She carried out her research work under the supervision of Dr. P. K. Saikia, Professor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University. She is the daughter of Dilip Kumar Shyam and Mrs. Minu Shyam of Joynagar, Moranhat and wife of Dr. Victor Das.

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Lost/P/PA015/1

This is to inform all concerned that the following original documents have been lost by me custody: Sale deed of plot of land under Borsajai Village, Belota mouza of Kamrup at Vidyā Mandir Path, Bhetpara (Document no. 5681, Deed no. 3459/11/6/2016), executed by Mrs Rumali Kalita Das in favour of Dr. Bornali Dutta (Ray Baruah), 2, Jamabandi copy of Patna No. 3121 of Villa Borsajai, Nanjapuri, Tezpur University. He is the younger son of Mr. Chandra Kanta Bhuyan and Mrs. Indu Prabha Bhuyan of Rana, Ward No.3, Nagaon.

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Thakur hits out at Virbhadrappa

DHARAMSHALA, April 10: BJP leader Anurag Thakur hit out at Virbhadrappa Singh, saying the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister should have resigned after being charged by the CBI in a special court in a disproportionate assets case.

Putting pressure on the veteran Congress leader with an eye on the state assembly polls in December, he said it was a matter of politics and claimed that the BJP would win 60 out of 68 seats in the elections.

"I think he should have resigned by now. I mean any seasoned politician with some ethics would have resigned by now," Thakur told PTI here.

The CBI had filed a charge-sheet against Singh, his wife and others for allegedly amassing assets worth around Rs 10 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income last month.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also summoned him for questioning in a money laundering probe.

The agency is probing allegations against Singh and his family members of having amassed wealth of Rs 6.1 crore disproportionate to its known sources of income between 2009 and 2011 when he was a Union minister. It has also attached assets worth about Rs 14 crore in this

case under PMLA laws.

Ex-minister gets life in 23-yr-old murder case

BASTI (UP), April 10: Former minister in the Akhilesh Singh government Ram Karan Arya was today awarded life sentence by a local court for murdering Shambhu Pal, nephew of BJP MP From Domariyaganj Jaglambika Pal in November 1993 in Bharwala village in Lalganj area here. A fine of Rs 20,000 was also imposed on him by District Judge Anil Kumar Pundeer. An FIR in this regard was registered against ten persons including Arya. One person died during trial while the court set the eight others free. -PTI

Geeta Lahkar & family thanks Sri Sankardeva Nethralaya for dedicating the K.D.LANKAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM at Sri Sankardeva Nethralaya, Guwahati.

'Come out of holiday hangover of previous govt'

LUCKNOW, April 10: Employees should get over the 'holiday hangover' being experienced in UP for the last 15 years, Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi today said after finding 'very low' attendance in his department during a surprise check.

The minister said those marked absent one day would lose one day salary.

'The quantum of laxity in the office is very high. It is absolutely unjustified. The attendance in the office is very low.'

Those who have been marked absent today would face a pay cut of one day," he said.

A warning has been issued to officials who were absent today during his spot inspection, he said.

"The ground reality is indeed disturbing and we will take stringent action against habitual offenders. There should be no pendency of work and all works must be completed within the stipulated deadline," Shahi said. -PTI

an aquatic block with a world class swimming and diving pools, a convention centre and a sports complex, was also one of the much touted schemes of the Akhilesh government.

An under-construction International Cricket Stadium here too is under the scanner of the newly elected BJP government and a report has been sought from the sports department, the official said.

Adityanath has also ordered an inquiry to look into public works executed under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) by the previous regime.

The works that will be looked into include a drinking water pipeline and overhead water tank project in Varanasi, which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency.

Varanasi divisional commissioner has been asked to submit a report on it.

Akhilesh had laid the foundation for a museum in the Hussainabad area in old Lucknow and inaugurated the re-development of the area on December 4 last year, barely weeks before the Model Code of Conduct came into force for the Assembly elections.

The Jai Prakash Narayan International Centre, which is to have a museum, guest house

and a residential wing.

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Varanasi divisional commissioner has been asked to submit a report on it.

Launched in 2005 by the Manmohan Singh government, JNNURM's aim was to improve urban infrastructure across the country. The Modi government rechristened the initiative as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation. -PTI

Wastage of one year in student's career matters: NCDCR

NEW DELHI, April 10: Wastage of a year in a student's career has wide implication on his job prospects, the apex consumer commission has said while asking a school to pay Rs 50,000 to a student who lost a year due to its refusal to issue a transfer certificate.

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDCR) has asked Jhunjhunu Academy at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan to pay the amount to Banue Singh Shekhawat whose daughter was denied transfer certificate by the school in 2013 due to which she lost an academic year of 2013-14 in college.

"A character certificate transfer certificate is always insisted by the institution (s) before giving admission to a student."

"Thus, it is clear that on account of wrong act of the opposite party (Academy), daughter of the petitioner was prevented from getting admission in college in the 2013-14 academic session. Wastage of one year in the career of a student has wide implication on the job as also promotion prospects," the NCDCR bench, headed by its presiding member Ajit Bharkha, said. -PTI



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Ceil-338/17

Kabul rejects Pakistan's claim of India's 'destructive' role

ISLAMABAD, April 10: Afghanistan has dismissed as "baseless" Pakistani claims that India played a "destructive" role in Kabul.

According to Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman General Dawlat Wazir, New Delhi had no military presence in Afghanistan. The News International reported.

Wazir on Sunday said Islamabad felt it was fueling anti-Pakistan feelings with its presence in Afghanistan. He said India was only providing training and study opportunities to the Afghan Army.

The remarks followed Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif's charge that the strained relations between Islamabad and Kabul were due to the Indian influence in Afghanistan.

India has played a major role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime and has invested over \$2 billion in various reconstruction and infrastructure projects. - IANS

G7 seeks united front on Assad, Russia

ROME, April 10: Last weeks spectated chemical attack in Syria and Russia's support for the Bashar al-Assad regime were likely to top the agenda as G7 Foreign Ministers on Monday gathered for a meeting in Italy.

The US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson struck a强硬 note over the weekend, telling CBS News that the Russians had failed to prevent the Syrian regime from carrying out a chemical attack on a rebel-held town in Idlib province which left 89 people dead. Tillerson is due to travel to Moscow on Tuesday and has pledged to take a "clear and coordinated message" in his scheduled talks with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov.

The meeting in the Italian city of Lucca brings together foreign ministers from the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

It had been expected that ministers would focus on hotspots such as Libya and Ukraine, but top of the agenda is the attack on Syria's Khan Sheikhun, and the US cruise missiles fired at a Syrian airbase in retaliation, the Guardian reported.

The meeting will also focus on North Korea's intention to continue its nuclear and missile weapons programme, the situation in Iraq and the complete integration of Iran in the international community.

The two-day meet, which is a precursor to the G7 summit in May in the Italian city of Taormina, comes at a time of increasing concern among Western nations over terrorist threats and conflicts in the Middle East.

Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN, said during the weekend that she saw regime change in Syria as one of the Trump administration's priorities in the country.

"There's not any sort of option where a political solution is going to happen with Assad at the head of the regime,"

Haley told CNN, while reiterating that defeating ISIS was still the number one policy goal. "If you look at his actions, if you look at the situation, it's going to be hard to see a government that's peaceful and stable with Assad," she said.

UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is expected to call for new sanctions against Russia if it refuses to back down from its support for Assad, the daily reported.

Johnson cancelled a scheduled visit to Moscow, saying his priority was now "to continue contact with the US and others".

He called on Russia to do "everything possible to bring about a political settlement in Syria and work with the rest of the international community to ensure that the shocking events of the last week are never repeated".

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Johnson's cancellation displayed a "fundamental misunderstanding or lack of knowledge of the events in Syria". Russia's efforts to settle that crisis and the general objectives of diplomacy". Also, the Russian embassy in London said that if Moscow was given an ultimatum to take its forces out of Syria and cut ties with its leader this week it could result in "real war". - IANS



People look at flowers and candles next to Ahlens department store following Friday's attack in central Stockholm, Sweden on Monday. - UNI

'Boko Haram kills eight, abducts women in Nigeria'

British Vogue names first male editor

LONDON, April 10: British Vogue, an iconic fashion magazine which celebrated its centenary last year, named Ghana-born Edward Enninful as its first male editor today.

Enninful, a close friend of

British supermodel Naomi Campbell, will replace Alexandra Shulman, who is stepping down on August 1 after more than 25 years.

He was born in Ghana, brought to London as a child and was scouted as a male model aged 16 before becoming the youngest editor in the industry when he was named fashion director of i-D magazine in 1991 aged just 18.

Enninful has already worked at Vogue's Italian and US editions and has been the creative and fashion director of the US style magazine W since 2011. Enninful is an influential figure in the communities of fashion, Hollywood and music which shape the cultural zeitgeist. - AFP

Le Pen says France not to blame for WW-II roundup of Jews

AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2017 & MAY 2017

E-Auction programme for the month of **APRIL 2017 & MAY 2017** has been fixed and to be started on dated **26-04-2017, 16 & 17-05-2017, 29 & 30-05-2017** for sale of scrap materials under PNO dept. Interested bidders are advised to bid IREPSS website (www.ireps.gov.in) for registration, training, participation in auction.

By CMMF/PN
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/01/2017, BH- 07-04-2017

(1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways-E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) (www.ireps.gov.in) for details & necessary guidelines for e-tendering please visit IREP-Procurement portal. Tenders are due to be opened on 09-05-2017, 15-05-2017 and 24-05-2017.

(2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered online. Offers shall be submitted and successful bidders through e-mail post/ifax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration.

(3) Please notice is for the procurement of services. In future no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to bid with IREPSS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in.

(4) Please submit offers online for the following stores:

Description: MO_Quantity: Tender No.: respectively. Both tensioning arrangement with 33ft, 45127232, 337 Nos. 40/16/028/03/06/04/17, 12V, 12Ah rated tensioner, through e-mail post/ifax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration.

(5) Please submit offers online for the following stores:

Description: MO_Quantity: Tender No.: respectively. Both tensioning arrangement with 33ft, 45127232, 337 Nos. 40/16/028/03/06/04/17, 12V, 12Ah rated tensioner, through e-mail post/ifax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration.

China ignores India's role in rescuing hijacked ship

BEIJING, April 10: China today claimed full credit for rescuing a cargo ship hijacked by Somali pirates in the strategic Gulf of Aden, ignoring Indian Navy's role in the operation.

While a Chinese navy statement last night omitted any reference to the Indian Navy in providing helicopter cover to the Chinese vessel whose special forces boarded the ship and rescued 19 Filipino crew members on board. Both the ship and the crew members are safe now," she told reporters.

Hua did not mention the assistance the Indian Navy provided to the Chinese Navy in the operation. Her comments came a day after the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) said in a statement that it rescued the ship.

When asked about the Chinese navy's statement, Indian Navy spokesperson in New Delhi referred to his tweet. "Indian Navy Chetak Helicopter on top of PLA Navy boats carrying boarding party to MV OS35 in coordinated anti-piracy ops @SpokespersonMod". - PTI

China bars wife of detained Taiwan activist from visiting

TAIPEI, April 10: Taiwan protested today after Beijing blocked a visit by the wife of a Taiwanese rights activist whose detention in China has further soured relations.

Lee Ching-yu was planning to fly to Beijing Monday afternoon in her bid to "rescue" her husband Lee Ming-cheh, who is under investigation in China for suspected activities "endangering national security".

But she was told by the airline that she could not board the plane because her travel permit to the mainland has been revoked.

"I am surprised, shocked and saddened. Does the Chinese government really need to exercise so much power to stop a weak woman like me from going?" she told reporters at the airport near Taipei, her voice cracking with emotion.

The detention is the latest in a series of incidents that have heightened tensions between Beijing and Taipei. In the series of incidents that have heightened tensions between Beijing and Taipei.

According to the military on April 8 at 5 PM the 25th convoy of Chinese navy which was conducting the escort mission in the Gulf of Aden in Somalia waters received reports from

the UKMTO (United Kingdom Marine Trade Operation) about the hijack of Tuvaluan ship OS35, "she said.

"The fleet vessel Yulin set out for the area immediately and rescue operation started early morning on April 9. Under the cover of helicopters, special force members of the navy boarded the ship and rescued 19 (Filipino) crew members on board. Both the ship and the crew members are safe now," she told reporters.

Hua did not mention the assistance the Indian Navy provided to the Chinese Navy in the operation. Her comments came a day after the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) said in a statement that it rescued the ship.

When asked about the Chinese navy's statement, Indian Navy spokesperson in New Delhi referred to his tweet. "Indian Navy Chetak Helicopter on top of PLA Navy boats carrying boarding party to MV OS35 in coordinated anti-piracy ops @SpokespersonMod". - PTI

Tender Notice No. 05 of 2017 Date: 07-04-2017

Open tenders are invited for the following works which will be opened on the date and time mentioned below. Offers are not allowed through e-mail post/ifax or in person and such manual offers received shall be rejected.

Tender No.: MLG122017, Name of work & Location: At KV Maligaon, Repairs of KV/Maligaon industrial complex including workshops, laboratories, toilets with cycle shed boundary wall and other ancillary works. Tender value: Rs. 22,40,384/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,71,660.00, Completion Period: 180 Days. Date of closing of tender: 11-05-2017 at 13.00 hrs.

For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord, KV Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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People arrive at a ceremony marking the seventh anniversary of the crash of the Polish government plane in Smolensk, Russia, that killed 96 people, including Kaczynski and his wife Maria, outside the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland on Monday. - UNI

3 Indians killed in road crash in Nepal

KATHMANDU, April 10: At least three Indians were killed on Saturday while another person was critically injured when a truck rammed at a highway in southwest Nepal.

The three were killed on Saturday shortly after the truck, en route to Hetauda from Narayanghat in Chitwan district struck the car with an Indian registration number plate, according to District Police Office, Makawanpur.

Two of the deceased have been identified as Nitesh Kumar Singh, 39 and Sanjaya Kuma Sharma, 45 of Sitamarhi, India. The identity of another man is yet to be ascertained. - PTI

He was among the eight killed by Boko Haram on their way to fetch firewood in the bush," Abubakar told AFP.

"They cut his throat and burnt his body", he said.

Boko Haram's eighth-year insurrection in northeast Nigeria, especially in Borno state, has left over 20,000 people dead and displaced 2.6 million.

Most of those displaced rely on food handouts from aid agencies while others have turned to felling trees from the scanty vegetation in the savanna region for firewood, which they sell to buy food.

Abubakar said the loggers had been warned by locals of the presence of the jihadis in the area. "They ignored the warning because they were desperately looking for ways to feed their family and collecting firewood was the only option they had". - AFP

ATTENTION RAILWAY PENSIONERS SPECIAL PENSION ADALAT-2017

This is to inform all Pensioners and Family Pensioners of N.F. Railway that "SPECIAL PENSION ADALAT-2017" will be held at the following venues for on-the-spot settlement of complaints as per details given below:-

SI	Venue of Adalat	For Pensioners & Family Pensioners of	Address for Application	Email Address	Contact Number
1	CPO's Office, NFR HQ, Maligaon, Guwahati – 11 (Assam)	NFR HQ and extra-divisional units of Guwahati, Pandu, Maligaon & New Guwahati whose bills were passed by F&ACAO's Office, Maligaon.	SPO/RP N.F. Railway HQ, Maligaon, Guwahati – 781011 (Assam)	soprnfr@gmail.com	9957550614
2	DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Tinsukia	Tinsukia Division & non-divisional units located in Tinsukia Division.	Sr. DPO, DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Tinsukia – 786 125 (Assam)	dpotsknfr@gmail.com	9957555601
3	DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Lumding	Lumding Division & non-divisional units located in Lumding Division.	DPO/IC, DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Lumding – 782 447 (Assam)	dplmrg@gmail.com	9957553600
4	DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Rangiya	Rangiya Division & non-divisional units located in Rangiya Division.	DPO/IC, DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Rangiya – 781 354 (Assam)	dpomynfr@gmail.com	9957554601
5	DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Alipurduar	Alipurduar Division & non-divisional units located in Alipurduar Division.	Sr.DPO, DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Alipurduar – 736 123 (W.B.)	srdpo.2015@gmail.com	9002052600
6	DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Kathihar	Kathihar Division & non-divisional units located in Kathihar Division.	Sr.DPO, DRM's Office, N.F. Railway, Kathihar – 854 105 (Bihar)	drmpkr@gmail.com	9771441600
7	CWM's Office, Railway Workshop, New Bongaigaon	New Bongaigaon Workshop, Engineering Workshop, Bongaigaon & PSTC, New Bongaigaon – 783 381 (Assam)	SPO/NBGS, C&W Workshop N.F.Railway, New Bongaigaon – 783 381 (Assam)	sponbgsnfr@gmail.com	9957552413
8	CWM's Office, Dibrugarh Workshop	Dibrugarh Workshop	SPO/DWBNS, N.F. Railway Mechanical Workshop, Dibrugarh – 786 001 (Assam)	apodbwsnfr@gmail.com	9957554548

1. HOW TO APPLY: Please fill up the following application format and mail it to the respective officer concerned in triplicate along with relevant documents in an envelope that should be clearly superscribed "SPECIAL PENSION ADALAT-2017". Complaints regarding payment of pension dues will be accepted. NOTE : Matters which are not connected with Final Settlement such as request for compassionate ground appointment, employment of wards, payment of time barred salary, allowances and stepping up of pay etc. will not be dealt in the "SPECIAL PENSION ADALAT". Your application must reach the officer concerned on or before the last date as mentioned below.

2. Application can be sent by email address also.

3. Last date of submission of application is 25-05-2017.

4. Pension Adalat will be held on 14-07-2017 (Friday) at 11.00 hrs. at all locations.

APPLICATION FORMAT
(PLEASE WRITE FULL DETAILS)

- Full name of ex-Employee/Spouse (Retd/Expired)
- Postal Address for correspondence
- Telephone or Mobile No.
- Date of Birth of Pensioner/Spouse/pensioner
- Date of Retirement
- Date of voluntary/compulsory Retirement
- Date of death of ex-employee after retirement
- Last Designtion of ex-employee
- Last Posting
- Last Pay drawn & Pay-scale : Last Pay- Rs.
- Controlling Officer at the time of retirement
- Pension Payment Order No. & Date (with copy of PPO)
- Name of Post/Office & Account No. with Address
- DETAILS OF COMPLAINT:

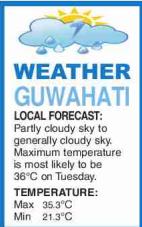
(Signature of Applicant)

(Note : The above information is also available in the website of N.F. Railway www.nfr.indianrailways.in

visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/NFRailway> & <https://twitter.com/railinf>

SPO/RP, N. F. Railway/Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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Youth conclave from today

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: Borooh College is organising a youth conclave on April 11 and 12. The conclave aims to bring students from Class XI onwards to participate in various competitions ranging from startup: business idea competition, shutter: the photography competition, to penomime: the mime solo competition and teaser: the quiz competition.

The conclave will be open for any bonafide and regular student of Class XI and above of any educational institution. All students who register will get a participation certificate, a press release said.

The event will see seminar presentation, live in a minute: very short film-making competition, caricature: cartoon and sketching competition, billboard: the poster-making competition, strings: the self-composed song competition, beat: single-instrument playing competition, and waste to wealth: the innovative design competition.

Mukoli Bihu on April 14

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: As in the previous years, the All Guwahati Students' Union (AGSU) is organising Mukoli Bihu at the Judges' Field here on April 14.

The function will start with unfurling of the Bihu flag by writer Upendra Barkataki at 10.15 am. On the occasion, a number of distinguished persons will be felicitated for their contribution to Assamese social life. A major highlight will be the cultural programme featuring the State's multi-hued ethnic life.

Gita Utsav

GUWAHATI, April 10: Like the previous years, this year too, Gita Samaj, Assam, is going to organise 'Gita Utsav' with a day-long programme on the Gita Mardi premises here April 15, the Utsav celebration committee stated in a release.

OBITUARY

Khirodananda Sarma

GUWAHATI, April 10: Khirodananda Sarma, a resident of Jatia area of the city died at a Dibrugarh nursing home today following a brief illness. He was 85.

Sarma, who had retired as registrar from the Directorate of Education, was actively associated with several social organisations. He was loved and respected by all for his amiable disposition.

Sarma is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.



Children participating in a Bihu dance workshop organised by Pub Guwahati Bihu Sammelan in Chandnari AEI field in Guwahati on Monday. — UB Photos

Bio-resources vanishing due to people's ignorance'

CORRESPONDENT

are vanishing rapidly due to people's lack of knowledge about sustainable development and proper education.

Prof Kulkarni, a visiting professor at the Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, earlier visited Raniga College and delivered a lecture on environmental issues. Today's lecture at GU was attended by many postgraduate students, research scholars and young faculty members.

Meanwhile, the newly formed executive body of the ZSA with Priyabrat Lahkar as president and Prof Jogen Chandra Kalita as general secretary was elected. It was also decided that the biennial general body meeting held at Gauhati University on March 31, will take charge shortly.

CRPF unit celebrates Valour Day

GUWAHATI, April 10: 128 Bn CRPF celebrated Valour Day at its battalion headquarters at Noonmati here on April 9, a press release said today.

Valour Day is celebrated in remembrance of an act of unparalleled bravery displayed by a small contingent of CRPF personnel, pitted against a full-fledged infantry brigade of Pakistani Army trying to overcome their post at Sardar Post and Tak Post, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat on April 9, 1965. They not only defeated the Pakistani brigade but also killed 34 enemy soldiers and captured four of them.

In this connection, a Sainik Sammelan was conducted wherein Surjit Kumar, Commandant, 128 Bn CRPF, along with all officers of the unit, subordinate officers and other ranks, honoured awardees of the police medal for gallantry of this unit – head constable (general duty) Ganga Ram Nath and constable (general duty) Jayanta Talukdar for the year 2012 and 2016.

Poisoning killed nearly 500 vultures in 4 years in State

SIVASISH THAKUR

"Cases of acute poisoning have claimed nearly 500 vultures in a span of just over four years since 2013. This is an extremely disturbing trend and unless checked, it will spell doom for the beleaguered vulture," an official of the Bomani Natural History Society (BNHS), which jointly runs the VCBC with the Forest Department, told *The Assam Tribune*.

The break-up of vulture poisoning in the last four years is – 40 in 2013 (one incident each in Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur), 90 in 2014 (Dibrugarh-1, BTC-2, Bongaigaon-1, Sivasagar-2, Nalbari-1, Jorhat-1 and Tinsukia-1), 210 in 2015 (Sivasagar-2, Tinsukia-2, Lakhimpur-1, Kam-

rup-2), and 105 in 2016 (Nalbari-3, Kamrup-3, Darrang-1 and Barpeta-1).

People sometimes poison animal carcasses to get rid of dogs that occasionally target and kill livestock, especially calves. The practice has emerged as the biggest threat to vultures in Assam in recent times.

The BNHS official said that as part of its efforts to ensure long-term conservation of vultures, several initiatives including the launching of the Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) had been taken.

"We have been working in the areas witnessing large-scale vulture fatalities and sensitising the people not to poison animal carcasses or to dam-

age the roosting trees of vultures. As for VSZ, the idea is to make a particular geographical area (of at least 100 km radius) that shelters vultures free of the presence of the drug diclofenac in animal carcasses, the major food of vultures. Assam too has been chosen as one of the VSZ sites," he said.

He added that BNHS in-situ conservation efforts had led to stabilisation of vulture populations in designated VSZs in Gujarat and Jharkhand and increase in vulture population in the VSZ in Uttarakhand in recent years.

According to an estimate, in Assam, the Himalayan griffon (a winter migratory species), and the white-backed and the slender-billed (both resident species), have declined by 97.99 per cent during the last 15 years. In fact, over 99 per cent of the population of the two resident species has already been lost in recent times.



The Assam Tribune

— Ritupratap Saikia, Lakhimi Path, Beltola Special coupon

During a visit to the Kamakhya temple a few days

ago, I was confronted by a serpentine queue of visitors who were patiently awaiting their turn for *darshan* at the hallowed shrine. As I had other important engagements to attend to during the day, I procured a special entry coupon for Rs 501.00. Still then, I had to wait for over one-and-a-half hours before I could enter the temple premises.

Strangely enough, the special entry coupon worth Rs 501.00 did not have the mandatory ticket number or date, nor did it have signatures of the Dolo, secretary or collector.

Will the authorities concerned therefore wake up and take notice, and take appropriate measures to right the wrong?

— Ranjit Talukdar, Kharghuli, Guwahati

All villages in State to be electrified by June 30

STAFF REPORTER

sumers and finalise a policy to reduce technical and commercial loss, which at present is around 30 per cent.

Moreover, the meeting decided to enhance the peak hour handling capacity to cater to growing power demand. At present the peak hour handling capacity of transmission line is 1628 MW. Besides, the meeting took note of the progress of the Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project and the Anguri and Chandrapur solar projects with an installed capacity of 69 MW and 30 MW respectively and the Namrup Replacement Power Project-I with an installed capacity of 100 MW.

Chairing a high level meeting of all wings of the power department in the conference room of his office at Janta Bhawan this evening, Sonowal directed the power department to connect un-electrified villages under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya GramJyoti Yojana by June 30.

The meeting, which decided on a broad roadmap of the power department for the next five years, also decided to use prepaid meters across Assam and a detailed project report is to be prepared very soon for the same.

A unique identification number will also be generated for state-of-the-art technological solutions for all consumers for their problems.

Sonowal also said that the *char* areas of Assam, which have long been considered as a liability, will henceforth change the face and solar power parks will be set in those areas to make Assam a solar power hub.

The meeting also decided to carry out a feasibility study and accordingly prepare a roadmap to push forward the project. Sonowal also directed revitalisation of the flood monitoring system around the 3.6 lakh hectare *char* areas in the State.

The meeting decided to augment dedicated feeders for the meeting, the press release said.

Prototype of municipal solid waste disposer developed

STAFF REPORTER

and an automatic mixture. The device can thus

recycle plastic for

recycling and biological solid

waste to prepare organic manure.

Sabhapandit said that while designing the device, he had made an attempt at doing away with the problem of MSW littering the public places so as to provide a clean environment to the people. With the device, he has also sought to do away with the risk of manually handling the MSW, said the mechanical engineer.

The first prototype of the device is now ready at Bamumindaimad Industrial Estate 5th bye-lane shed here.

Sabhapandit told this newspaper here that the device was developed by him with the assistance of textile engineer Pulakesh Sarma and named "Nirmal," has a collection part with an automatically or manually operated compressed container, an initial segregator, a conveyor belt, a polythene shredder, a water jet sprayer, a plastic skimmer, a vibrating sieve



Minister for Environment & Forest Pramila Rani Brahma along with noted actor and Chairman of the Assam State Film Finance & Development Corporation Limited Jatin Bora, planting a sapling in the Amchung Wildlife Sanctuary on Monday. — AT photo

Child beggars should not be given indulgence

We should never give money to child beggars we meet at several places of the city, especially at the bus stops.

Organised begging is one of the most visible forms of human trafficking – and it is largely financed and enabled by good-hearted people who just want to help.

Interestingly, if we give them a packet of biscuit or any other foodstuff, they refuse to take it. What they want is only money.

I urge the authorities concerned to make some efforts to rescue those children.

— Dhurbajyoti Nath, GU

PoS machines

Introduction and use of 'point of sale' (PoS) machines by the vendors who deliver domestic LPG cylinders through vans is the need of the hour for the convenience of consumers. It would be great if gas agencies start operating PoS machines while delivering cylinders through vans to the customers.

— Dhurbajyoti Nath, Kailhipara, Guwahati

Piped water

The citizens of Beltola-Kalash Nagar area face huge scarcity of water during the

dry season, viz January to April. Almost all the wells and tube wells go dry during this

— citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to write to their MLA, ward member and authorities concerned to mitigate our sufferings and arrange for piped water in these areas.

— Ritupratap Saikia, Lakhimi Path, Beltola Special coupon

During a visit to the Kamakhya temple a few days ago, I was confronted by a serpentine queue of visitors who were patiently awaiting their turn for *darshan* at the hallowed shrine. As I had other important engagements to attend to during the day, I procured a special entry coupon for Rs 501.00. Still then, I had to wait for over one-and-a-half hours before I could enter the temple premises.

Strangely enough, the special entry coupon worth Rs 501.00 did not have the mandatory ticket number or date,

nor did it have signatures of the Dolo, secretary or collector.

As a sizeable amount of revenue is collected from the visitors on a daily basis through sale of special entry coupons, there is a possibility of leakage or misappropriation of accrued funds, as the rules followed while issuing the special entry coupons under reference are self-explanatory.

Will the authorities concerned therefore wake up and take notice, and take appropriate measures to right the wrong?

— Ranjit Talukdar, Kharghuli, Guwahati

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Fate determines who comes into our lives. Our attitude and actions determine who stays in our lives.

— JAVAN

The Assam Tribune**State population policy**

With the State Government unveiling its draft population policy – a much-needed exercise under the prevailing circumstances – the issue of population control should figure among the Government's priorities. The State has added some one crore population in the past one decade or so, a high increase by any standards. The adverse effects of a rapidly growing population – many of who do not have access to the basics of health and education – hardly warrant any reiteration. All it is doing is to subject the scarce natural resources and the fragile environment to enormous pressure. Also evident have been the adverse socio-economic fallout in the form of growing tension and unrest triggered by an expanding population. Among the proposals in the draft policy are incentives for parents with two or less children, and disincentives for persons with more than two children. Essential as such initiatives are, even more crucial is to popularize family planning at the grassroots, especially among segments known to have abhorrence to family planning due to ignorance, superstition, custom, or any other reasons. This can be achieved through advocacy, incentives, and promoting institutional delivery. As long-term measures, providing access to education and health care to every person is a must. Some belts such as *char* areas dominated by immigrant Muslim populations have a high incidence of child birth and it is important to target these areas for bringing down the higher rate of population growth. Persons like Dr Hafiz Ali are doing a commendable job in such areas but the need is to strengthen further the family planning movement so that its avowed objectives are met. The Sachar Committee findings have also taken note of the high rate of population growth among the poor and illiterate Muslims and suggested the governments to address this problem at the earliest by taking special initiatives. Muslim intellectuals, too, acknowledge this drawback and are increasingly calling upon the authorities to put in urgent remedial measures.

In order to be pragmatic, a population policy has to aim at bringing down birth rates and facilitating a stable growth rate of population. In a State like Assam where a large segment of the populace is still illiterate, fatalist and custom-ridden, initiating them into family planning constitutes a big challenge. As family planning holds the key to having a balanced population, the Government should – besides spreading awareness and encouraging small families – also ensure that the overall standard of living of the masses, especially those outside the ambit of family planning, improve. Then, for family planning to succeed, it has to give emphasis on empowering the women. The pathetic condition of women among the backward communities has been a major stumbling block in achieving the goals of population control. Also imperative is to address the concerns of infant and maternal mortality rates which remain on the higher side in spite of the interventions made so far.

Insidious trend

In yet another crime by self-styled Gau-rakshaks, an individual has been murdered in Alwar in Rajasthan after the BJP was overwhelmingly voted to power at the Centre. A dairy farmer named Pehlu Khan was waylaid by a bunch of hoodlums while transporting legally bought cows and beaten to death. This was not an isolated incident but merely the latest one in a string of similar happenings beginning with the lynching of a Muslim in UP for storing beef (which turned out to be mutton), followed by numerous other heinous incidents such as the thrashing of Dalits while they were engaged in their profession of skinning dead cows. Such has been the endemic violence perpetrated by self-styled protectors of cows, that the Supreme Court of India has had to issue notices to the Centre and six States to inform it about the steps being taken to rein in the vigilantes. In tune with the overall insidious trend which is emerging as the saffron brigade attempts to put in place its Hindutva agenda, the new BJP Government in UP has started taking action against abattoirs producing buffalo meat, one of the cheapest food sources in the State, thereby putting thousands of people out of jobs. The carefully orchestrated cow protection and anti-beef campaign has created a fear psychosis amongst Dalits and minorities while threatening communal harmony.

The rationale behind veneration of cows spans a long period of history, in fact, since human communities gave up their nomadic traits, became sedentary and took to agriculture. Cattle became cherished possessions since they were crucial to an agrarian society, being used not only to plough the land, but also to yield milk, leather, dung for fuel and manure, etc. In the course of time utilitarianism metamorphosed into blind veneration in some communities while in others such veneration was absent because those societies were not wholly agrarian and cattle were not that important. The preferences of one community should not be forcibly imposed on others, especially if this leads to violence and killings. Thus, while it is all very well to enact cow protection laws, it is equally imperative that legislations against self-styled Gau-rakshaks are put in place. Unfortunately, chauvinistic tendencies are being sought to be injected into traditionally liberal communities such as those in Assam. Reportedly, three persons were arrested at Jorhat for "carrying beef," though existing laws in the State do not make this a cognizable offence. It will be a disaster for Assam and its liberal ethos if the political elements behind the arrest are allowed to get away with their sinister design. It is thus not only incumbent upon the Sonowal ministry to nip such an insidious trend in the bud, but also for every organization to condemn it in no uncertain terms.

Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016

■ Dr Dharmakanta Kumbhakar

A recent WHO report, titled 'Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders – Global Health Estimates', estimated that about 7.5% of India's total population suffers from mental health-related disorders. According to an Indian report, the number of Indians suffering from mental health-related disorders exceeds that of the total population of South Africa.

Clearly, mental health-related disorders are major health issues country-wide throughout all communities, both sexes and all age groups. It is a major cause of concern that childhood and adolescent depression is on the rise in India. India is sitting atop a problem that is likely to assume serious dimensions within a few years. Mental health-related disorders will be the most common disorder overthrowing cardiac disorders and diabetes in India within a few years. It will be the biggest cause of disability in India. Yet, the issue of mental health care is getting least attention in India. The health infrastructure in the country provides little scope for mental health-related disorders treatment. As per a WHO report, there are just three psychiatrists and even fewer clinical psychologists for every 10 lakh people in India. As per Central Government data itself, there are 3,800 psychiatrists and 898 clinical psychologists in the entire country. What is more, these experts are mostly concentrated in urban areas, even though mental health-related disorders are beginning to plague poor people in rural areas

in ever greater numbers.

In India people with mental health-related disorders are more isolated from others by social distancing. Majority of people hold negative attitudes towards these people. The shame associated with mental health-related disorders continues to drive away sufferers from seeking counselling and treatment. One has to be brave enough to go for treatment openly. So it is high time that the Government should provide mental health care and services with a rights-based approach to the people of India suffering from mental health-related disorders.

Approved by the Rajya Sabha in August 2016 and passed by the Lok Sabha recently, the new 'Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016' is a rights-based framework for the people of India suffering from mental health-related disorders. The Bill will mark an ambitious improvement of the existing Mental Health Act, 1987, considered archaic and grossly inadequate for changing the realities of mental health-related disorders in India. Whereas the Act of 1987 provided only general protections against indignant or cruel treatment, Chapter V of the new Bill operates as a charter of rights for persons with mental health-related disorders consolidating and safeguarding the basic human rights of these individuals. The primary aim of the Bill is to

provide mental health care and services for persons with mental health-related disorders and ensure that these persons have the right to live a community life with dignity by not being discriminated against or harassed.

The Bill has proposed to change the existing definition of mental health-related disorder as "a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memo-

rical insurance for treatment of mental health-related disorders on the same basis as is available for treatment of physical ailments. It provides protection from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The Bill completely prohibits electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) as a measure of emergency treatment. It also prohibits ECT without muscle relaxants and anaesthesia. ECT is completely prohibited for minors.

Another significant change in the new Bill is the decriminalization of suicide, stating that a person who attempts suicide should be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have 'severe stress', and shall not be tried and punished.

sure access to mental health services in every district. These will include outpatient and inpatient services, hospitals and community-based rehabilitation establishments. It also assures free mental health care services for poor and vulnerable persons, even if they do not possess BPL card. The new law seeks that every insurer is bound to make provision for medical insurance for treatment of

any such attempt.

Though the provisions stated in the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 reflects the Government's well-meaning ambition for the betterment of the people of India suffering from mental health-related disorders, the Government will be unable to achieve the well-meaning goal of the Bill until they do something to overcome the stigma associated with mental illness in the society, to overcome the shortage of health infrastructure for mental health care, to increase more mental health care experts and to provide scope for mental health-related disorders treatment in the rural areas of India. Eradicating the stigma of people with mental health-related disorders must be a top public health priority in order to improve country-wide mental health. It now remains to be seen whether the Government will build up the health infrastructure needed to match its well-meaning ambition, considering how understaffed and overworked the country's health care sector happens to be. To begin with, the Central Government ought to increase the budget allocation for mental health care.

Time now for a bamboo revolution in Assam

■ SMS Bordoloi

Abamboo revolution has already swept almost all the continents of the world. But, here in the North-east, the highest bamboo growing area of the country, we seem to be way behind harnessing the full potential of this miracle grass. However, the world's first bamboo-based bio-fuel refinery is being set up in Assam only by our very own Numaligarh Refinery. Bamboo has great potentials to change the face of the State's economy as well as make the world a better living place. It is time now for a bamboo revolution in the State which can be easily turned into a people's revolution, a revolution that will create a robust economy and help Assam emerge as the only carbon neutral State in the country.

Climate change and global warming have been the biggest worries of the global leaders, policy-makers and the conscious citizens. A grove of bamboo releases 35% more oxygen than an equivalent stand of trees. Because of this, planting bamboo is a great way to reduce carbon footprint and help fight global warming. Well-managed bamboo forests can seques-

ter 20% more carbon than similar tree forest areas. Bamboo might turn out to be a billion-dollar business for carbon trading alone for which the bamboo growing regions like ours need to be serious. International Network for Bamboo & Rattan (read cane) (INBAR) has already made the world leaders know how bamboo would help mitigate climate change.

The pollution level in some of the cities of India and China has grown phenomenally due to various reasons. According to a recently released report of 'State of Global Air 2017', the number of lives lost to the tiny particulate matter (PM) in India is approaching China's numbers. According to the report, while 11,08,100 deaths were attributed to PM2.5 exposure in China in 2015, in India, it was 10,90,400.

In December 2015 when the 'red alert' smog levels hit China's capital city – the highest alert is issued since this colour-coded system debuted in 2013, a Canadian company transhipped flight loads of pure air bottles and they sold like hot cakes! Indian cities are becoming pollution hubs at much faster rates. And the North-east has

great role to play in maintaining air quality and play host to the oxygen-starved people from other parts of the country. It is possible just within two years as this grass grows at a rapid speed.

Preventing soil erosion is yet another amazing power of bamboo. Bamboo roots form a network of roots in the soil, thereby binding it and preventing soil erosion, especially in steep slopes and riverbanks where soil erosion is serious. The abundant foliage that dry and fall off create a thick humus layer that enriches the soil. Plantation of bamboo along the banks of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries will not only help protect the soil from erosion permanently, it will also create huge employment and create a multiplier effect on the overall economy, especially tourism sector with air quality improving dramatically in just four-five years of time.

Bamboo has been giving us food (bamboo shoots), fence and shelter for centuries and now with superior technology we are able to get superior furniture, flooring tiles, fabric, cosmetic, beer, bamboo water, bamboo oil, antiseptic cream, bamboo salt (known for diabetic cure in Korea), bamboo bicycle, audio speaker, education

toys, etc. And we are soon getting bio-fuel from bamboo.

The global bamboo business is pegged at Rs 1 lakh crore and in India, it is estimated to be around Rs 10,000 crore. Of late there has been great emphasis on replacing steel in the construction industry with bamboo. Bamboo has already made inroad into the luxury car segment as dashboard panel, steering wheel and gear lever, etc.

Swedish furniture giant IKEA's bamboo furniture accounts for 1% of its global sales of Euro 30 billion (about Rs 2,28,600 crore) which, until February 2016, the company used to source from China and Indonesia. In February, 2016, IKEA had lost the right to use its own brand name in Indonesia after a legal battle with a local company that claimed the trademark which eventually resulted in IKEA shifting its sourcing hub to India.

Startup India, a flagship initiative of the Government of India, offers great incentives to entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas. Our youths should grab this golden opportunity. If one has an idea but finding it difficult to develop a business model, there are large numbers of incubators recognized by the Gov-

ernment of India to incubate the entrepreneurs. The budding entrepreneurs must get inspired by the fact that despite the absence of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the State, around 10 entrepreneurs from Assam have already made entry into the coveted list of DIPP-approved startups.

The bamboo textile business has been growing at a rapid pace the world over and it is known to be superior to even Kashmiri silk. Bamboo fabric also possesses thermo-stable character and bamboo clothing creates cooling effect in the body during summer and makes one feel warm during winters.

Bamboo is a highly renewable grass and takes only four to five years to mature whereas a tree takes 60 years to mature. So switching from furniture made from tree wood to bamboo wood makes great sense if we are climate conscious and want to save the planet earth. Switching to products made of bamboo or bamboo wood would drastically cut down cutting of trees and save the planet from the plastic menace. Steel is the highest polluting industry in the world; imagine how much good we can do to this world by switching to bamboo as an alternative to products made of steel!

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — The news of granting 'A' grade to the Dibrugarh University by the NAAC after its inspection in February last is really encouraging. The university has scored 3.16 (CGPA) on a four-point scale, though it was able to score 2.98 in 2009 and was accredited with 'B' grade only. So it reflects its better performance and the credit goes to it. The DU has been playing a vital role in the promotion of higher education since its inception in 1965. The people of the region hope that the university would continue to march ahead in the coming days and be able to establish itself among the excellent universities of the world. I congratulate the DU for its achievement towards human resource development. Yours etc., JOGEN BARUAH, Tekela Chirang, Dibrugarh.

Namami Brahmaputra
Sir — When parents or guardians take their children/wards to experts to learn dancing, acting, singing and playing musical instruments, they along with the children exhibit a lot of discipline

Kudos to DU for getting NAAC 'A' grade

and hard work and that too for many years on a trot. When the disciples of the experts get a chance to exhibit their talents, both natural and acquired, the hard work and discipline of the parents, children and the experts alike seem to show results. But if the disciples don't get a platform to exhibit what they have learnt, they might feel disappointed or might fade away into oblivion. In this respect, festivals like Namami Brahmaputra, besides paying obeisance to the mighty Brahmaputra, play a great role by providing a nice platform for the exponents of such performing arts to exhibit their abilities, thereby keeping them motivated. Thus, such festivals can go a long way to keep the youths of a certain region on the right track. As such Namami Brahmaputra can be made an annual affair. Yours etc., GAURAV BORAH, AT Road, Guwahati.

Road tunnel

Sir — The longest road tunnel built in the Jammu and Kashmir region recently and inaugurated by the Prime Minister is praiseworthy. I would like to suggest through your esteemed daily that such type

of road tunnel can be built in our region, especially on the National Highway which joins the two valleys of Assam. This will help the people of the region, particularly from the Barak Valley. We cannot rely only on train lines nowadays. Other mode of safe transportation should be made available to us. Yours etc., S LASKAR, Guwahati.

Hindu migrants

Sir, — This has reference to the editorial captioned 'Hindu migrants' (AT, April 3). The influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh is very serious and perennial in nature. Instead of solving the problem in right earnest, the Central Government has kept it as it was up till now showing total disrespect to the Assam Accord. The Assamese people fear that they are going to be minority in terms of language and culture if the situation goes on like this. Of late the Government's move to bring the Hindu minority from Bangladesh is quite disheartening and unacceptable. It will push the situation to the worst state. The Government should forsake this forever. Furthermore, considering the present situation, constitutional

representatives being the residents of the town, things should turn for the better.

Through you esteemed newspaper, this is an attempt to bring the situation to the notice of the concerned so that immediate action may be undertaken in line with the Government's 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. Yours etc., SHYAMAL BARUAH, Moran.

Dirty Moran area

Sir, —

—

I had the opportunity of driving from Moran to Kokrajhar some days back. It gives me pain to see what the Government is going to do about *Jati, Mati and Bheti*. Extending the scheduled caste status to six ethnic groups can be one step forward in this direction. Yours etc., DR HARENDRA NATH PATHAK, Golaghat.

24x7 medical shops

Sir, — Through your esteemed daily, I would like highlight the inconveniences that are being faced in the small towns and remote villages due to the unavailability of 24-hour medical shops in the vicinity. Even though the doctors are present at the civil hospitals, the patients can't buy the prescribed medicines due to closure of the pharmacies at night. So the patients either have to run to the nearby city or wait for the next morning until the shops open. I would like to appeal to the State Health Minister to take necessary measures in this regard. Yours etc., P BORA, Dergaon.

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

Dr Hazarika solidarity award presented to Prasanna Vithanage

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: The coveted Biswaratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika International Solidarity Award 2017 was conferred on acclaimed filmmaker from Sri Lanka, Prasanna Vithanage, at Rabindra Bhawan here today.

The award, instituted in the name of Assam's cultural icon Dr Bhupen Hazarika, was given by the Asam Sahitya Sabha in association with the Numal-

garh Refinery Limited (NRL).

A celebrated filmmaker, Vithanage is known both for his cinematic excellence as well as commercial success. He has won more than 15 international awards and his films have been screened in 13 film festivals.

His films include *Akasa Kusum, Ira Madiyana, Anantha Rathriya, Sisita Gini Gani*. Also deeply associated with the theatre, he translated and directed George Bernard

Shaw's play *Arms and the Man* and Italian Dario Fo's *Truman and Raspberries*.

The Dr Bhupen Hazarika International Solidarity Award, conferred biannually, consists of a trophy, a citation and a cheque of Rs 5 lakh.

In his acceptance speech, Vithanage said the award in the name of a legendary figure like Dr Hazarika was not just a big encouragement, but also a huge responsibility.

"To receive an award in the

name of the baritone-voiced singer, an extraordinary personality and exceptional lyricist, never crossed my mind in my wildest dreams," he said.

Lauding Assamese cinema, referring to the *Halodhoya Choray Baodhan Khay* by Jahan Barua, he said the film inspired and influenced him to a great extent for its closeness to life.

"The Asam Sahitya Sabha,

which promotes literature and works for preserving culture,

is a commendable example, which is valuable for my country as well," he said.

Deliberating as the chief guest, eminent filmmaker Jahan Barua explained the relation between cinema and literature and the necessity to deal both the subjects with utmost sensitivity. "I have made two films *Halodhoya Choray Baodhan Khay* and *Ajeyo* based on popular novels and understand the sensitive yet deep relationship, like that of a couple at the loggerheads," he said, adding that though literature can survive without cinema, but cinema cannot survive without literature.

On the demand for Bharat Ratna to Dr Bhupen Hazarika posthumously, Barua, referring to the less than desirable attendance in the programme, said a more spontaneous response of the people in the events and functions related to Dr Hazarika would be a bigger honour compared to the

Bharat Ratna.

Earlier, the Numaligarh Refinery branch of the Sahitya Sabha gave a written appeal to accord the country's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, on Dr Hazarika, respecting the sentiments of the people of Assam.

Sabha president-in-charge Prahlad Tasa, while speaking on the occasion, said the Sabha was keen on promoting and expanding the cultural reach of Assam to other parts of the

country and internationally as well. "We will keep on working towards taking the literature and culture of Assam to the newer heights in the global arena," he said.

Senior General Manager (HR) of the NRL Apurba Bhattacharya reiterated his organisation's initiative to continue welfare activities in social and literary spheres in Assam. Award committee convenor Paramananda Rajbongshi delivered the welcome speech.

CM launches MyGov Assam website



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launching the portal in the conference hall of the State Secretariat in Guwahati on Monday. - UB Photos

STAFF REPORTER

lution and implementation.

Saying that the people are as much as the stakeholders in the governance as the elective representatives, Sonowal said that they must engage them selves in government's functioning taking advantage of the technology like MyGov.

"People have always been eager to provide their suggestions and feedback but due to lack of an interactive medium it was not possible for them. But now MyGov would provide the opportunity to the people to get closer to the government and bridge the gap in communication," Sonowal said.

Urging all departments and institutions under State government to take up MyGov Assam on priority basis and adopt a participatory approach in their decision making, Sonowal said that this platform would be a vital link between the government and public in achieving the goal of making Assam one of the best States in the country.

Further, saying that right from the panchayat to the Deputy Commissioner and Secretary level, MyGov would enable the government in improving the functioning of every office and efficiency level in carrying out their duties, Sonowal said people's responsibility do not end with voting but they have a crucial role in ensuring good governance at all levels.

"We are open to criticism of all kinds and I urge the people to participate fully in this endeavour of making truly a pro-people government," Sonowal said.

The MyGov website would be an interactive platform between the government and people of the State that would help the government in knowing public opinion on different subjects.

Launching the website, the Chief Minister said that MyGov would facilitate dialogue, discussion, deliberation and information dissemination between citizens and government and it would be a great tool for the people to give suggestion to the government on policy forum-

ulation and implementation.

Saying that the people are as much as the stakeholders in the governance as the elective representatives, Sonowal said that they must engage themselves in government's functioning taking advantage of the technology like MyGov.

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Urging all departments and institutions under State government to take up MyGov Assam on priority basis and adopt a

Threat to woman activist for her beef comment condemned

GUWAHATI, April 10: Voluntary organisation Women in Governance-North East (WinG NE) has condemned the alleged intimidation and threats to its member, Bonita Acharya, a women's rights activist from Jorhat, by Bajrang Dal and individuals for expressing her opinion on beef eating on her Facebook account.

She was intimidated and warned of dire consequences like death, gang rape and acid attack for her comment on the issue. The bullies have also asked her to apologise in public for her comment.

The WinG NE said in a statement here today that it considers this threat issued to Bonita Acharya as a violation of her fundamental rights to life and freedom of expression and with immediate withdrawal of their threats and intimidation to Bonita and other women leaders of the Northeast. The Bajrang Dal would have to take full responsibility in the event of any untoward incident involving Bonita.

It further said that the Government of India should respect, recognise and allow full-fledged consumption of beef and all kinds of food, applicable in accordance with traditions and customs of all indigenous peoples of the Northeast. Moreover, the government should stop all forms of imposition of religious and other cultural practices incompatible to the practices and traditions of the communities in the region.



Road Transport Workers' Union members staging a protest in front of the DTO office in Guwahati against the hike in various fees, on Monday. - UB Photos

Novel released

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: Author Nilakshi Bargohain's fourth novel, *Life's Beautiful Days*, was released at a function held at the Srimanta Sanakadeva Kalakshetra here on Sunday.

A host of dignitaries, including senior journalist Kanak Se Dekha, Justice Ujjwal Bhuyan, Dibrugarh University VC Prof Alok Buragohain, writers Phanindra Kumar Deoudhury, Bandita Phukan and Monica Rawat, Dhrubajyoti Hazarika, Dr KK Upadhyay and Fr Johnson Parackal, among others, attended the event.

The speakers termed the volume as an important contribution to contemporary literature.

The author presented a sapling to each of the dignitaries present on the occasion.

Foundation day

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: The Gurukul Magic Academy celebrated its 10th foundation day at the Pandit Tirthanantra Sarma memorial hall here on Sunday.

The chief guest of the function was Pabitra Margherita, Chairman of Jyoti Chirabam. Kumud Ranjan Talukdar was felicitated on the occasion for his lifelong contributions, a press release stated. The Maya School of Magic, a sister concern of Gurukul Magic Academy, was also formally launched during the day's celebrations.

India warns Pak...

(Contd from page 1)

He said Jadhav was kidnapped last year from Iran and his subsequent presence in Pakistan has never been "explained credibly".

Pakistan claims its security forces had arrested Jadhav from the restive Balochistan province on March 3 last year after he reportedly entered the country from Iran. It also claimed that he was "a serving officer in the Indian Navy".

The Pakistan Army had also released a "confessional video" of Jadhav after his arrest.

India had acknowledged that Jadhav had served with the Navy but denied that he has any connection with the government.

India, through its High Commission in Islamabad, has repeatedly sought consular access to him, as provided for by international law and 13 such requests were formally made between March 25, 2016 and

It also claimed that Jadhav alias Hussein Mubarak Patel was "provided with defending officer as per legal provisions". - PTI

Revert to paper...

(Contd from page 1)

edifice, needs to be addressed forthwith and in the right earnest," said another leader.

Among those present at today's strategy meeting held at Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad's chamber in Parliament included Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal and Vivek Tankha, besides JDU leader Ali Anwar Ansari, TMC leader Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, BSP leader Satish Misra and SP leader Neeraj Shekhar.

NC leader Majed Memon, CPI leader D Raji, CPI-M leader CP Narayanan and RJD leader JP Narain Yadav were also present during the meeting and all decided to strongly raise the issue with the EC. - PTI

Project cost yet...

(Contd from page 1)

the river or the same would be passed on to the NHAI at a reasonable cost for construction of roads. The IWAI would notify the dumping grounds before the commencement of the work.

The IWAI would keep informing the State and Central governments on the progress of the work from time to time.

The NHAI would transport the dredged material to its sites for construction of the roads.

CITY

Officials asked to check markets for plastic eggs

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: Following reports from other parts of the State about alleged penetration of 'plastic eggs' in the market, the Kamrup Metro district administration has directed the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) and Food Safety Department officials to check the markets of the city. "There is an alleged penetration of plastic eggs in the market. We have asked the GMC and food safety officials to check and report. As of now, no complaints or reports have been received, but the district administration is monitoring closely," said Dr M Agamuthu, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro.

 NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (A mini Rata Category-I, Government of India Enterprise) NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED COORDINATION WING NEEPCO Bhawan, R.G. Baruah Road, Guwahati-781 005 (Assam)
CORRIGENDUM - II The Tender for "Renovation of dining hall at 3rd floor of NEEPCO Guest House, Guwahati" invited vide NIB No.08 Dtd. 16-03-2017 has been extended till 20-04-2017 . Sr. Manager (C), Coordination

 AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA CORRIGENDUM-1 Refer Notice Inviting Applications for EOI for the work "APPROVAL OF MAKES FOR THE ITEMS/PRODUCTS TO BE USED IN THE ELECTRICAL WORKS IN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (PHASE-II)", for revised eligibility criteria & date of submission, please visit AAIA Website www.sai.aero . Corrigendum-1, dated 05-04-2017, any, will be uploaded on AAIA Website only. N-05/2017-1B
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Tips on facing interviews offered

STAFF REPORTER

dents.

They spoke on the approach to prepare the curriculum vitae, on the need for a positive attitude, a positive body language and other motivational aspects elaborately. This was followed by an interactive session.

The resource persons were introduced to the students by Atanu Kumar Chowdhury, Head of the Department of Economics and also a member of the Rotary Club of Guwahati South. The resource persons were subsequently felicitated by the students here.

Dr Runima Baishya, Head of the Department of Physics and convener of the Career Counselling and Placement Cell of the college, offered the vote of thanks, the press release added.

 NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (A mini Rata Category-I, Government of India Enterprise) NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED Brookland Compound : Lower New Colony, SBI Lane - 781 003, Meghalaya website: www.neepco.gov.in ; E-mail: info@neepco.gov.in Phone: 0374 282 5214
NOTICE INVITING BID Sealed tenders in prescribed format with 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) days validity are hereby invited and invited I extended till 19-04-2017 for tender on Balcony (backside) OF B-TYPE Quarter No. B-19 to 28, AGBP, NEEPCO LTD, DIST. DIBRUGARH, ASSAM." Tender value ₹23,13,869.00. Details of qualifying requirement for issue of tender documents etc. are elaborated in the detailed NIB No. AGBP/CWC/07 Dated 03-04-2017, which is available at our website www.neepco.gov.in & https://neepco.abprocure.com . Sd/- Sr. M (C) CWC

ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED EXTENSION OF TIME e-tender Bid Identification No. AEGL/MDT/L12(Pt)-J-CROSSING/2017 Due to some unavoidable circumstances, sale-submission & opening of bid for "Stringing work of 220 KV Samaguri - Sonabil Transmission line at Brahmaputra River crossing at Kalabahora, (Length: 6.931 Km)." (online e-tender) is re-schedule as below: Key Dates: Tender End Date & Time 13:00 Hrs of 18-04-2017 Tender Opening Date & Time 15:00 Hrs. of 18-04-2017 All other terms & conditions will remain unaltered. Sd/- Managing Director EA/2017/28 AEGL, Bijulee Bhawan, Pantan Bazar, Guwahati - 1

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM No.NHM/Ugrad. of SDCH to DH/3228/6/2628: Dated:10th April 2017 EXTENSION NOTICE The Bid process for the works (1) Construction of District Hospital at Hoja in Hojai District under NHM on Turn Key Basis (2) Construction of District Hospital at Gamur in Majuli District under NHM on Turn Key Basis, (3) Upgradation of existing Halsingram SDCH to District Hospital in Dibrugarh District under NHM on Turn Key Basis, (4) Upgradation of existing Biramara SDCH to District Hospital in Bisanthi District under NHM on Turn Key Basis, (5) Upgradation of existing Harmen SDCH to District Hospital in West Karbi Anglong District under NHM on Turn Key Basis and (6) Upgradation of existing Sonari SDCH to District Hospital in Charidih District under NHM on Turn Key Basis, issued vide letter No.NHM/Ugrad. of SDCH to DH/3228/6/1433 on 17th March'2017 is extended as follows:- (i) Submission of Bid: 18-04-2017 at 14:00 hrs. (end time) (ii) Opening of Bid: 19-04-2017 at 15:30 hrs (iii) The bids submitted earlier on 10-04-2017, will be considered in the above bid process. (iv) All other terms and conditions will remain same. Sd/- Mission Director NHM, Assam
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 OIL INDIA LIMITED OIL INDIA LIMITED is a Government of India Enterprise INVITATION FOR BID NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID OIL INDIA LIMITED invites National Competitive Bid (NCB) through its e-procurement portal https://etender.srm.oiilindia.in/ for the following items:																																													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>E-Tender</th> <th>Bid Closing / Opening Date</th> <th>Item</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SOI4040P1</td> <td>25.05.2017</td> <td>AUTOMATED BIOCHEMISTRY ANALYZER - 01 NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI3977P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>TRANSMITTERS - 02 NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4269P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>ULTRASOUND UNIT - 01 NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SS1429P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>FSC PHOTOCOPY PAPER-12900 PACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SS1430S9P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>ETHYLENE GLYCOL MONOBUTYL ETHER - 20000 KG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SS1429TP1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>LINE PIPE -J4200 MTRS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4372P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>LAPTOP COMPUTER -23 NOS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4376P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>PRINTER -03 NOS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4369P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>M/S OF MS RDS LICENSE -20 NOS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4373P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>LUBRICATING OIL -21000 LTRS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4371P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>SCANNERS - 29 NOS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4374P1</td> <td>11.05.2017</td> <td>CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM - 01 NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI4343P1</td> <td>25.05.2017</td> <td>PAINTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDI3942P1</td> <td>25.05.2017</td> <td>DESKTOP PC -20 NOS</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	E-Tender	Bid Closing / Opening Date	Item	SOI4040P1	25.05.2017	AUTOMATED BIOCHEMISTRY ANALYZER - 01 NO	SDI3977P1	11.05.2017	TRANSMITTERS - 02 NO	SDI4269P1	11.05.2017	ULTRASOUND UNIT - 01 NO	SS1429P1	11.05.2017	FSC PHOTOCOPY PAPER-12900 PACS	SS1430S9P1	11.05.2017	ETHYLENE GLYCOL MONOBUTYL ETHER - 20000 KG	SS1429TP1	11.05.2017	LINE PIPE -J4200 MTRS	SDI4372P1	11.05.2017	LAPTOP COMPUTER -23 NOS	SDI4376P1	11.05.2017	PRINTER -03 NOS	SDI4369P1	11.05.2017	M/S OF MS RDS LICENSE -20 NOS	SDI4373P1	11.05.2017	LUBRICATING OIL -21000 LTRS	SDI4371P1	11.05.2017	SCANNERS - 29 NOS	SDI4374P1	11.05.2017	CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM - 01 NO	SDI4343P1	25.05.2017	PAINTS	SDI3942P1	25.05.2017	DESKTOP PC -20 NOS
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SS1429P1	11.05.2017	FSC PHOTOCOPY PAPER-12900 PACS																																											
SS1430S9P1	11.05.2017	ETHYLENE GLYCOL MONOBUTYL ETHER - 20000 KG																																											
SS1429TP1	11.05.2017	LINE PIPE -J4200 MTRS																																											
SDI4372P1	11.05.2017	LAPTOP COMPUTER -23 NOS																																											
SDI4376P1	11.05.2017	PRINTER -03 NOS																																											
SDI4369P1	11.05.2017	M/S OF MS RDS LICENSE -20 NOS																																											
SDI4373P1	11.05.2017	LUBRICATING OIL -21000 LTRS																																											
SDI4371P1	11.05.2017	SCANNERS - 29 NOS																																											
SDI4374P1	11.05.2017	CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM - 01 NO																																											
SDI4343P1	25.05.2017	PAINTS																																											
SDI3942P1	25.05.2017	DESKTOP PC -20 NOS																																											
Tender fee (Non-refundable): Rs 1,000.00 (to be paid online only). Bid Closing/Closing Time: (11 Hrs.) IST/(14 Hrs.) IST; Period of sale of documents. Till one week prior to bid closing date, The completed bid documents and details for purchasing bid documents, participation in e-tenders are available on OIL's e-procurement portal https://etender.srm.oiilindia.in/ as well as OIL's website www.oiilindia.com . NOTE: All addenda, Corrigenda, time extension etc. to the tenders will be hosted on above website and e-portal only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Bidders should regularly visit above website and e-portal to keep themselves updated.																																													

ABSU rally for Bodoland

ANN Service

MUSHALPUR, April 10: In response to the call of Baksa district committee of ABSU, NDFB (P) and People's Joint Action Committee for Bodoland Movement (PJACBM) a massive bike rally was taken out at and around Moshalpur today in demand of creation of a separate Bodoland state and for ensuring political rights of the Bodos residing outside proposed Bodoland state.

ABSU activists from Tamulipur, Salbari and Moshalpur sub-division took part in the rally which ended at Moshalpur PHE office playground. A meeting was addressed there by Lawrence Isaly, General Secretary of ABSU, B Detsung-Finance Secretary of NDFB (B), Gangadhar Ramchary and Sushil Das of PJACBM. Hangama Narzary and Katirom Boro -advisers of Baksa ABSU also attended the meeting.

5 injured

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, April 10: At least five persons were seriously injured when a tyre of a rice-laden Mahendra pick-up van they were travelling in from Nalbari to Guwahati, suddenly burst and the van turned turtle at Balagon on NH 31 under Rangiya PS on Sunday. The injured were immediately shifted to GMCH.

OBITUARY Rohini Kr Gogoi

ANN Service

SIVASAGAR, April 10: Former president of All Assam Higher Secondary Teachers and Employees' Association, former Principal of Moran HS School, president of Axon Umati Sabha, vice-president of Assam Science Society, ex-secretary of Moran Sports Association and a leading social worker of Moran, Rohini Kumar Gogoi died in the wee hours today at his Moran residence.

A host of socio-cultural organisations mourned his death.

Biswajit Bora

ANN Service

SIVASAGAR, April 10: Biswajit Bora, Associate Professor of Zoology, Moran College and a prominent cultural worker of Sivasagar town, died at a nursing home in Dibrugarh yesterday following a brief illness.

He was actively associated with Sivasagar Nata Mandir, Sivasagar Chaulukya Sikhipada Indoor Stadium Committee, Moira Mou Mel and a host of other institutions. He was also an actor-director of repute. He leaves behind his wife and a daughter, besides two sisters and a brother.

His body was brought to Moran College this morning where teachers, employees and students bid him tearful adieu. The body was then taken to Sivasagar Nata Mandir for the public to pay homage. Among others, Sivasagar Nata Samaj, Sivasagar Journalists' Association, Sivasagar Senior Citizens' Forum and many other organisations paid floral tributes to Bora.

Awareness meet on child rights at India-Bhutan border village

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIAGON, April 10: Child marriage, illegal trafficking of girls and women, sexual abuse of minor children, witch-hunting, child labour etc., have been the burning social issues in northern areas of Udalguri district bordering Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. This is mainly because of illiteracy, population pattern, unemployment, pov-

66,377 students covered by Gunotsav in Hailakandi dist

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, April 10: Altogether, 66,377 students of 1519 LP and ME schools of Hailakandi district were covered during the three-day Gunotsav programme.

Informing this, Additional Deputy Commissioner FR Laskar, who looks after the Education Department of the district, said that the original target of the students of Gunotsav was 78,057 in Hailakandi. Of them, 14.80 percent students were absent during Gunotsav. Haji Kalami LP School of Kuchila was exempted from Gunotsav in Hailakandi district.

Earlier, Gunotsav was scheduled to be

held at 1,520 schools. The evaluators in Gunotsav included the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Mission Director, secretaries, MLAs and other different categories of officers. A Headmaster of 151 Rongpur Maktab LP School named Munib Uddin Barboiyya was suspended for alleged 'negligence' by duty before Gunotsav.

Despite rain, thundershower and water-logging, Gunotsav was held in Hailakandi district, though the venue of 60 schools were shifted to safer places nearby.

ADC Laskar informed that during the three-day Gunotsav, the presence of students in schools was 82 per cent on the

first day, while it was 84 and 88 per cent respectively the following two days. Laskar said that of the 1,519 schools, 657 schools were in Hailakandi Block, while 473 and 389 schools were in Lala and Katlichera education blocks respectively.

He expressed satisfaction for successfully organising Gunotsav throughout the district with the help of all categories of officials.

Laskar said that Gunotsav has made the teachers of LP and ME schools 'disciplined'. They are now regularly going to school and imparting lessons with utmost sincerity. He hoped that regular organisation of such event in the schools would hone the skills and qualities of the teachers.

BJP foundation day: The foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was held here on Friday with a day-long programme.

The function started with hoisting of the party flag by district president Subrata Kumar Nath. Top district-level leaders of the BJP garlanded the portrait of Bharat Mata, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Dayal Upadhyay.

Later, a meeting held on the occasion was addressed by Subrata Kumar Nath, Ujjal Das, Mihir Chakraborty, Nepal Sarma, Sarama Mazumdar, Pradip Dey, Hirakjyoti Chakraborty, Sandipan Paul, Bibhas Sinha, Bani Bandana Sinha and Manab Chakraborty, among others.

Narrating briefly the history of the party in Hailakandi district, the speakers said that the BJP initially started its journey with only five members, which has presently gone up to 5000 active members. In all, there are 27,000 members in Hailakandi district, the meeting was told. They emphasised that strengthening of the party was the prime objective before the district committee. The speakers therefore urged the people to join the party in order to strengthen its base.

The speakers also urged upon the grass-root-level workers to dedicate themselves for the cause of the party by following the ideals of top national-level leaders.

Dibrugarh civic portal launched

OUR BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, April 10: The website of the Dibrugarh Municipal Board, Assam's oldest municipality, was formally launched on Saturday by Dibrugarh Deputy Commissioner Laya Madduri at an official function held at the DC's conference hall.

The website, www.dibrugarmunicipality.org.in would be made a fully informative one on the civic body apart from having online tax payments facilities etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Dibrugarh Municipal Board chairman Anuradha Dey and executive officer Dipu Kumar Deka said the website has taken Dibrugarh to the digital platform. They urged members of the public to avail of the services provided on the portal.

Repenting her appeal to the citizens, DC Laya Madduri said the whole-hearted cooperation from the citizens is absolutely essential to keep Dibrugarh a clean and orderly city. She urged members of the public to install the Swachh Bharat app on their mobile phones and be active participant in the cleanliness efforts of the Government.

Deka said the municipal board is arranging for handcards for doorstep collection of garbage, and appealed to the citizens to avail of the service, which is provided at a nominal cost of Rs 50 per family per month. He said the service has been commenced, and the entire city would be covered in the coming days.

Two drown

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, April 10: Two persons in Jahaghat were drowned in river Brahmaputra Sunday evening around 7.45 while they were boating.

The two fateful persons were identified as Tishey Karki and David. Body of Tishey Karki has been found while operation is still on to recover the body of David.

New committee of Khoirabari Press Club formed

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIAGON, April 10: A special session of Khoirabari Press Club was held at Khoirabari on April 8. The session was held at Khoirabari IB and was presided over by Harenra Nath Sarma, advisor of Khoirabari Sahitya Sabha. Kamal Deka, secretary of Khoirabari Press Club read out annual report of the organisation before formation of a new 21 member executive committee of Khoirabari Press Club.

The new executive committee was formed with Dhiren Mahalay, president; Tilak Ramchary and Prashanta Kumar, vice presidents; Dipen Deka, general secretary; Dilip Barua and Swmikhor Boro, Asstt Secys etc.

Rishi Ram Boro, founder of Khoirabari Press Club and Diganta Kumar Sarma, secretary of Tangla Press Club spoke on the burning issues of journalists of Bhergaon sub-division, Bhamita Sarhia, the only woman journalist of Udalguri district spoke on the need for involvement of more women in the media sector for highlighting women issues.



Participants at a Bilu dance workshop at Jamuguri, in Golaghat district on Sunday. — UB Photos

Scientific Advisory Committee meet

ANN Service

MUSHALPUR, April 10: Under the aegis of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Baksa, a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Baksa under Assam Agricultural University (AAU) was held at the Moshalpur Circuit House recently. Dr Hemendra Bhattacharya, Director of Education and Extension, AAU chaired the meeting where Mriganka Choudhury, ADC, Baksa delivered a brief speech on the emphasis laid by AAU towards agricultural self-sufficiency of the State as well as in earning recognition for State in the agricultural map of the country. Dr Utpal Jyoti Baruah, Project Co-ordinator of KVK, Baksa presented the annual report of 2016.

The news conference was

also attended by the secretary of the Dibrugarh Bar Association,

Satyabrata Sarma, he

called for plugging of loop-

holes in the land laws so that

the indigenous land owners

are sure of the continuity of

their land ownership rights

due to fallacies in the govern-

ment report of 2016.

Brahmaputra Board to set up permanent office at Majuli

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULLI, April 10: A meet was held in the conference hall of DC's office, Majuli on Sunday in the presence of Sanjay Kunda, chairman of Brahmaputra Board, members of local inspection committee of the ongoing works and the representatives of a few local organisations of this island district.

As per the direction of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Sanjay Kunda, chairman of Brahmaputra Board with another officer of the Board arrived here on Saturday and inspected the erosion-affected areas of the district like Salmarla, Dakhinapat, Afala, Chumoiomari, Kamalabari Ferry Ghat, Ka-

ratipar etc., and on Sunday they organised a meet in this regard, which was presided over by Majuli's Deputy Commissioner Pallab Gopal Jha. Chairman Kunda, after explaining the purpose of his visit said that besides many other plans, steps have already been initiated by the Central government to eradicate the problems of flood and erosion at Majuli, construction of Brahmaputra Board's permanent office at Majuli. Brahmaputra Board is determined to save this island from the fury of Brahmaputra, he added.

He also said that almost all the schemes of the Board will

be implemented at Majuli within three years to save it from erosion by Brahmaputra. Brahmaputra Board's officer

Thaneswar Borah, displayed

on the screen the details of the

schemes which Brahmaputra Board has implemented from 2004 with an amount of Rs 184 crore. He also explained the future plans of the Board.

Since a few conscious citi-

zens of Majuli wanted to know

as to what the Board plans to

do to save the people during

the forthcoming flood season,

Borah informed them that, af-

ter Boali Bilu, the Board will

start the work of putting up

vercupines in some areas of the

district, he added.

After the meet, the Chair-

man with the officials went to

inspect the 10 bighas of land at

Bongaon area of Majuli, which

the district administration has

granted for Brahmaputra

Board's project.

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CAPSULE**Datsun Go and Go+**

NEW DELHI, April 10: As part of its third anniversary in the country Datsun today launched its special anniversary edition of Datsun Go+ (at Rs 4.19 lakh) and Datsun Go+ (at Rs 4.9 lakh), ex-showroom, Delhi. Arun Mahato, Managing Director, Nissan India, said the anniversary editions come with a first-in-segment ambient lighting app for mobile phones with which a customer can choose the mood lighting of the car's cabin to suit one's taste. - PTI

BMW Motorrad

NEW DELHI, April 10: BMW Motorrad, the two-wheeler arm of luxury German carmaker has officially started operations in India. "We see a tremendous potential in this country and we are pleased to introduce BMW Motorrad as a part of the Indian subsidiary of BMW Group," BMW Motorrad Head of Region Asia, China, Pacific, South Africa, Dimitris Raptis, said in a statement. - PTI

Anmol Bakers

NEW DELHI, April 10: Biscuits maker Anmol Bakers today said it has commenced operations at its Rs 135-crore manufacturing unit in Nashik. The unit is its seventh manufacturing plant that is equipped with all advance technology and tools. Anmol Bakers said in a statement. - PTI

Panasonic R&D unit

NEW DELHI, April 10: Consumer electronic major Panasonic today said it will set up R&D unit in Bengaluru in association with Tata Elxsi to strengthen its appliances business in domestic and global markets. The new R&D center will develop technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics from India for its global operations and also help in product designing in local product manufacturing, the company said in a statement. - PTI

Tata Motors

NEW DELHI, April 10: Tata Motors today reported about 9 per cent rise in global sales in March at 1.29,951 units, including that of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) vehicles. The company had sold 1,18,750 units in March 2016, Tata Motors said in a statement. - PTI

Sanjiv Goenka group
KOLKATA, April 10: The RPP Sanjiv Goenka Group today entered the FMCG space by launching two products and plans to pump in Rs 10,000 crore in the sector over the next 5 to 7 years. The company formerly into packaged food business under new entity Gulfrite Industries Ltd and as now none of the listed group firms have any stake in it. - PTI

ONGC drilling

NEW DELHI, April 10: ONGC and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has set a new record of drilling over 500 wells in 2016-17 at an expenditure of Rs 15,747 crore as the major state-owned explorer steps up efforts to boost domestic output. ONGC drilled 501 wells in 2016-17, which ended March 31, 2017 as compared to 386 wells in 2015-16. This is the first time in 23 years that ONGC has crossed the 500-well mark. - PTI

Indian, Bangla firms sign MoUs worth over \$9 bn

NEW DELHI, April 10: Indian and Bangladeshi firms today signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth over \$9 billion designed to deepen cooperation in various sectors, including power, oil and gas.

Among the major MoUs, Reliance Power executed project agreements with Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for Phase I of the 750 MW liquefied natural gas (LNG) power project at Meghnaghat, near Dhaka, worth \$1 billion, out of a total proposed investment of \$3 billion.

A facility agreement was signed between Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Compa-

ny (BIFPC) and Exim Bank of India for debt financing of \$1.6 billion for construction of the 1,320 MW Maitree Power Project in Rangam in Bangladesh.

The MoUs' signing event here, also attended by visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was organised by industry chambers FICCI and Assocham.

Adani Power (Jharkhand)

and the Bangladesh Power Development Board signed a deal entailing an investment of \$2 billion.

Adani Power also signed a power purchase agreement and Power Grid Company of Bangladesh.

The MoUs signed include those on LNG terminal use by India's Petronet LNG and Petrobangla.

Addressing the gathering earlier, Sheikh Hasina invited Indian businesses to invest in her country, assuring all facilities for business in order to defeat the

"common enemy of poverty". Indian Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Indo-Bangla relations go beyond mere trade numbers and consists of "shared memories, experience and history". India is committed to strengthening Bangladesh's hydrocarbons sector and aid in the country's efforts to realise power for all its citizens by 2021, he added.

In this connection, Pradhan mentioned the proposed India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline for transporting high speed diesel (HSD) from the Numaligarh refinery near Siliguri in India to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. - IANS

Vodafone moves TRAI against Jio Summer Surprise offer

NEW DELHI, April 10: Telecom operator Vodafone today complained to TRAI that Reliance Jio is still "luring customers" to subscribe to the "Summer Surprise" offer despite the regulator finding it in violation of norms.

"Reliance Jio is continuing with this offer held as not meeting regulatory norms, in the garb of configuration changes. For past three days, it has been promoting and luring customers to quickly recharge to avail the benefits of a non-compliant offer and also asking its retailers to communicate the same," Vodafone said in a letter to TRAI.

The letter also referred to SMSES allegedly being sent by Reliance Jio to consumers and retailers asking them to quickly recharge to avail the benefit of the scheme.

An SMS content reads that Jio has given time till April 10 to its customers for enrolling for the scheme.

The Mukesh Ambani-led Jio on March 31 had announced that the customers

who were yet to register for its "Prime Membership Plan" will have time till April 15 to join the scheme by paying Rs 99 and recharging with a minimum of Rs 303, which will get them 3-month complimentary 4G service.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) asked Jio on April 6 to stop the offer as it was not in compliance with the norms.

"In our view, such promotion of the customers on an offer as non-compliant, is a blatant violation and disregard of TRAI's advisory. Such promotions to customers makes the regulatory advisory meaningless," the letter said.

Vodafone said that Reliance Jio's continuation of the scheme paints a wrong picture to customers of non-robust regulatory framework where non-complaint offers are allowed to be sold in the market.

"Considering above, we request for TRAI's immediate intervention and issuance of suitable directions to Reliance Jio for withdrawing the said

FY18 to see increments in 5-10% range offered by cos

NEW DELHI, April 10: Corporate India is bullish about its hiring plans and is expected to dole out increments in the range of 5-10 per cent in this financial year, says a survey.

According to Genius Consultants' Hiring, Attrition and Compensation Trend 2017-18 survey, 70 per cent respondents

said new replacement hiring is expected across industries and

62 per cent of corporate houses

said projected increase in staff strength in their companies will be 1-15 per cent.

Moreover, a whopping 73 per cent survey takers consider that the demonetisation drive in India/India Inc did not affect hiring new recruits, the survey noted.

"Over 50 per cent of the corporate participants believe that the range of increments

in their organisations will be 5-10 per cent for 2017-18," Genius Consultants Chairman and Managing Director R P Yadav said.

Region wise, Southern zone has been projected to have the brightest hiring scenario for organisations/industries at 34.43 per cent, the survey said adding that 4-8 years' work experience levels will have the most opportunities.

Attrition, over 39 per cent respondents of 734 companies across India said that attrition level in their organisations is 5-10 per cent and junior employees are most susceptible to attrition.

Genius Hiring Trend Survey is an online survey conducted every year to gauge the hiring trends across varied sectors. - PTI

No proposal to review FDI in multi-brand retail: Govt

NEW DELHI, April 10: The government today said there is no proposal under its consideration to review the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy in the multi-brand retail sector.

"No proposal is under consideration of the government to review the extant FDI policy on multi-brand retail," Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmal Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

The current foreign direct investment policy permits overseas players to hold 51 per cent stake in an Indian retail company. So far, only one foreign player, Tesco, has received approval for opening stores under the

multi-brand retail policy.

Replying to a separate question, she said that government has been interacting with investors to identify issues for promoting FDI in the food retail sector.

"Several issues including sale of food items, personal care products have been raised by investors," the minister said.

Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal had earlier indicated that the government is actively considering a proposal to allow FDI in non-food items along with food products and a decision may be taken ahead of the mega world food event here in November. - PTI

Zerodha posts 130% growth in client base

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 10: Zerodha, leading technology-driven brokerage firm, today announced its overall growth numbers and the launch of its direct mutual fund platform - Coin.

Announcing the results in a press meet here today, Karthik Rangappa, Vice President, Educational Services, Zerodha, said "The company has posted major growth in FY 16-17, adding clients at a rate of 130 per cent across India and in Assam, Zerodha has grown at a rate of 168 in FY 16-17."

Elaborating on the Coin initiative, he said, "Zerodha Coin is a platform that lets the customer buy mutual funds online, completely commission-free, directly from asset management companies. The mutual fund bought through Coin will be in demat form, with a convenience of one portfolio across equity, mutual fund, currency."

On the occasion, Rangappa also released *Rupee Tales*, which is a set of 3 story books that attempts to familiarise children above 7 years with basic financial concepts. The book has been authored by Rangappa himself.

Each book deals with a specific topic peppered with lively characters, and vibrant illustrations. The concepts covered include: Savings, banking & inflation, taxes, insurance, and stock markets.



Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and Homant Malik, Divisional Chief Executive, ITC Foods Division, during the launch of ITC's B Natural juice, in Mumbai on Monday. - UNI

China, India lead Asia-Pacific energy M&A deals in 2016

NEW DELHI, April 10: The Asia-Pacific witnessed a record year in terms of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in the energy space, with 198 transactions valued at \$77.6 billion in 2016 and the second-largest year-end total going to India.

However, the Asia-Pacific energy M&A logged a 33 per cent drop in value terms year-on-year while the number of deals (196) were similar to 2015, the report said. Valuation of energy M&A in Asia-Pacific by value grew 18 per cent in 2016, while the number of deals increased by 11 per cent and the revenue grew by 20 per cent, the report added.

The Indian government has established clean energy targets such as 17.5 GigaWatt renewable energy, or 15 per cent of total capacity, by 2022, of which

100 GW is expected to come from solar power.

"This has also helped promote a focus for a strong flow of renewable deals, continuing a trend that started in 2015 when the largest power sector deals were largely renewable deals," the report said.

Meanwhile, renewable energy transactions accounted for over half of Asia-Pacific energy M&A deals in 2016.

Regarding the current geopolitical and economic trends influencing Asia-Pacific's traditional and alternative energy

markets, Eversheds Partner (corporate) Charles Butcher said "small producers lacking financial resources have been hit by the oil crisis".

Butcher further said smaller cap deals are likely to continue in the short term as smaller players engage in distressed sales, merge to survive, or deleverage through asset divestment.

"We expect that energy majors will continue to exploit current assets while maintaining their balance sheets," Butcher added. - PTI

M&M eyes 3-fold jump in e-vehicle sales

NEW DELHI, April 10: Mahindra Electric expects its electric vehicle sales to jump three-fold this year as it focuses on offering mobility solutions, including partnering with rental firms and cab aggregators.

The company today announced a partnership with Zoomcar, a self-drivers car-rental firm, to promote shared mobility of electric cars in India.

"Last year, our focus was to launch new products and this year our focus would be to create mobility solutions with these products, on fleet, retail

and shared mobility platform," Mahindra Electric CEO Mahesh Babu told PTI.

The company launched its small electric car e2oPlus, sedan eVerito and passenger and cargo electric vehicle eSuro and sold over 1,100 units last year.

"Overall, (what we are doing) in fleet as well as retail, we are expecting atleast 3x increase in volume this year on various cars we have like the e2oPlus, eVerito and eSuro," he added.

Commenting on the association with Zoomcar, he said the

"first-of-its-kind association" will enable the company to make green mobility available to a larger audience.

"Currently, the cost of acquisition of an electric car is high and makes retail customers think twice before going ahead and making a contribution towards the environment. With this partnership, we are addressing that issue," Babu said.

It will enable individuals to buy new all-electric Mahindra e2oPlus with ZAP, Zoomcar's fractional car ownership pro-

gramme.

Individuals can purchase e2oPlus on Zoomcar's self-drive platform, list the vehicle on a dynamic basis whenever idle and get bookings from Zoomcar's customer base and earn cash. Through this program, the buyer can save as much as Rs 15,000 per month, the company said.

Zoomcar CEO and Founder Greg Moran said electric cars on shared mobility platforms is the ultimate way forward in solving the urban transportation problem. - PTI

(Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, which came into effect on May 1 last year, every state is supposed to have a RERA in a year's time.

It will therefore become mandatory for all real estate projects, commercial and residential, to register with RERA for transparent execution.

At a time when the setting up of a Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in each state is set to bring in increased accountability in the markets, we can expect to witness some amount of correction in real estate prices in markets," property consultant Cushman & Wakefield Managing Director (India) Anshul Jain told IANS.

All considered and that the cash component in property transactions will see a significant drop,

sentiment across the segment.

More so, with the dust of demonetisation finally settling, buyers' sentiments are looking positive in anticipation of higher transparency and efficiency. Genuine requirement for homes coupled with reduced interest on home loans can be attributed to this.

According to a survey by PropUrban, once RERA is fully in place, about 45 per cent respondents would be investing within the next six months, while another 26 per cent are likely to take the plunge within a year.

Interestingly, now the market will see the return of 'real buyers'. As for the RERA and Benami Amendment Act, the sector is likely to see positive impact in the short-term – within one-two years," Anil said. - IANS

RERA may revive real estate sector, say experts

BUSINESS REPORTER

NEW DELHI, April 10: After May 1, when the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) is in place, the realty sector will likely see an upsurge with slight price correction, say industry players and stakeholders.

This is likely as genuine buyers may pitch in on the back of an improved consumer climate and lower home loan rates.

"Considering the present scenario, the next three-four months are likely the gestation period for the realty sector and after six months the sector is likely to gain momentum. We are hoping to see positive impact in the second half of 2017 itself after RERA comes into full effect," real estate advisory firm PropUrban Founder and CEO Mir Jaffer Ali told IANS.

According to the Real Estate

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Karthik Rangappa (L), author and Vice-President, Educational Services, Zerodha, releasing children's book Rupee Tales from online brokerage firm Zerodha at a press conference, in Guwahati on Monday. - AT photo



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull travelling to Akshardham temple in Delhi Metro, in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

India, Australia sign pact to combat terror

NEW DELHI, April 10: A pact to significantly expand counter-terror cooperation was among six agreements India and Australia inked today as the two countries called for strong action against those financing and providing sanctuary to terror groups.

However, no breakthrough was achieved during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull who merely decided to direct their respective officials to hold an early round of negotiations for a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA).

During their talks, the two leaders decided to significantly expand their ties in several key areas including defence, trade, energy and education. While Modi thanked Turnbull for passage of a legislation by the Australian parliament with bipartisan support paving way for the coun-

try to export uranium to India, Turnbull said he was looking forward to starting the supply "as soon as possible".

Both the prime ministers anticipated that commercial exports of Australian uranium could begin soon, opening up a new avenue for Australia to support India's energy requirement.

The entire expanse of bilateral ties was reviewed at the talks including issues relating to Indian students studying in Australia and ways to deepen maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

"We took a number of forward-looking decisions to further strengthen our partnership, including the decision to soon hold the next round of negotiations on a CECA," Modi said at a joint media event with Turnbull.

Using cricket analogy, Modi, in a lighter vein, said "I am, of course, glad that our decisions are not subject to the DRS

review system." Decision Review System (DRS) is a technology-based mechanism in cricket to review controversial umpiring decisions.

On CECA, Turnbull did not give a timeline but said, "I think it's fair to say that progress has not been as fast as either of us would have liked."

The two prime ministers have now asked negotiators on both sides to find a way out and list their priorities soon so that talks on it can move forward. There were indications that sticking points on the pact included issues relating to agriculture.

On the threat of terrorism, the two leaders asserted that the fight against terrorists, terror organisations and networks should be held accountable and take strong measures against those who encourage, support and finance terror, provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups, and falsely extol their virtues. — PTI

Gehlot voices anguish over prevalence of casteism

BHOPAL, April 10: Expressing anguish over the caste system still prevailing in India, Union Minister Thawar Chandra Gehlot has said it is ironic that temples and wells still remain inaccessible to those who actually build them.

"Even today we are getting reports of one or two such incidents taking place in the country and we should ensure that they do not occur at all," Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Gehlot told PTI today.

Vocing his anguish over the caste system at a seminar on Dr BR Ambedkar at a college in Ukraine on Saturday, Gehlot said, "You ask us to dig well, but prevent us from drinking its water.. We make idols, but you closed portals of the temple for us."

"You have the wells dug by us, but once the job is done, you don't let us drink water from it," Gehlot said. "Whenever you need to make a pond, you deploy us as workers and at that time we sweat it out and even spit and urinate in it," the minister said.

"But when the time comes to draw water from it to quench the thirst, you do not allow us to do so saying it will turn impure," he said.

The senior BJP leader said, "The temples of portraits for which we make idols are closed for us once the task is over." "Who will correct it after all?" the minister asked. "Though you may have paid us for making idols, the fact remains that we made it. Let us at least see it and touch it," he said at the seminar ahead of the Ambedkar's birth anniversary on April 14.

Asked about the concern he expressed over the continuance of the caste system and the deep-rooted prejudices of the large section of people, Gehlot told PTI, "Suman Mahara, a saint, was also present on the day when I pointed out these incidents and also urged him to work for removing these social evils from the society."

"The saint, in his address, had mentioned that people making idols wear shoes while doing so... And responding to that I said it was not true that those making idols do so."

"I pointed out that people engage Dalits for digging wells and ponds, building temples and making idols but later they are stopped from entering such religious places or to take or drink water," he said.

"Such incidents are still taking place in the country though just a few... My ministry is getting such reports from almost all the states," Gehlot said.

Deserted by NRI husband, woman seeks Sushma help

CHANDIGARH, April 10: A 29-year-old woman who was deserted by her NRI husband has sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in getting him deported from New Zealand.

Though her husband, Ranadeep Singh, has been declared a Proclaimed Offender (PO) by the Punjab Police, Chand Deep Kaur has now sought help of the Union minister, saying she wants to set an example so that no other NRI cheats his wife.

I want to set an example so that no other NRI husband can ever dare to cheat a woman. I also want stringent laws in place to check such men

deep, who was working as an accountant in Auckland, in July 2015. He returned to New Zealand in August 2015, Kaur said.

"I stayed with him at his family's house in Jalandhar," she said. He again came back to India in December 2015 and returned to New Zealand in January 2016, she said.

"I spent just 40-45 days with my husband," she said.

She alleged that the behaviour of her husband changed after marriage. "They told me that they had disowned Ramanandeep so I should move back with my parents," Kaur claimed.

"I tried calling my husband but he did not respond. I even

tried to contact members of my in-laws' family but they also refused to respond and blocked my number," she said.

Kaur then lodged a complaint against her husband in August 2016. He was booked under charges of criminal breach of trust among others.

A Look Out Circular was issued against Ramanandeep, she said. A police official in Jalandhar said Ramanandeep was declared a PO in February 2017. — PTI

I have sought Swaraj's help in getting my husband deported who is in New Zealand," Kaur, who is based in Kapurthala, said today over phone.

She said she has received a call from the ministry to send relevant documents in connection with her case. "I want him back here for divorce as that I can start my life afresh," she said.

Kaur got married to Ramanandeep on Feb 2017. — PTI

People are made fun of if they don't speak English well: Arjun

MUMBAI, April 10: Actor Arjun Kapoor says it is sad that people judge others on the basis of how well they speak English and those who struggle with the language are often made fun of.

Arjun says there are people who will understand Hindi but will respond in English to sound cool. "In India, if you're smart but don't understand English no one gives importance to you. If you can't speak English then you're looked at differently... This is the biggest issue in the country. You may understand Hindi but will speak English to sound cool," he told reporters here.

The actor was speaking at the trailer launch of "Half Girlfriend" here. The romantic drama is based on the novel of the same name written by Chetan Bhagat and also stars Shraddha Kapoor. Arjun says there are certain actors, who also struggle with this issue but he is thankful to his grandparents for always speaking to him in Hindi.

"People are told that if you speak in English you will sound better. So, a consciousness comes in. People are made fun of, they're not taken seriously. This has personally bothered me," he says.

"The youth of today is very fluent in English but you ask them three questions in Hindi and they face a problem. We are actors so we need to learn Hindi, and thankfully my grandparents always spoke to me in Hindi so my Hindi is clean but there are many actors also (who are not fluent in the language)," he adds.

The 31-year-old actor insists Hindi is a language which must be understood as it is something which will take the country forward. "I feel Hindi is something you need in our country to take it forward. How can you not understand and speak your language? It's our mother tongue. But people ignore this issue and hence it is considered small. "I hope with the film that discussion is reignited that in whatever language you speak, what you say should be understood by the other person," he adds. — PTI

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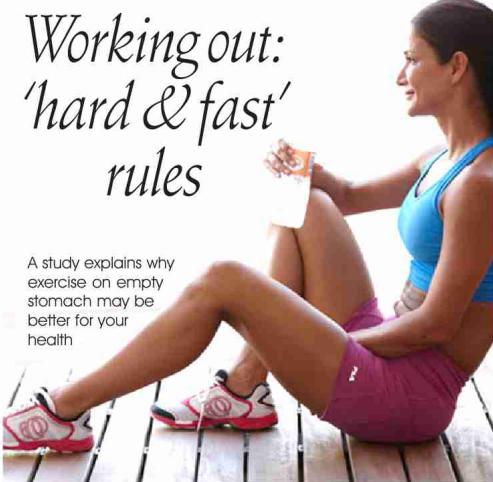
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Working out: 'hard & fast' rules

A study explains why exercise on empty stomach may be better for your health



If you have been wondering whether it is better to eat or fast before a workout, researchers now have an answer. A new study has found that exercise on empty stomach is better for your health in the long term.

The study analysed effects of eating versus fasting on gene expression in adipose (fat) tissue response to exercise.

After eating, adipose tissue "is busy responding to the meal and a bout of exercise at this time will not stimulate the same (beneficial) changes in adipose tissue", explained corresponding author of the study, Dylan Thompson, from University of Bath in Britain.

"This means that exercise in a fasted state might provoke more favourable changes in adipose tissue, and this could be beneficial for health in the long term," Thompson added.

We studied the effect of feeding is likely to blunt long-term adipose tissue adaptation to regular exercise," the researchers noted in the study published in the *American Journal of Physiology - Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

The study participants were a group of overweight males who walked for 60 minutes at 60 per cent maximum oxygen consumption on an empty stomach and, on another occasion,

two hours after consuming a high-calorie carbohydrate-rich breakfast.

The research team took multiple blood samples after eating or fasting and after exercising.

The researchers also collected fat tissue samples immediately before and one hour after walking.

Gene expression in the adipose tissue differed significantly in the two trials.

The expression of two genes, PDK4 and HSL, increased when the men fasted and exercised and decreased when they ate before exercising.

The rise in PDK4 likely indicates that stored fat was used to fuel metabolism during exercise instead of carbohydrates from the recent meal.

HSL typically increases when adipose tissue uses stored energy to support increased activity, such as during exercise, Thompson said.

These results reinforce the view that adipose tissue often faces competing challenges," Thompson wrote.

"This is the first study to show that feeding prior to acute exercise affects post-exercise adipose tissue gene expression," the study said. — IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! For Tuesday, April 11, 2017:

This year you often waver between one perspective and another. Those closest to you might be confused by your seesawing points of view. You are able to read between the lines. If you are single, try not to hook up with someone who might have stories to tell, because, as you do, I think this desire right now. You don't want to get married, but you do desire it if you want to be exclusive. If you are attached, the two of you often want to head in a spontaneous direction. Adding more impulsiveness to your life will bring more excitement into your relationship. SCORPIO knows how to hit your triggers.

The day shows the kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-

Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ People take opposite sides today, even if they agree with each other. Upturn accompanies this Full Moon, especially around relationships and interactions with others. You can create total chaos or maintain a calm place — it is your call. Tonight: For an importation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Even if someone is nasty and directs his or her comments at you, do not personalize them. Give this person a day or so to apologize and express the problems that he or she was experiencing. You will be the one to release. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

★★★★ You can't put off thinking about a child or loved one right now. You will find a situation developing that could be volatile, yet it might appeal to your ingenuity. Handle it with the grace that your sign is known for. You can't afford to let it go. As if there were no tomorrow!

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

★★★★ Be as fun-loving and as direct as possible, despite an element of tension building from within. Ask yourself what you should be doing. Be as self-disciplined as possible, and don't act out on stress; instead, root out its real cause. Tonight: Opt to be with a favorite person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be more direct in how you pursue your goals. You understand much more than anyone is willing to share. A conversation will be filled with immediacy and mixed messages. You have free rein here. Make decisions you feel comfortable with. Tonight: A free work wonders.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You could be on an adventure of sorts. Have you considered the possibility of proceeding on this present path? You might not like what you see. Don't make any major decisions just yet if you can avoid it. Give yourself a few days. Tonight: Express your playfulness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You have the desire to relate closely with others whenever you can. You can't seem to move away from some wincing friend whom you really care about. Perhaps this person is unsure of their feelings for him or her; if that's the case, share them. Tonight: Near good music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Maintaining a low profile, you will be better off right now. You can also right now successfully agree with you at this point in time. However, that doesn't mean there won't be another opportunity for a conversation later. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You could be in the frame of mind that you need to take things easy today. The more time you remain at home, the better you will be. Think positively about where to go with the flow. When you choose to show, you'll have a choice to make. Tonight: In the whinkin' living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Zero tolerance elsewhere, even if it is at work. You feel as though as much as you would like to right now. Focus on what seems important, and do nothing a friend or colleague to throw you too far off the mark. Tonight: Take a long walk to feel rejuvenated.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You'll notice some friction in communication; whether it is on the telephone or on the Internet. How you see an emotional situation could change radically because of the words someone speaks. You actually might be shocked at what you hear. Tonight: Head home early.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might have experienced a jolt when dealing with your finances. Understand what's going on around you, especially with matters involving money or shared property. Stay alert and opt to take in the big picture. You know what you want and why. Tonight: Happy at home.

*** Thought for the day

One with the law is a majority.

— CALVIN COOLIDGE

Kids

CN

13:00 *Cartoon No. 21*
14:00 *Kronk's Last Birth*
15:30 *My Knight and Me*
16:30 *We Are Ballers*
17:30 *Power Puff Girls*
17:00 *Ben 10*
17:30 *Power Puff Girls*
18:00 *Lama*
18:30 *Cartoon No. 21*
19:00 *Dhoom Pachthead*
20:30 *Roll No. 21*
20:30 *Cartoon No. 21*
21:30 *Supermoms*
22:00 *Cartoon No. 21*
23:00 *Dragon Ball Z*

WB

12:30 *Chota Bheem*
12:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
15:00 *Chota Bheem*
15:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
16:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
16:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
17:00 *Mighty Robo*
17:30 *Chota Bheem*
18:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
19:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
20:30 *Tom And Jerry Show*
21:30 *Takeshi's Castle*
22:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
22:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
23:00 *M.A.D.*

StarPlus

13:00 *To Storm Main Saathi Pyjaj*
13:30 *Ex Aasha Aje Bhee*
14:00 *Dhhai Kilo Prem*
15:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
15:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
16:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
16:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
17:00 *Yo-Hai Mohnaboot*
17:30 *Suhani Si E Ladli*
18:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
18:30 *Angre Mein*
19:00 *Mighty Robo*
19:30 *Saujanam Saatya*
19:30 *Yo-Hai Mohnaboot*
20:00 *Pardes* *Haar Meri*
20:30 *Yo-Kai Watch*
21:00 *Naamkinh*
21:30 *Kuchi Kuchi Keha Hati*
22:00 *Yo-Kai Watch*
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13:00 *Crime Patrol* *Dial 100*
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Around the WORLD

Man shoots, kills son in argument over dog

WASHINGTON, April 10: A man shot and killed his 22-year-old son in the US after an argument between the two over who would walk the family dog escalated into a shootout.

Police responded to a call of a person shot in Clinton's Brighton neighborhood yesterday. There they found two men, aged 43 and 22, who had shot each other after a "verbal altercation," authorities were quoted as saying by the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Chicago Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi tweeted that the fight between the father and son was over "who was going to walk the dog" and both men opened fire.

Friends sustained multiple gunshot wounds and were taken to Advocate Christ Medical Center, where the 22-year-old man was pronounced dead.

The father was listed in critical condition, authorities said.

Two weapons were recovered from the scene, according to police. - PTI

New anaesthesia technique saves patient

MELBOURNE, April 10: A world-first anaesthesia technique that makes surgery safer for patients with obstructed airways has helped save a person with an infected epiglottis, Australian scientists said today.

"An adult patient with an infected epiglottitis was in danger of having his airway blocked by rapid swelling, and this technique enabled us to control his airway without surgery," said Anton Booth, Senior Lecturer at University of Queensland. "It is also making a difference to quality of life for those people who may previously have been unsuitable for surgery," Booth said.

Anaesthetists at Australia's Princess Alexandra Hospital combined two relatively new techniques to develop the new approach known as STRIVE HI.

"Traditionally with anaesthesia we expect patients to stop breathing, as we are putting them into a state resembling a medically-induced coma," Booth said. - PTI



Ground personnel carry the International Space Station (ISS) crew member and NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough shortly after the landing of Russia's Soyuz MS-02 space capsule near the town of Dzhezkazgan (Zhezkazgan), Kazakhstan, on Monday. - UNI

Tiananmen Mao portrait protester dies in US

BEDFORD, April 10: One of the dissidents involved in the pro-democracy protests on a portrait of Mao Zedong during the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations passed away last month in the US, his widow said today.

Yu Zhipan, 53, died on March 30 of complications related to diabetes, his widow Xian Gui's said by phone from their home in Indiana state. "Yu Zhipan never regretted what he did in 1989 but he would have liked to apologise to Mao's family for throwing eggs on the portrait," she told AFP.

The Tiananmen pro-democracy protesters were crushed by Chinese troops on June 4, 1989 when tanks crushed the demonstrators, killing hundreds of protesters.

Yu served nearly 12 years in prison for throwing eggs filled with ink onto the portrait of the Communist leader; whose image still dominates the enormous square in Beijing. Yu was sentenced to life imprisonment after the brutal crackdown and was eventually released for good behaviour in September 2000.

He and his accomplice Yu Dongyue, released in 2006 after 17 years in prison, fled China in 2009 after obtaining political asylum in the US. - AFP



Myanmar's President Htin Kyaw (R) and China's President Xi Jinping inspect honour guards during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Monday. - UNI

Russia, Iran warn US over strikes in Syria

MOSCOW/TEHRAN, April 10: A world-first

anaesthesia technique that makes surgery safer for patients with obstructed airways has helped save a person with an infected epiglottis, Australian scientists said today.

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The US targeted the airbase last week with nearly 60 Tomahawk missiles, killing six Syrian soldiers and nine civilians, including four children, and destroying nine warplanes, according to Syri-

ia's official news agency SANA.

However, the US government said the attack on the airbase was in retaliation for the April 4 strikes

by the Syrian air force on the town of Khan Sheikhoun.

At least 80 people were killed in the attack, according to reports.

The statement by the group, published on media outlet Iam al-Harbi (War Media)

said: "What America

waged in an aggression on Syria is a crossing of red lines. From now on we will respond with force to any aggressor or any breach of red lines from

whoever it is and America knows our ability to respond well."

It added that the allies of the Syrian government will increase their

support to the Syrian army following the US missile strike and called the US military presence in northern Syria as "illegal" and referred to the forces as an "occupation".

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, meanwhile, said the Russians

"have played now for some time the role of providing cover for Bashar Assad's behaviour".

"Russia's failures to rid Syria of

weapons stockpiles has led to the killing of more children and innocent people," he told CBS News.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian leader Hassan Rouhani said American military intervention in Syria was a "violation of international law" in telephone talks, said the Kremlin on Sunday.

Rouhani also called for an investigation of the suspected chemical weapons attack in Syria last week, and he warned that the US strikes in response risked escalating the region.

Syria's Foreign Ministry condemned the US strike as "a flagrant aggression" against the country and said Washington's real objective was to "weaken the strength of the Syrian army in confronting terrorist groups." - IANS

IASTEROVSKY

Egypt clamps emergency after twin ISIS bombings

CAIRO, April 10: Egypt today imposed a three-month state of emergency and ordered the military to protect vital infrastructure after the Islamic State terror group targeted two minority Coptic Christian churches in powerful bombings, killing at least 45 people and wounding more than 100 others.

As Egyptians bid tearful farewell to the those who died in the terror attacks on Palm Sunday, the Egyptian government declared that the state of emergency across the country will be effective from today.

Egypt's Cabinet approved the measure - which allows authorities to make arrests without warrants and search people's homes - and will also be set up. Before making

the announcement, he had called a National Defence Council meet.

The Cabinet said in a statement that the state of emergency "allows both the armed forces and the police to execute those procedures necessary to combat the threats of terrorism and its financing, maintaining security around the country and protect public and private property, as well as preserving the lives of citizens."

Egyptian media reported that

The Cabinet's approval came after President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi in a brief television appearance last night announced the state of emergency for three months.

Sisi said a top-level council for fighting terrorism and extremism will be set up. Before making

the announcement, he had called a National Defence Council meet.

Following the bombings at churches in Tanta and Alexandria cities, the government has its initial response ordered the military special forces to assist police in securing important state facilities across the country. The security forces have been put on alert in anticipation of more attacks, the media reported.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attacks in which the number of people killed has reached 45 after a person injured in the bombing at Tanta died.

More than 100 people remained injured, according to Egyptian authorities. - PTI

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China, S Korea vow strong measures

SEOUL, April 10: China has agreed to "strong" new measures to punish North Korea if it carries out a nuclear test, Seoul said today after the US signalled it may act to shut down Pyongyang's weapons programme.

The talks between Kim and

South Korea's top nuclear envoy made the comment after talks with his Chinese counterpart Wu Dawei, as the US

naval strike group to the region in a show of force.

"We agree that there should be strong additional measures based on UN Security Council resolutions if the North pushes ahead with a nuclear test or an ICBM launch despite warnings from the international community," Kim Hong-Kyun told reporters.

"We need to allow them time to take actions," Tillerson said, adding that Washington had no intention of attempting to remove the regime of Kim Jong-Un.

The meeting between Xi and

Trump came on the heels of yet another missile test by the North, which fired a medium-range ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan on Wednesday.

The US Navy strike group

Carl Vinson cancelled a planned trip to Australia this weekend, heading toward the Korean peninsula instead, in a move that will raise tensions in the region.

Seoul and Washington are also conducting joint military drills, an annual exercise which is seen by the North as a practice for war. - AFP

The North may stage a "strategic provocation" to mark key political dates this month, Kim said, adding that

Wu's visit would serve as a "strong warning" against Pyongyang. Wu did not speak to the media after the talks.

China is the isolated country's sole major ally and economic lifeline, and Beijing in February suspended all coal imports from the North in punishment for Pyongyang's latest missile test.

Speculation of an imminent nuclear test is brewing as the North marks anniversaries including the 105th birthday of its

founding leader on Saturday – sometimes celebrated with a demonstration of military might.

President Donald Trump,

a potential "terror attack"

against tourists in the Sinai peninsula. The crossing remains open for those wanting to return from Egypt.

The border closure comes

after a day after militants in Egypt bombed two churches, killing dozens of Christian worshippers during Palm Sunday services.

In the wake of those attacks, Israel's anti-terror office called on all Israeli tourists in Sinai to return home immediately and asked Israelis planning trips to the Sinai to cancel.

The Israeli government

statement says that intelligence

activity by Islamic State mili-

tants" in Sinai. It adds that the Islamic State group losing

ground in Iraq and Syria, there is renewed "motivation to carry out terror attacks in different areas at this time."

Southern Sinai, with its pristine beaches and Red Sea coastal reefs, has traditionally been a popular Israeli tourist destination, especially for secular Israelis during the Passover holiday that starts today evening.

But tourism there has declined since 2013, when the Egyptian military overthrew an elected Islamic president and an Islamic insurgency based in northern Sinai intensified. - AP

Israel shuts Egypt border crossing after terror warning

JERUSALEM, April 10: Israel closed its Taba border crossing to Egypt today following a warning by its anti-terrorist office of an "imminent" militant attack there.

The closure comes hours before the start of the Passover holiday, when Sinai is a popular destination for many Israelis.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attacks in which the number of people killed has reached 45 after a person injured in the bombing at Tanta died.

More than 100 people remained injured, according to Egyptian authorities. - PTI

The closure comes hours after the announcement that the Egyptian government

will renew its closure of the border with Israel.

The Egyptian government

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Babar Azam of Pakistan celebrates after scoring century against West Indies during the 2nd ODI match at Guyana National Stadium, Guyana, on Sunday.

Sindhu, Saina look for better show at Singapore

SINGAPORE, April 10: Indian badminton queens Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu will look to put behind their disappointing first-round exits last week at Malaysia when they start their campaign at the Singapore Super Series, commencing with the qualifiers here tomorrow.

Sindhu, who clinched her maiden India Open at New Delhi to achieve a career-best World No. 2 ranking, will have to get over the heartbreak at Kuching, where she was stunned by upcoming Chinese shuttler Chen Yufei.

Sindhu, Saina will hope to erase the memory of her opening-round shock by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.

A tough draw awaits the Indian shuttlers at the Singapore Open with Sindhu stat-

ed to face Japan's Nozomi Okuhara, 2016 All England Open champion and Rio Olympic bronze medalist. Saina, meanwhile, will take on a qualifier.

The men's singles draw is equally challenging as top seed Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark will stand in the way of India's B Sai Praneeth in the opening round, while rising star Sameer Verma will once again face Hong Kong's Hu Yun, whom he had beaten at the India Open early this month.

Ajay Jayaram, who had beaten World No. 2 Viktor Axelsen en route to the quarterfinals at Malaysia Open last week, will meet fifth seeded young Chinese shuttler Shi Yuqi, who had reached the finals at the All

England last month.

After skipping the Malaysia Open following his second-round loss in India Open, Kidambi Srikanth will be looking to regain his form that saw him conquer the 2014 China Open and 2015 India Open.

The former World No. 4 will square off against a qualifier.

In men's doubles, Manu Attri and B Sumanth Reddy, who have found the going tough ever since their Olympic qualification, will face Japanese third seeded pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda in the opening round.

Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold finalists, Ashish Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will meet Malaysian duo of Yin Loo Lim and Yap Cheng Wen in women's doubles competition. — PTI

AITA expect matured behaviour from Lee-Hesh

NEW DELHI, April 10: Declining the way Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes publicly sparred over Davis Cup selection, AITA today said it expects the veteran players to have a mature manner.

Bhupathi yesterday made public his chat with Paes to counter accusations that he used his position to exclude him from the playing squad.

"We expect these senior Pros to be more mature. The way they are going about it, we are not appreciating it. We have to talk to them and make sure they have a much more mature manner," AITA Secretary General Hironnath told PTI.

Chatterjee said Paes should have avoided making comments on his exclusion during the tie. "Leander should not have spoken when the tie was on. Ma-

hesh did the right thing by speaking after the tie was over," Chatterjee felt.

The senior AITA official said he has seen the WhatsApp chat between Paes and Bhupathi and there effort now is to bring them together and sort out the issues.

"I have also seen it and discussed it with Leander. I am going to sit and talk to both of them when I get time since they are both travelling."

"I do intend to bring them together. They will settle it out. They are mature people but the reasons they have given could have been much better," he said.

Bhupathi, in his Facebook Post, had mentioned that he has the backing of establishment in implementing his ideas as he strives to get the team back to World Group. Chatterjee endorsed the non-playing captain's view.—PTI

Supergiant look to return to winning ways vs Daredevils

PUNE, April 10: A bat-happy Rising Pune Supergiant would look to return to winning ways when they take on Delhi Daredevils in an Indian Premier League match here tomorrow.

It is still early days in the 10th edition of IPL and Rising Pune Supergiant has mixed a dozen so far with a win and loss from two games they have played so far.

While Pune got off their campaign on a losing note by defeating Mumbai Indians on seven wickets at home, they slumped to a 6-wicket defeat against Kings XI Punjab in their previous game.

With the likes of in-form Steven Ben, Ajinkya Rahane, costliest player of IPL, Ben Stokes, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Manoj Tiwary, Mayank Agarwal, Ankit Solanki, Baba Aparajith, Ankush Jain, Rajat Bhambhani, Umar Akmal, Dinesh Karthik, Ashok Dinda, Lockie Ferguson, Jasbir Singh, Saurabh Kumar, Milind Tandel, Jaydev Unadkat, Adam Zampa.

Delhi Daredevils: Zaheer Khan (capt), Mohammad Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, CM Milind, Khaleel Ahmed, Pratyush Singh, Murugan Ashwin, Aditya Tare, Shashank Singh, Ankit Bawani, Navdeep Saini, Corey Anderson, Angelo Mathews, Pat Cummins, Kagiso Rabada, Chris Morris, Carlos Brathwaite, Sam Billings. — PTI



Angel Di Maria (L) of Paris Saint-Germain celebrates scoring during the French Ligue 1 soccer match against EA Guingamp at Parc des Princes in Paris, on Sunday. Paris Saint-Germain won 4-0.

Rohit Sharma reprimanded

MUMBAI, April 10: Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma has been reprimanded by the match referee for showing dissent during an IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders here.

The 29-year-old showed his disappointment with the umpire's leg before wicket decision off Sunil Narine's bowling and expressed his anger while walking back to the pavilion at the Wankhede Stadium here last night. Although Mumbai Indians won the match by four wickets, at the time when Rohit got out the team needed 105 more runs off 62 balls.

"Rohit Sharma was reprimanded by the match referee for showing excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision," a statement said. — PTI

India beat Chile to win Hockey World League Round 2

WEST VANCOUVER, April 10: India defeated Chile in the shoot-out in a pulsating contest to win the Women's Hockey World League Round 2 and qualify for the World League semi-final here.

The match went into the shoot-out after both the teams were locked at 1-1 at the end of regulation time yesterday.

In the shoot-out, Indian goalkeeper Savita came up with a stunning display to help her side emerge winners.

Savita, who was adjudged the goal-keeper of the tournament, was outstanding under the bar as she denied scoring opportunities to Kim Jacob and Joscha Villalba.

Garcia found the fairway

Rose could only punch out onto the fairway and scrambled to make a bogey while Garcia put his approach 15 feet from the hole and, needing only

punching the green in delight.

"We were cheering each other," Garcia said. "We wanted to beat the other guy not the other guy to lose."

Garcia said he had lost hope of ever

winning at Augusta, but

"through the years I learned to accept what Augusta gives and takes and that's why I'm here."

On the 72nd regulation hole, Rose missed an eight-foot birdie putt, leaving Garcia a five-footer to win, but he pushed it wide right.

Garcia opened the back nine with two bogeys and trailed by two at the par-

start in the shoot-out.

Skipper Rani and Monika

converted their chances to

give India a 2-0 lead in the

shoot-out.

Chile's Carolina Garcia then

scored from their third at-

tempt, but Deepika found the

net to seal the match for India.

Despite conceding an ear-

ly goal in the fifth minute

when Maria Maldonado

scoored for Chile, the Indian

even stayed upbeat in their

pursuit for the title.

The Indians came up with

a good defensive structure to

keep Chile from scoring again.

Though India earned their

first penalty corner in the

22nd minute, the effort was

saved by Chile goalkeeper

Claudia Schuler.

Chile continued to stay in

lead until the third quarter when

Anupma Barla successfully con-

verted a penalty corner in the

41st minute to level the scores.

The fourth quarter saw both

the teams press hard for goals

and India's striker Rani came

close to converting a field goal

in the dying minute of the match

but her strong backhand shot

was saved by Claudia.

"It was a very good match and

we are happy with the way we

played. Chile was a tough side to

beat and we really had to keep

ourselves motivated to keep

pushing for a goal after they took

an early lead," Rani said. — PTI

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su doku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with paper, pencil and pen. Fill in the grid with numbers in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.



Garcia wins first major title in Masters playoff

AUGUSTA (United States), April 10: Spain's Sergio Garcia captured his first major golf title after 73 failed attempts, making a birdie on the first playoff hole to defeat Justin Rose and win the 81st Masters.

Garcia took his emotional, long-sought triumph over England's Rose, the 2016 Rio Olympic champion and 2013 US Open winner, after they finished deadlocked on nine-under par 279 for 72 holes at Augusta National.

"When it has been such a long time coming," Garcia said. "I felt a calmness I never felt on a major Sunday."

The 37-year-old Spaniard achieved the greatest triumph of his career on what would have been the 60th birthday of his idol, two-time Masters champion and three-time British Open winner Seve Ballesteros, who died of brain cancer in 2011 at age 54.

"It's amazing," Garcia said. "To do it on his 60th birthday, it's something amazing."

Last-group playing partners and friends Garcia and Rose were level for the lead at the start of what became a tension-packed thrill ride of a final round.

Only three players had more major starts without a victory than Garcia before he donned the green jacket symbolic of Masters supremacy.

Garcia led by three strokes after five holes, fell two behind after 11, then roared back to force the playoff and sank a 15-foot birdie putt to claim victory.

"Even after making a couple of bogeys I was very positive. I still believed," Garcia said. "There were a lot of holes I could get to and I stayed positive."

Rose's play-off tee shot soared deep

into trees right of the fairway but bounded out onto pine straw while

two putts to win, rolled in a birdie around the edge of the cup.

Garcia squatted and shook with excitement, rose and screamed with joy and hugged good pal Rose before walking around the green to revel in the moment, pumping his fist and

punching the green in delight.

"We were cheering each other," Garcia said. "We wanted to beat the other guy not the other guy to lose."

Garcia said he had lost hope of ever

winning at Augusta, but

"through the years I learned to accept what Augusta gives and takes and that's why I'm here."

On the 72nd regulation hole, Rose missed an eight-foot birdie putt, leaving Garcia a five-footer to win, but he pushed it wide right.

Garcia opened the back nine with two bogeys and trailed by two at the par-

5 13th, where his drive landed under a bush. He took an unplayable lie penalty, then punched into the fairway.

But on the brink of disaster, Garcia battled back, salvaging a par at 13 and staying two back when Rose missed a three-foot birdie putt.

"I knew I needed to make that putt to stay with it. I knew I was playing well enough," Garcia said. "The putt really turned the clock a little bit for me. It got me more confident."

The momentum had shifted and Garcia took full advantage, curling in a six-foot birdie putt at the 14th although Rose parred to stay one ahead.

At the par-5 15th, Garcia blasted a tee shot beyond 300 yards then lofted his approach off the flagstick, to set up a 15-foot eagle putt that slowed before falling in to fist-pumping joy as the crowd roared. — AFP



Vikas, Shiva in; Devendro dropped for Asian C'ships

NEW DELHI, April 10: Some established names and a couple of rookies made for an interesting Indian boxing squad picked for the April-May Asian Championships in which two-time medalist L. Devendro Singh could not find a place.

World bronze-medallists Shiva Thapa (60kg) and Vikas Singh (73kg), alongwith former Commonwealth gold-medalist Manoj Kumar (69kg), were expectedly selected for the April 30 to May 7 event in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The continental showpiece is a qualifying event for the World Championships later this year.

Making a comeback is former Asian Olympic qualifiers' gold-medalist Sumit Sangwan, who last competed in the 2016 Rio Games qualifiers in June. He has jumped from light heavyweight (81kg) to heavyweight (91kg) and this would be his first competitive outing in the new weight category.

The boxers who have been invited to the team are: Arun Pergali (48kg), Kesar Singh (52kg), Gurav Borthakur (56kg), Shiva Thapa (60kg), Ashish Kumar (64kg), Manoj Kumar (69kg), Rakesh Kumar (73kg), Manoj Kumar (77kg), Sumit Sangwan (91kg), Sushil Kumar (91kg). -PTI

GTC CA trounce Dibrugarh outfit

SPORTS REPORTER
GUWAHATI, April 10: Gauhati Town Club Cricket Academy handed a 81-run drubbing to Cricket Club of Dibrugarh Academy in today's group league match of the U-14 13th All Assam Golap Hazarika Memorial Inter District Cricket Competition at the Dispur Parade Ground.

Opting to bat first the local boys put up a stiff challenge to the Dibrugarh team scoring 160 all out in 35 overs. Chasing the target the Dibrugarh outfit could score 79 in 24.3 overs.

Shahid Ali of the winning team was picked for the man-of-the-match award for his 30 runs and three wickets.

Brief scores: GTC CA 160 (Salih Ali 30, Rahul Boro 29, Samik Churaria 28, Aniket Dutta 3/28, Nishant Singhamia 3/30). CCDA 79 (Chinmoy Markary 16, Dhruv Raiborah 4/17, Shahid Ali 3/12, Shivaji Choudhury 2/24).

Today's match: Guwahati CCC vs Kokrajhar CA

Squash tourney from today

GUWAHATI, April 10: The two-day All Guwahati Inter Club Squash Tournament will be held at the Assam Cricket Complex from tomorrow.

The championship will be organised by the Guwahati Squash Racket Association and the opening ceremony will be held at 4 pm. Interested players may report at the competition venue, stated a release.

Bud CC to host school cricket

GUWAHATI, April 10: Bud Cricket Club is going to organise the 7th edition of the State Inter School/ Organisation Cricket Tournament from April 17 to May 12 at the Assam Cricket Association's Barsapara stadium here.

The 50-over tournament will be played in knock-out basis. A total number of 24 teams will be participating from different parts of Assam in the meet.



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3 FICTION
Life on a deathbed - II

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Rolling through time

The Assam Tribune

Sunday

Coffee at Saigon

BHASWATI K. GOSWAMI gives voice to the many charms of Vietnam.

We had to literally walk through racing two-wheelers, holding onto each other for dear lives as they zoomed past. In a city of ten million, there are seven million bikes. We thought Indian traffic was bad!

It was nearly the Vietnamese New Year, when we reached Ho Chi Minh, the commercial hub of Vietnam, formerly Saigon, named after the river which flows alongside. It was warm, the airport was packed. Everywhere we were greeted with the traditional *Chuk Mung Nam Moi* to usher in this Fire Rooster Year.

Ho Chi, which reminded me of Kolkata, with the same pulse and vibrancy, has French colonial landmarks, elegant boulevards and War history museums. The houses were narrow, much like the Dutch canal homes, to avoid being hit by highland taxes. We walked around town, negotiating traffic like bravehearts. The streets were lined with vendors and artists, beautiful pieces to be picked up for a bargain. The art of calligraphy finds good expression in Vietnamese scrolls made of bamboo, with matted silk paper. Gifted hands make exquisite cans and rattan furniture, wood carvings and masks. The women were beautiful silk *Oudais*. Everywhere Kumquat and peach blossom trees, considered auspicious, were being carried in bikes to adorn homes for the upcoming new year or *Tet* holidays. With a weak currency Dong, even to pay basic bills was in thousands. It made better sense to pay in dollars.

We found the right coffee shop to enjoy Vietnamese coffee, the dark roast coffee, blended with sweet condensed milk, another French legacy. We posed by the Notre Dame Cathedral awestruck, even the stones used for this was apparently brought from Paris. Standing magnificently at the heart of the city, the Central Post Office and Saigon



Opera House are still functional beautiful colonial era buildings. We met interesting people who have made Vietnam their home. The young American Logan who had come to teach English but decided to stay back and open a BBQ joint. Frenchman Anthony Jones helps his Vietnamese fiancée Hanh Polly run her family restaurant, Bunn Oi. We spent one evening at the Pasteur Street Brewing Company, trying out wonderful real ale (craft beers). We sipped Vietnamese coffee and relished *pho*, a Vietnamese noodle soup consisting of broth, rice noodles, herbs and meat.

Hand, up north, the capital, a two-and-a-half hour flight from Ho Chi, much cooler, is where traditional Vietnamese culture blends with the French. It is here that they have tried to keep Ho Chi Minh alive at his Mausoleum. Kathy, our young guide tells us that the

Vietnamese would like to believe that he is just sleeping peacefully. We joined the long line, his body lay in the central hall of the mausoleum as if in deep slumber. We spotted some locals getting emotional inside. We also saw the ceremonial changing of guards outside the mausoleum. Close by, the One Pillar Pagoda, with Goddess Tara inside rising from one pillar in the centre of an elegantly square-shaped lotus pond, was a unique piece of traditional architecture.

Impressive stone stele records of imperial examinations of the Le and Mac dynasties were preserved in the Temple of Literature. The Water Puppet Show, a traditional art has existed for about 1,000 years, showcasing the daily life of Vietnamese farmers – with cymbals, gongs, flutes, and other traditional instruments creating beautiful music. We took a cycle trip (a bicycle pulled

cart) around the Old Quarter or the French Quarter, the city's main tourist destination, packed with charming colonial architecture, pagodas, boutique shops and art galleries. The preserved shop-houses that lie along the narrow roads were built over a century ago. The cycles, where we sat in front of the drivers, confidently manoeuvred their way through all of this, constantly pressing the little bells to ward off passersby as we soaked in the fascinating sights and sounds, praying that none of the bigger busses fail to see our frail ones.

A highlight of the trip was the overnight stay on a cruise vessel *Flamingo* at the picturesque Ha Long Bay, a four-hour drive from Hanoi. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is known for its emerald waters and towering limestone islands topped by rainforests. Junk boat tours and sea kayak expeditions take visitors past islands named for their shapes, including Stone Dog and Teapot islets. *Flamingo*, with a great crew led by an energetic, witty Johnny had about 25 guests on board, mostly Europeans who were as musical as they were concerned about the leaves with our better boats turned turnip and plucked them into the icy water. Thankfully they came out alive and just about kicking! On-board, cooking, Tai Chi lessons and endless conversations, with the cool breeze brushing past, helped the guests bond.

We were well taken care of by Kathy and the gentle driver Mr. Dung, who drove us back and forth in his old but reliable Ford Transit. It was an emotional moment at the Hanoi Airport as we bid farewell. Kathy, as old as our children, carried a traditional Vietnamese breakfast and walked with us all the way to the security gate, making sure we didn't have problems communicating. We parted, promising to meet again, sometime, somewhere. Hoping I told you they also smile a lot here? *Tam Biet*, Vietnam!

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Music of the maestros



Dr. Manash P. Goswami

Paul Leroy Robeson, whose *'Ol' Man River* emerged as his signature tune, was one among the versatile Black American Civil Rights activists of the 20th century. Born on April 9, 1898, in Princeton, New Jersey, he was a man of exceptional talent – a theatre artist, actor, singer, footballer and activist.

Nearly three decades later, Bhupen Hazarika, the golden voice of Assam, was born in 1926 in Sadiya, the Northeast frontier of British Raj. Like Robeson in the USA, the multifaceted talent of Hazarika, from singer to poet, actor to director, journalist to author and lyricist to music composer, could win the hearts of millions of people of the Indian sub-continent from the early decades of the 20th century.

It was destiny that Hazarika met Paul Robeson in Columbia University, USA, in the 1950s. Bhupen Hazarika, who himself was an ardent supporter of freedom and equality, became Robeson's good friend in a short span of time.

The Indian Peoples Theatre Association (IPTA) played an important role in the growth of the socialist ideology in young Bhupen Hazarika in his formative years. His fine song *Agnijugor fittingo moi*, written at the age of 13, depicted his revolutionary mind talking about establishing a new Assam of equality. Under the guidance and support of Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha, young Hazarika wrote, composed and sang several revolutionary songs for the awareness of freedom, justice and equality among common people.

Paul Robeson was the youngest of five children, of a father of a runaway slave. He knew both hard-

ship and determination to rise above it from his childhood. He rose to prominence at a time when the segregation of Black and White people spread hatred across the United States of America. The incidents of Black people being lynched by racist mobs was very common during that period. The social deprivation of basic rights, often encountered with racist comments and the struggle to earn livelihood made him pen down songs that advocated anti-imperialism, affiliation to communism and criticism of the United States Government.

Robeson's extensive travel introduced him to the university of human suffering and oppression. He vehemently fought for an anti-lynching law, promoted African self-rule, appealed for helping the victims of the Spanish Civil War, supported India's Independence and championed equality for all human beings.

With his God-gifted rich bass voice, he sang highly engrossing lyrics of independence, freedom, equality and universal brotherhood. The rising influence of the activism of Robeson among the Black and poor people irked the establishment, which later blacklisted him during the McCarthy era.

When as a student of Columbia University, USA, Bhupen Hazarika met Paul Robeson, the belief of

masses in the true sense of the term, who reflected the changing times with socially, economically and politically relevant songs. His musical contribution to awaken the Assamese people to *Bhasha Andolan* is highly appreciable.

Paul Robeson and Bhupen Hazarika may have been born in different places, different times and with different ethnicity, but their influences still exist among different generations of people. They are remembered as great singers, actors and activists who fought for social justice and ethnic amity by blending entertainment with responsibility.

Bhupen Hazarika and Paul Robeson may have been born in different places, different times and with different ethnicity, but their influences still exist among different generations of people. They are remembered as great singers, actors and activists who fought for social justice and ethnic amity by blending entertainment with responsibility.

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Shaping Spring

In this evocative piece,
ASHA KUTHARI CHAUDHURI
encapsulates the spirit of Spring.

Who is best suited, really, to write a song of Spring, an ode to the *rang* – the colours that come with that eternally eulogised season of Rongali Bihu? The young. So what can someone who is now looking towards the mellower climes of autumn have to say about a time that can genuinely only be felt, lived and celebrated by those in the prime of youth?

The conundrum that Yeats articulated in *Sailing to Byzantium* comes to mind: his lamentation for that aged man who is "but a paltry thing / A tattered coat upon a stick" who gazes at the young "caught in that sensual music", forever enamoured of life, "*In one another's arms, birds in the trees*..."; and "all neglect / Monuments of unaging intellect". Even so, it is Spring again, as the year rolls by and another Bihu begins to create that buzz all around you. And with it comes nostalgia that is so characteristic of folks who have lived out a large part of their lives. And memory.

Of the time when I was a little girl of about seven, and would wait endlessly for the *huchori* groups that would come dressed in full Bihu regalia, would play and sing, and dance with us and then move on, and another group would come, the cycle repeating itself throughout the day. And then the preparation to visit the big *Bhutols*, all goggle-eyed about the lights, the sounds and the crowds.

Of the time when things changed; when the *huchori* groups came, but were distinctly less resplendent; and then they stopped coming altogether. Life and times had changed. We were now in an urban jungle, growing haphazardly, with scant regard to what was becoming extinct. Yes, there was the excitement of Bihu still, but a very different one – this was a much more commodified event. But the Bihu *Pranams* were still exchanged, and we still visited the elders and extended family and friends; only the *ganochas* were no longer woven at our villages, they were mass produced and "imported" from elsewhere. But Bhupenda still sang and the air was still honeyed by songs that sank into your subconscious.

Of the times when we lived in the shadow of threats, ransom notes and identities that clashed, rather than meld, like they used to, in another time, in another memory. We had stopped going to community events. The *Bhutols* were warned not to besmirch the purity of the Bihu song with Hindi film songs. The celebrations of Bihu, of course, continued with all fanfare.

The city grew. The streets remained narrow. The traffic burgeoned. Everybody had cars. Or bikes. And the *Bhutols* became techno-savvy. Yes, in our time, we live-stream performances and Assamese communities from the world can come together and celebrate the advent of Spring. There are multiple television channels that showcase the latest songster



whose work has gone viral on YouTube. We are spoiled for choice. There are malls all around, and we are all shopaholics – Bihu is just another excuse to rush to the nearest one. And while the *mehkela chador* is now showcased at innumerable Fashion Week events across the globe, the tradition of weaving at home is almost extinct. And so while a few wear organically produced breathtakingly beautiful garments, the erstwhile fine-lined 'common' folks simply cannot afford a new set.

But ah, the mind veers towards a political bend that is really not our focus here. I was trying to fathom if it was at all possible, in the middle of one's life, having collected all these memories through the years, to find a truly resonant song of the Spring. A season where it is truly, tangibly, possible to taste those lost joys – not the kind that may only be relived through nostalgia.

Strangely, I find, the answer is yes. When a research scholar comes to you with a gift, you look at her sternly in the eye and say that you cannot allow her to buy gifts for you. She looks squarely back at you and says, "But Ma'am, I didn't buy this. *Nijei bonaisi*." Defeated, you relent. You cannot disappoint her. You unwrap the gift, and you gasp – it is a lovely handwoven eri shawl. "Did you this for me?" "Yes, *Baitewa*, my Ma helped a bit, but I learnt how, because you keep reminding us that little things like these are disappearing."

When one is surrounded by the young in their prime (and teaching at the university, I blessedly am) one is infected by their *joi de vivre*; the spring in their step is contagious, and their smiles invite reciprocation. So yes, the paradox that Yeats struggled with remains. But when the young surround you, it is still possible to sing a song of Spring, a Spring that you helped to shape.

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WOMEN PLUS

Notice how?

Agamonee Barbarua runs a toothcomb through everyday gender insensitivity.

FOR WOMEN, because that is assumed to be their office.

Notice how there is hardly any advertisement where the man is using the brand of edible oil in the kitchen or nappies for the child?

Notice how it is assumed that husbands can comment on the professional choices of a wife, while the wives are often asked to steer clear of commenting on the husband's office talk?



Notice how relatives, friends and even absolute strangers to her wife, offer unsolicited advice to her about how she should take care of her husband and yet, refrain from the doing the same with the husband?

Notice how a wife is expected to keep herself fit and sexy to keep her husband interested in her and a husband is not?

Notice how a woman's promiscuity is deemed to be a greater crime than a man's womanising?

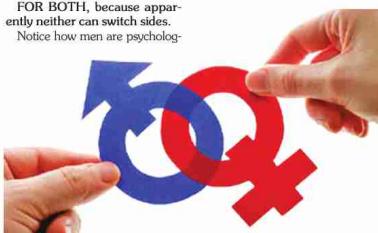
FOR MEN, because that is what 'being a man' somehow implies

Notice how they made a hullabaloo about Arjun Kapoor's character wanting to be 'a wife' in *RJ & Ka* and that it is actually *habbat* and not *jihu-zoor*?

Notice how being a 'manly' is deemed to be a sissy job for a man? Notice how men are expected to 'be a man' to say Yes or

No about something? Notice how the silence at a wife's rebuke makes a man 'henpecked', while that in a husband's rebuke makes a wife 'a wife'?

FOR BOTH, because apparently neither can switch sides. Notice how men are psycholog-



ically trained to be the bread earner of the family and berated if they are not, while the woman is considered fit for marriage if not a job?

Notice how the responsibility of old age parental care is

Notice how men are psychologically trained to be the bread earner of the family and berated if they are not, while the woman is considered fit for marriage if not a job?

invariably perched on a man, while a woman doing the same is either blamed for being a husband-abusing feminazi or overtly appreciated for going out of her way?

Notice how a career in some kind of arts pursued by a man is deemed as hopeless and unyield-

RELATIONSHIP

Mark Manson

There's no class in high school on how not to be a lousy boyfriend or girlfriend. And, when it comes down to actually handling the nitty-gritty of relationships, we're given no pointers.

Yes, it's trial-and-error from the word-go. And if you're like most people, it's been mostly error.

But, part of the problem is that many unhealthy relationship habits are baked into our culture. Our partners are often seen as assets, rather than someone to share mutual emotional support.

Fortunately, there has been a lot of psychological research into healthy and happy relationships in the past few decades, and there are some general principles that keep popping up consistently, that most people are unaware of or don't follow.

Below are some of the most common tendencies in relationships that many couples think are healthy and normal, but are actually toxic and destroying everything you hold dear. Get the tissues ready.

• The relationship scorecard

What it is: The 'keeping score'

phenomenon is when someone you're

dating continues to blame you for past

mistakes you made in the relationship. If both people in the relationship do this, it develops into what I call "the relationship scorecard", where it becomes a battle to see who has screwed up the most over the months or years and, therefore, who owes the other one more.

What it's toxic: The relationship

ising wrong in the present. What you should do instead: Deal with issues individually, unless they are legitimately connected. If someone habitually cheats, then that's obviously a recurring problem.

• Dropping "hints" What it is: Instead of stating a desire or thought overtly, your partner

is communicating openly and clearly with one another.

What you should do instead: State your feelings and desires openly. And make it clear that the other person is not necessarily responsible or obligated to them but that you'd love to have their support. If they love you, they'll almost always be able to give it.

• Holding the relationship hostage

What it is: When one person has a simple criticism or complaint and blackmails the other person by threatening the commitment of the relationship, as a whole.

What it's toxic: It's emotional blackmail and it creates tonnes of unnecessary drama. Every minor hiccup in the flow of the relationship results in a perceived commitment crisis.

What you should do instead: It's fine to get upset at your partner or to not like something about them. That's called being a normal human being. But, understand that committing to a person and always liking a person are not the same thing. One can be committed to someone and not like everything about them. On the contrary, two partners who are capable of communicating feedback and criticism towards one another, without judgment or blackmail, will strengthen their commitment to one another in the long-run.



Toxic bonds

scorecard develops over time because one or both people in a relationship use past wrongdoings, in order to try and justify current righteousness. Not only are you deflecting the current issue itself, but you're also ginning up guilt and bitterness from the past to manipulate your partner into feel-

tries to nudge you in the right direction of figuring it out yourself. Instead of saying what's actually upsetting you, you find small and petty ways to piss your partner off, so you'll then feel justified in complaining to them.

Why it's toxic: Because it shows that you two are not comfortable

with justifying your own behaviour.

Stir in the baking powder (it will foam) and immediately add the fried dough pieces and stir to coat them evenly in the sugar syrup.

Lower the heat and, stir continuously until sugar crystallises completely.

Remove the sugar-coated dough pieces from the pan and allow them to dry out completely. Serve fresh with tea.

Black rice sweet (Kola bora saul'or pitha)

Ingredients:

- Black glutinous rice (*kola bora saul*) 1 cup
- Coconut, freshly grated 1 cup
- Sugar 2 tbsp
- Salt
- A pinch
- Boiling water or milk ½ cup
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Sugar 1 cup
- Water ½ cup
- Baking powder ½ tsp

Method:

Wash and soak the glutinous rice in cold water for half an hour.

Drain the rice completely and leave it in a

colander or spread over a clean cloth to dry.

When the rice no longer feels wet, grind the rice to a fine powder.

Place the ground sticky rice flour, grated coconut, sugar and a pinch of salt in a large bowl.

Add boiling water or milk, a tablespoon at

a time and knead it into a stiff pliable dough. Take care not to add too much liquid to the dough.

Pinch off small pieces of dough and shape them into small ovals or cut them into thick squares.

Heat vegetable oil in a wok or deep pan. Fry the dough pieces on medium flame, until golden brown in colour. Remove with a slotted spoon onto a paper towel and let it cool slightly.

Meanwhile, in a pan, boil one cup sugar and half cup water until a syrup forms.

Stir in the baking powder (it will foam) and immediately add the fried dough pieces and stir to coat them evenly in the sugar syrup.

Lower the heat and, stir continuously until sugar crystallises completely.

Remove the sugar-coated dough pieces from the pan and allow them to dry out completely.

Serve fresh with tea.



Sharmin Pasha is a food writer currently based in Dubai, UAE, where she teaches privately-organised cooking lessons on different techniques of cooking. She also hosts an informative page featuring Assamese recipes on Facebook, which was created to showcase the culinary treasures of Assam to the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

Flattened rice with jaggery (Bora dhonor meetha sira)

Ingredients:

- Flattened sticky rice (*Bora dhonor sira*) 1 cup
- Jaggery, grated ½ cup, plus extra to serve
- Warm water ½ cup
- Ghee or butter 3 tbsp
- Cashew nuts, chopped 10
- Raisins 15
- Green cardamom(s) 1-2
- Bay leaf 1
- Fresh cream to serve

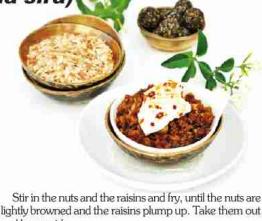
Method:

Rinse the flattened rice in cold water and soak until soft, but not mushy. Drain the excess water and keep aside.

Place the jaggery in the warm water and stir until dissolved completely.

Bring the mixture to a boil, stirring continuously. Strain through a sieve and keep aside.

Heat ghee in a non-stick pan, add in the cardamom(s) and bay leaf, and sauté until fragrant.



Stir in the nuts and the raisins and fry, until the nuts are lightly browned and the raisins plump up. Take them out and keep aside.

Now add the drained flattened rice to the hot ghee and mix well.

Pour in the jaggery syrup. Reduce heat and cook for four to five minutes until the flattened rice is cooked and the liquid is absorbed. Mix in the fried nuts and raisins and remove from heat.

Serve hot with fresh cream and grated jaggery.

STYLE FILE

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It's raining blossoms

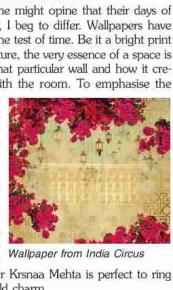
*Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trails its wreath;
And 'tis my faith that every flower,
Enjoys the air it breathes.*

— William Wordsworth

It is raining. Yes. And Spring is here! So while you are stuck indoors, get inspired by the season of fresh beginnings and merriment and drench your home with bright floral prints and pretty pastels. Online shopping is the rage today and with just a click of a button, you can transform your home into a cheerful abode in minutes.

So, let us get some "flower power" on and create magic with these amazing products which can be sourced online:

■ Wallpaper and wall art:



that are versatile and can be mixed around with different types of art for your gallery walls. My pick to celebrate this glorious season is this adorable print from Chumbak, which will brighten up any corner in minutes.

■ Tableware:



Versailles Collection from The Wishing Chair

of tableware from a fairly new brand have been catching my eye. The gorgeous Tea set, aptly named the Versailles Collection from The Wishing Chair perfectly echoes a regal afternoon tea party of scones and cake in an English home. The pretty floral motifs are an absolute joy and for the ones who like a little sophistication, this is the perfect collection to welcome Spring.

While the English prints may enthrall you,



Serai Collection from Good Earth

The mystical beauty of the colourful Indian collection from Good Earth presents a special aura. The bright jewelled tones with glittering accents will leave you breathless. This spectacular dinnerware named the Serai Collection from Good Earth will definitely infuse your dinner table with colour and oomph.

■ Furniture and cushions:

Everyone has a favourite couch or a corner to curl up with their favourite book or a hot cuppa on a rainy evening. I am currently loving the burst of fresh, bold colours and the cheerful floral prints of the sofas and poufs from Chumbak and their spunkily cushion covers. The special teal sofa called the Flower Burst from Chumbak will surely



brighten up any corner without any effort.

The Charbagh Collection of bedlinen from Good Earth is another favourite where the subtle nuances of Indian floral motifs with minimal aesthetics are explored with great finesse.



Charbagh Collection from Good Earth

Life on a deathbed - II

FICTION

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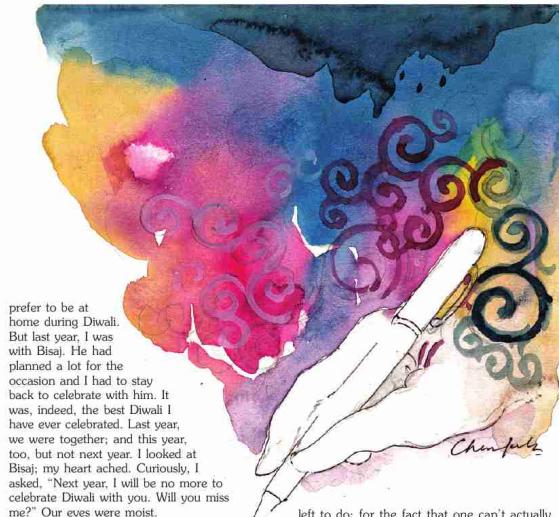
All I could think at that moment was, "Dada, the things which are so important to you, has got no value for me. You could have understood only by stepping into my shoes! At this point of my life, nothing can be more valuable than time, because that is the only thing that I don't have."

Bisaj calls me every day. Just like he did on the day I got my report; but something was different that day. As soon as I received his call, he asked, "Is everything fine with you, Naina?" I was stunned, but more than that I was happy that he had sensed it. "I am dying, sweetheart. I wish I could have spent more time with you. I wish we could have re-lived all those beautiful moments once more, or that I could beautify all those odd moments when we fought! I wish I could have woken up in your arms every morning." Unfortunately, I could not say any of that and ended up saying that I was fine and just that I wanted to meet him in the evening.

Finally, on April 30, two days before my birthday, all my family members got together. It felt like a complete family. No one knew anything; perhaps, all they could imagine was that I would announce my marriage. First day went in full enjoyment. Everyone was busy. The whole house was filled with laughter and giggles. It was heartwarming to see my parents playing with their grandchildren. I could not gather the courage to give them the heartbreaking news that day.

But the next day, after having a good lunch, I showed the report to my brothers. I remember their faces very well. The joyous environment at home suddenly came to a halt. It was pretty difficult to calm down my mother. She was constantly crying and complaining to God for His cruelty, while the rest of the family got busy, analysing where I would get the best treatment. I wanted to tell them that it would just be a waste of money; better to invest in some good time together.

Tomorrow is Diwali. I am trying to recall every beautiful memory I have of Diwali. I enjoy Diwali a lot, since it's my favourite festival. I



prefer to be at home during Diwali. But last year, I was with Bisaj. He had planned a lot for the occasion and I had to stay back to celebrate with him. It was, indeed, the best Diwali I have ever celebrated. Last year, we were together, and this year, too, but not next year. I looked at Bisaj; my heart ached. Curiously, I asked, "Next year I will be no more to celebrate Diwali with you. Will you miss me?" Our eyes were moist.

"No," he further added, "because you will be with me next year and on every Diwali." I smiled at his impractical words. I asked him to hug me and he did. "Can you get me a piece of paper and pen?" I whispered into his ear.

Basu, I know how desperate and helpless you became when you came to know that I was dying and you could not do anything about it, not even see me once, because I was far away from you on this hospital bed, in Mumbai. Wondering how I know? Megha told me everything. She felt sad seeing your miserable situation and that's why she told you where I was, breaking the promise she had made to me. I know, you regret for being ignorant about me. Please don't be sorry any more. Because I can't thank you enough for all the happiness that you have given me in the last few days of my life, and I mean it, sweetheart.

Take care, Naina.

HEALTHWISE

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Challenges of autism

Luit is a four-year-old, cute and cheerful boy. He is loved by the entire neighbourhood, which he likes very much, but on talking to him, he does not respond. He lives in his own world; hardly makes any eye-contact, though he looks at pictures, watches T.V., and loves to play with cellphones. To add to the worry, he does not play with children of his age, though he can walk, run and jump when he is happy; he often plays alone.

A neighbourhood physician advised his parents to visit a speech Language Pathologist (SLP). On doing so, the SLP interviewed the parents and observed Luit's play. He was provisionally diagnosed with 'Autism', which is characterised by challenges in communication, repetitive behaviours and social skills.

Autism is on the rise nowadays; current occurrence of autism is in the ratio of 1:50. The challenges of autism vary widely and could range from mild to a profound degree.

Luit had a moderate degree of autism, a low-functioning one. The SLP counselled his parents to enjoy bringing up their special child, rather than expecting him to be like other children. His speech-language, academic or other skills would be delayed. However, with adequate intervention, his skills could be improved. His parents were suggested to look out for his area of interest and skill.

Almost all children with autism have sensory-integration disorder, though the extent and type could vary. Poor eye-hand coordination could also exist. Luit has both, so he has to go through sensory-integration therapy, occupational therapy and communication therapy, also termed as speech-language therapy.

Apparently, the intervention needs to be regular and for a long duration (may be years). Parents were advised to be attentive, patient and tolerant for a child with autism. He could have uncontrollable tantrums, and outburst, at times, which is when the ABC (antecedent-behaviour-consequences) needs to be figured out and behaviour-management needs to be done accordingly.

We all know that slow and steady wins the race, yet, it is difficult to maintain sanity while keeping a slow pace in this fast-moving and competitive world. Nowadays, every other expert is trying to occupy himself/herself in autism management, though scientific evidence is yet to be reached and output is not known.

Here, it may be mentioned that Brain Function Training is one such trend, which is done by a brain analyst with no medical background. This is preceded by Brain Function Assessment. This is done by a digital EEG and cutting-edge software, approved by the FDA. It is known to improve adaptability, concentration and functioning in a normal person.

SIBO (Small Intestinal Bacteria Overgrowth), also a recent trend based on scientific evidence that an imbalance of intestinal bacteria is responsible for triggering autism, is practised in the West, but is not known in our country.

Till now, effective intervention for autism is the long way of therapy and is applied in many successful centres, improving the lives of children with autism, provided they were identified and taken for intervention before five years of age. It needs to be known that a child with autism would definitely improve in many ways, though he may not be able to talk after intervention.

Apdysia, motor planning disorder co-exists in these children with autism. In such cases, communication would be in visual mode, either through pictures or words, depending on the child's level of understanding.

AAC (alternative and augmentative communication) is not to substitute verbal communication, but to facilitate verbal communication. Hence, one need not worry that using AAC would be an obstacle in speech-language development.

So, even though autism is considered a disability, a child with autism teaches us to see the world differently. Let's see the world through their eyes, since reality is merely an illusion!



MONEY SMART

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I knew it was bad. In fact, I was shying away from looking at it for a long, long time. But with the Sensex almost reaching the 30,000 mark and the mutual fund industry also reaching 18 lakhs crore, I said to myself, it is about time. So I called the numbers and forced myself to go through it last night and I stood perplexed. It is like the greatest party happening in the neighbourhood and you have no clue about it. And the worst thing is – you have no one to blame but yourself.

My dear friends, India is growing faster than China and it is estimated that by 2030, it is going to be the third richest country by value of its GDP, right after the USA and China. What does it mean to you? Will it improve your life? Will the life of our children be better than ours? You bet, it certainly will. But my question is – why wait as a spectator? Why not participate in it?

The easiest way to participate in



is through participating in our capital market. If India is growing at eight per cent, then the capital market will grow at a higher rate than that. That means, if you invest in the capital market, your investments will also grow at a higher rate than the GDP of our beloved country. But the question is, how do you invest your money in the capital market? The easiest and safest way is through mutual funds. I have been advocating mutual funds to retail investors since quite sometime. This is the fifth running year of Money Smart and I thought

of its State GDP. Maharashtra's is at 48 per cent to its State GDP, Delhi's is at 39 per cent. To give you another perspective, Assam's per capita investment in mutual fund is Rs. 1,930. Whereas, Maharashtra's per capita is Rs. 72,290 and Delhi's per capita investment in mutual fund is Rs. 10,611.

It is about time you ignore all the crooks and cronies who try to steal your money by promising to double your investment and take you for a ride by means of a chit-fund or ponzi scheme. It is time you join the real party that is happening right under your nose. For my part, I have decided to devote this space in Money Smart to tell you what mutual fund is all about. From the next time – till I am reasonably satisfied, I will devote this space to clarify every detail of mutual fund to you. I advise to you, from the next column onwards, cut the piece and paste it in a diary or a notebook. I would also appeal to all stakeholders, to write to me if I miss a point or two in my presentation or if they have a different point of view. We have missed the first few buses, but not the show.

MY SPACE

Prof. Dr. Madhumita P. Das

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Being a doctor myself, I shall put down this confession first that this is an analysis from the angle of a dedicated doctor of the society who has put down her life for the sake of healing every sick person to the extent that's humanly possible.

People, of late, have been focusing on this relationship in many unpalatable ways, which causes discord in this trust, and down the line raises a volley of accusations about the treating doctor, which not only affects the patient but the doctor as well.

We, as doctors, also have our opinion to voice about this issue as we believe that the first and the foremost cornerstone of this relationship is "TRUST". If you do not trust your treating doctor, however dedicated, sincere or

Doctor, patient – where's the lacunae?



But in spite of all this care from the perspective of the treating doctor, there are a group of people who can never ever be trusted to react with sanity.

I shall now openly put down a few confessions from a doctor's angle, who is as much a human being as the patient, but with the knowledge of handling diseases within certain limitations laid down by prerequisites like – condition of the patient on arrival, the infrastructural facilities available, the attitude of the attendants and most importantly, the faith of the patient and the doctor that finally determines the fate of a patient.

It's very important to remember

that not all diseases are curable nor sustainable, otherwise no doctors would have ever died in this world.

Sitting in a busy Out Patient Department, whenever a patient walks in, a series of revelations flash across our mind even before we start a verbal exchange of information.

- This patient looks critical/stable.

- The attendants look cooperative and grounded/ demanding and super-connected.

But the fact is, whatever be the condition of the patient, the treating doctor would ready to make a fair trial of the situation, often with the informed consent from the family members around, specially if the condition of the patient on arrival looks critical, and proceed with the best possible intention of giving relief. But as I

have already mentioned, the outcome of any disease is never 100 per cent assurable. Unseen factors like luck, fate and destiny also have a role to play but, yes, however serious or critical a patient is on admission, if the attendants are realistic and ready to cope with the situation, there can be no scope of an unfavourable outcome. Often, in lesser equipped centres, the need to refer a patient to a higher centre becomes mandatory, but here also we always take into account the financial and other practical limitations that the party in the picture may have. But in spite of all this care and humanitarian considerations from the perspective of the treating doctor, there are a group of people who can never ever be

trusted to react with sanity. They follow no rhyme or reason and believe that the doctor has come

here on duty to cure anyone or everyone knowing fully well that this particular patient is on the verge of death. More so, the situation gets heated when the illness under consideration is a chronic condition deliberately denied or neglected by the person himself or the family members. Of late, we have come across many quacks very generously highlighted by the media to cure illnesses without so-called "side effects", which create a cocktail of mismanagement, toxicities and psychosocial controversies.

But finally, it's my personal opinion that if today the society at large does not bother about this blazing flame it's going to ultimately move to a time when medical professionals will gradually disappear and then I fear we will have no saviours to help us in need.



Rolling through time

Know what? Heraclitus had a point there. He said no man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and has not the same man. I just wished he had included the term women too. For me, it is not so much about stepping into the Brahmaputra as about the images, colours and memories its vast waters awaken in me. It began when I was about five. My quirky dad decided to present me with two double whammies on my unsuspecting self, that long ago sunny afternoon. He hoisted me onto his lap for the first rickshaw ride of my life. What was this winged contraption whistling by, driven by a man with the desperation of one after whom the devil himself was hotfooting? I shrieked, shut my eyes, grabbed my father's shirt pocket and felt the cold rush of the wind all around me. After some moments I cautiously opened one eye and was again dumbfounded. For on the left, with just a sandbank beyond the road, was a vast sea of water rippling in the afternoon light. It winked, it glinted, it beckoned, seduced, and ultimately, ignored the viewer.

ing back after the thin channels of winter, surging our own song, boundless and free. Always on these roads to college, there would be a corpulent man seated on a sheet on the pavement, his back to the river. A parrot frettet about in a cage, and cards were laid out on the sheet. Your future was decided by the parrot selecting a certain card. And the customers were poor men who carried sacks of grains to the godowns and women in sited bubs and gaudy saris who swept the pavements with long brooms. And yet the river behind them, as do the Rhine and Mississippi, the Tigris, Euphrates and the Hwang Ho, remind us by their flowing and sacking, where people loved and fought, dreamed and created even

more babies to crawl around butt naked on those sands. And the breeze catching your hair, till you catch yourself thinking you are almost beautiful and nothing seems impossible any longer, those hills beyond the river seem closer now that you have seen more of the world. In the impenetrability of youth many of us yearned to be like the river – without boundaries, always rolling forward, growing wide and deep with experience, swell-

THIRD EYE

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For on the left, with just a sandbank beyond the road, was a vast sea of water rippling in the afternoon light. It winked, it glinted, it beckoned, seduced, and ultimately, ignored the viewer.

It will take longer than you might usually think to sort out your money, business, house, apartment, possessions or charity. As a typical Aries person, you may want to get moving, but in actual fact, the next few days are useful, as you need time to think.

FORECAST

APRIL 10 – 16, 2017

ARIES



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TAURUS



Devote as much time as you like to yourself, as this is not narcissism. It's common sense. When you have a lot of activity in Taurus, your own sign, you need to step back from your mirror image.

GEMINI



This week will involve matters which are hidden below the surface, under the radar, or issues which make you invisible, as you will be behind the scenes. This is really about operating at a distance, not making any credit, getting any recognition.

CANCER



The time has come to read hearts and minds, within the group. One friend, in particular, may be your biggest concern. This is going to take time. You do need to make some kind of trade-off where the controls are concerned.

LEO



All the focus in your chart right now is on your status, your success, your position – and also your ambition. This is going to be a huge deal when everything changes, quite radically, and you either reshape what you are doing now, or make the most dramatic move into quite a different territory.

VIRGO



Virgo, the areas of life affected now include travel, foreign people and places, regional differences, publishing, education, academia and belief systems of all kinds, from quantum mechanics to astrology.

LIBRA



The process with the money, house, possessions, business interests, apartment or charity might normally take two to three weeks to sort out, but this is not a normal time of the year. Even though the actual compromise may be over by the end of April, what has been under discussion will take you right up until the end of May, to put to rest.

SCORPIO



The person on the other end of the see-saw is central to everything between now and May 21, when the rocking finally stops. He or she may be part of your love life (past, present, potential). Partners on this cycle can also be purely professional.

SAGITTARIUS



Sagittarius, this week, there is a traffic jam, in one area of your life. Which area? Work and coursework. Unpaid work and university life. You might call it, the daily grind, or daily round. This part of your horoscope also describes your body, and the impact that your physical state or condition has on your life.

CAPRICORN



You will have major decisions to make, one year from now, that are 'seeded' in the events that begin this week. Capricorn, you do have a lot of thinking and talking ahead about your line of succession. Just remember that it may take longer than usual.

AQUARIUS



You will move or renovate from May 2018, which you might already know. If you don't know about this, perhaps it's time to start playing with impossibilities, as well as possibilities! Certainly, this week has its part to play. In fact, family and hometown appear to be in the very centre of things.

PISCES

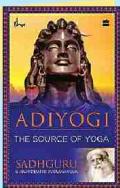


Pisces, you will spend the next few weeks (until May 20) trying to figure out your next big idea, course or concept. This is a natural medium for your 'voice', no matter if you work with words or images. You also need to be aware of the delays.

PAGE TURNER

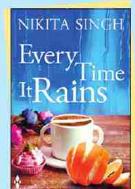
The following are books to look out for this month when you need reading material for those quiet weekends.

Adiyogi: The Source of Yoga



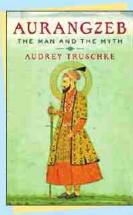
Shiva is that which is not, a primordial emptiness. He is also the first ever *Yogi*, *Adiyogi*, who perceived the emptiness. *Adiyogi* is both a symbol and myth, outlaw and ascetic. In this book, science and philosophy mingle seamlessly. Sadguruji's wisdom is compelling.

Every Time It Rains



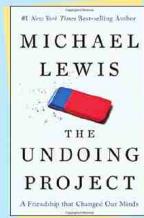
Rescued in a storm, Laila is forced to look back on her life and priorities. An enthusiastic entrepreneur, she also feels some of life's questions still remain unanswered. This is the story of a woman who once faced heartbreak, but found the strength to love again.

Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth



Aurangzeb Alangir (1658-1707) was the sixth Mughal emperor and continues to be a controversial figure till date. This maligned ruler took the term 'religious zealot' to a new high. Many of the negativities were spread by colonial historians and now a different picture is emerging. Audrey Truschke rewrites the life of this misunderstood emperor.

The Undoing Project



There are geniuses who work alone and those who form partnerships. Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky met in the 1960s warton Israel. Both were gifted psychology professors. Their friendship became a grand project of science, but got tragically unravelled. Their ideas have shaped our world and Michael Lewis does a fine job of portraying them.

5 THINGS/ Communication matters

"It is the duty of the government to reach out"

MARUF ALOM underscores the role of communication in today's world.

1 Social capital is the need of the hour

To develop and maintain relationships with field specialists is the mainstay of modern professional environment. I recall that when the Publications Division brought out a book *The Legend of Indian Silver Screen* to celebrate the legacy of Dadasaheb Phalke award winners, I was given the responsibility of coordinating with eminent film critics and authors from across the country.

2 Communication is a wide field

The field of Mass Media has a lot of avenues and scope. However, the knowledge about the field is very limited, and often confusing. The scope of Mass Communication opens a plethora of opportunities in both government and private sectors. Public relations, advertising, television, films, publishing, journalism, editing, direction, etc., are the traditional fields, while in recent times, digital communication has emerged as a new field, which has brought a paradigm shift in the relationship between media and society.



3 Indian Information Service not much talked about

The Indian Information Service (IIS) is an all India cadre-based central Civil Service with posts across the country in different media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The service acts as a communication link between the government and the citizenry through media units like the Publications Division, Doordarshan (DD), All India Radio (AIR), Press Information Bureau (PIB), Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), etc.

4 Effective communication is a must

Outstanding communication skills are an essential attribute in the field of Mass Communication. Especially for an IIS officer, it is important to maintain proper communication channels with different stakeholders in the government, as well as on the grass-root level.

5 Community participation is key

India is the world's largest democracy. It is the duty of the government to reach out to its citizenry through various communication channels to inform, educate and engage about the various rights-based schemes that the government has initiated. Citizens' community becomes a key element herein.

(As told to Indrani Raimedhi)

FILM INTERVIEW

Rani returns

Rani Mukerji took a break from the life she knew to concentrate on the life she made – Adira. As she returns to the set to shoot her next film *Hichki*, she talks about what drove her back to work (her hubby), what drives her to act (the love of her fans), and what she dreads (not giving her best to her work). Read on for excerpts...

■ Excited about being back on a film set?

I really liked the script and said, "Okay, we can go ahead with it." Then it hit me, I have to leave my daughter and go to work. My husband feels that if he hadn't have pushed me, I would have never come back. I would be very happy being with Adira whole day long. And that's true.

■ So, what brings you back?

I have a lot of people who love me and my work. I think it's my responsibility to keep doing films, so that they get to see a part of me that I am known and loved for. I think working is very important for every woman. It's a special feeling for a woman when she is independent. There are a lot of mothers who dedicate their lives to their children, and that's absolutely great and I respect their chosen path, too.



■ Are you doing any preparations for Hichki?

Yes, from the last one month, I have started to prepare for the film. You know, I always used to wonder about the film I'd start with, after having Adira. I get emotional when I get to hear from my PR team that my fans keep asking about my next film. I want to honour that by doing a film which is worth their while and they can be proud of.

■ Why did you choose Hichki?

"Okay, we can go ahead with it." Then it hit me, I have to leave my daughter and go to work. My husband feels that if he hadn't have pushed me, I would have never come back. I would be very happy being with Adira whole day long. And that's true.

■ Will you come back to work full-time?

No. It is about doing a film every year. I don't want to do four films a year. I don't want to take away anything from my motherhood, and from my time with Adira.

■ Do you think Adira's involvement with Hichki will increase now?

I think it will be the same. Adira is too involved in his work. He probably leaves last from the office. I am trying to change that now because he has to understand he has a child waiting for him at home. Now, every day, I manage his time, so that he comes back at a time when Adira has not yet slept. In the morning, he has his time with Adira.

■ Is he a better husband or better father?

Adi is a better husband than a father, definitely. Till now at least, and I hope that he remains a better husband. Men become good fathers by default, but it is very important for men to be good husbands. So, I'd want him to remain a better husband all his life.

- India Blooms News Service



Ramkumar gives India lead, beats Temur in opening singles

BENGALURU, April 7: Ramkumar Ramanathan overcame a spirited challenge from Temur Ismailov to hand India a 1-0 lead against Uzbekistan in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie here today.

Ranked 267, Ramkumar eked out a 6-2, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 win over the Uzbek, who is ranked 406, in the opening singles rubber of the second round tie.

Prajnesh Gunnesswaran, ranked 287, makes his India debut against Sanjar Fayziev (376).

To his credit, Ismailov made life difficult for the Indian despite suffering cramps in his right hamstring.

Ramkumar dominated the proceedings before a bout of double faults handed Ismailov a small opening, which the Uzbek grabbed with both hands to make a match of it.

The Indian sealed the opening set in a jiffy and was leading



Ramkumar Ramanathan of India plays a shot against Temur Ismailov of Uzbekistan during the first day of Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie in Bengaluru, on Friday.

Ramkumar stay alive and fight.

The Uzbek played freely while Ramkumar put himself

set points and was eventually broken in the 12th game.

The Uzbek had snatched the

momentum but suffered cramps in his right leg in the third set, making the job of the Indian easy. Ramkumar ran away with the third set as Ismailov's restricted movements gave him easy points.

Ismailov, though, recovered remarkably after a medical timeout and was back ready for the fourth set. Ramkumar was always catching up with the Uzbek, holding his serves without fuss, and soon it was 5-5.

Two unforced errors by Ismailov gave Ramkumar three break chances. He converted the third when Ismailov buried a return to the net.

Ramkumar's unforced errors continued as twice he sent down double faults on match points. He though sealed the match with a forehand volley winner.

The winner of the tie will qualify for the World Group play-offs, to be played in September. -PTI

MSD reprimanded for IPL breach

NEW DELHI, April 7: Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been reprimanded for breaching the IPL code of conduct during the match between his team Rising Pune Supergiants and Mumbai Indians in Pune.

Exactly why he was given a reprimand by match referee Manu Nayyar has not been specified by the IPL.

"MS Dhoni admitted the Level 1 offence (Article 2.1.1) for conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game," read an official IPL statement.

"For Level 1 breaches of the IPL Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," it added.

During the high-octane clash, Dhoni had asked for a DRS referral when it was not for the taking. -PTI

isn't burning too bright. Gayle was let down in a recent league and Watson is trying to push the clock back. Young Kedar Jadhav holds the line-up between these two poles.

Bangalore is in need of early momentum. It didn't come

against Hyderabad in the IPL opener but it must against the teams from the North. An early surge could well turn into a gallop by the time Kohli and De Villiers return. Later, even their presence might not help the breach in the taking. -PTI

Delhi is no one's free lunch

Delhi arguably has the best bowling line-up this season. Pat Cummins and Mohammad Shami, to go with Zulqarnain Khan, Chris Morris and Amit Mishra, and no less than Rabekhan in the wrap, must batmen sober. It is also a side which boasts a few of India's best young talents. Karun Nair, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant and Aditya Tare are kind of dry gunpowder which can fire cannon far and wide. With Rahul Dravid in the backroom, Delhi is no one's free lunch.

This surge of young promise can make up for the absence of JP Duminy and Quinton de Kock.



Call for Free Demo: 1800 100 1000

Bangalore, cut by half by this misfortune, could thus be in front of hungry wolves. Chris Gayle and Shane Watson, the two spearheads in attendance, must defy their age and recent form. Both are out of their national stumps. They go around the leagues of the world but the light

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Dragon boat racing

GUWAHATI, April 7: The 8th National Dragon Boat Racing Championship concluded on the river Mahabali Brahmaputra at Machhowsa, here came to an end yesterday.

The championship was organised by the Assam Traditional Sports and Dragon Boat Association. A total 350 participants and officials from 29 units took part in the meet.

Final results: (500 m, men) gold-Jammu & Kashmir, silver-Assam, bronze-Telengana. (500 m, women) gold-Jammu & Kashmir, silver-Manipur, bronze-Gujrat. (500 m, mixed) gold-Jammu & Kashmir, silver-Kerala, bronze-Assam. (200 m, men) gold-Tamil Nadu, silver-Jammu & Kashmir, bronze-SWTID, Kerala. (200 m, women) gold-Jammu & Kashmir, silver-Assam, bronze-Manipur. (200 m, mixed) gold-Kerala, silver-Jammu & Kashmir, bronze-Assam.

Overall champions-Jammu & Kashmir, second best-Assam.

ID women hockey gets off

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, April 7: The 6th Sadiya Saha Memorial Senior Inter District Women Hockey Tournament started here at the Khoride Boruah Stadium today.

Altogether 15 district teams are taking part in the championship which was inaugurated by Santanu Bharali, Law Adviser to the Chief Minister in presence of DC, Morigaon Hemanta Das, local MLA Rama Kanta Deori and a host of sportspersons.

Today's results: Morigaon beat Kalibari 9-0, Bongaigaon beat Maroni 7-0 goals, Karbi Anglong beat Makum 2-1, Nuharkata beat Tezpur 7-0, Silchar beat Golaghat 5-0, Sibsagar heat Hojai 5-0.

Boxing body's meet today

GUWAHATI, April 7: The Assam Amateur Boxing Association (AABA) will hold its Executive Council meeting at the AABA head office in the RG Baruah Sports Complex here tomorrow from 11.30 onwards.

AABA secretary Hemanta Kr Kalita asks all the EC and Commission Members to attend the meeting.

GSA school TT

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 7: The Guwahati Sports Association (GSA) organised an inter school table tennis tournament yesterday at the ABITA Centenary Indoor Stadium here.

Altogether 12 schools took part in the meet which has been named after Rayesh Nawad.

The results: (Jr boys) champion-South Point School, runners-up-Don Bosco, Panbari. (Jr girls) champion-Maharsi Vidya Mandir, runners up Maria Public School. (Sr boys) champion-Army Public School, Narengi, runner up Gurukul Grammer SS School.

Cricket tourney in city

GUWAHATI, April 7: A day/night cricket tournament will be organised by the Jyagnath Advertising and Media at the Judges' Field here from April 17 to 24.

The champion and runners up teams will be awarded Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 respectively.

Teams intending to take part in the meet may contact the organisers at their Batehi Complex, GS Road, Ulubari office here for detail informations, state a release.

NFR CA boys beat City CCC

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The undersigned request your kind presence at the

60th Annual Conference of

ASSAM TRIBUNE EMPLOYEES' UNION

to be held at the Assam Tribune premises

on 8th April, 2017 at 3 pm.

Dr. Amarjyoti Choudhury

Former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University will be the Chief Guest

and

Sri Khanindra Chandra Das

Veteran Trade Union Leader and Prominent Social Activist

will be the Appointed Speaker

Atulya Madhab Goswami

Chairman Reception Committee

60th Annual Conference, ATEU

Guwahati-781003

Tankeswar Kakati

Convenor

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