

NEWS CAPSULE

Dipak Misra sworn in as CJ



NEW DELHI, Aug 28: Justice Dipak Misra, who was part of the bench that confirmed the death sentence of 14 convicts in the December 16 gangrape case and passed the order for mandatory singing of the national anthem in cinema halls, was today sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India. - PTI

CBI kills Karti

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: The CBI today questioned former minister P Chidambaram's son Karti for the second time in a corruption case of alleged clearance given to a media group owned by Peter Mukerjea and his wife Indrani for bringing foreign funds into their venture, CBI sources said. - PTI

Swiss Prez visits

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: Swiss President Doris Leuthard will pay a three-day visit to India beginning Wednesday during which both sides will have extensive talks on entire gamut of bilateral relationship including on ways to ramp up trade and investment ties. - PTI

Bombs stolen

JHANSI, Aug 28: A cache of 100 kilograms of explosive bombs was stolen from a special train carrying Army personnel, the police said today. The man came to light weeks after a Jhansi collectorate clerk was booked for allegedly leaking information to suspected Pakistan-based spies. - PTI

Social welfare

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has directed the social welfare department to expeditiously complete the identification process of differently abled persons of the State and set a timeframe for direct benefit transfer of fund to them. - Staff Reporter

Dowry arrest

JORHAT, Aug 28: Police today arrested Krishna Agarwalla and his son Roshan Agarwalla of Namisi village under Teok PS on charges of dowry harassment and torturing their daughter-in-law and wife (Kiran) respectively. Kiran lodged an FIR yesterday. - Staff Correspondent

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

Doklam standoff comes to end

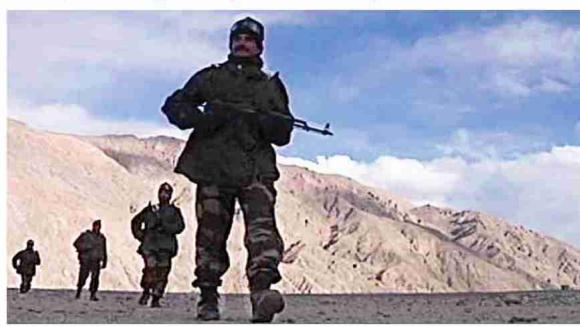
India, China agree to pull back troops from face-off site

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The standoff between India and China at Dokla La (Doklam), which lasted for more than two months, came to an end today with both sides agreeing to pull back troops from the face-off site following a series of diplomatic communications between both the countries.

The agreement brought an end to the apprehension of flaring up of the situation in the area. However, the Government of India has directed all the border guarding forces to remain alert as the possibility of Chinese incursions in any other part of the international border cannot be ruled out.

A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) this morning said, "In recent weeks, India and China have maintained diplomatic communication. We have been able to express our views and convey our concerns and interests. On



File photo of Indian soldiers patrolling the India-China border

this basis expeditious disengagement of the border personnel at the face-off site has been agreed and is going on."

Meanwhile, highly placed

sources in the Government of India told *The Assam Tribune* that both the sides have started the process of pulling back troops from the face-off site.

"Though India never apprehended a full scale war with China, there were concerns that the situation may flare up in the Dokla La area and that is why, India moved in troops closer to the area to deal with any eventualty. But with both the sides agreeing to pull back

(See page 7)

AGP demands deportation of illegal migrants

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), an alliance partner of the BJP today called for detection and deportation of all illegal Bangladeshi migrants irrespective of their religion.

The demand, contained in a memorandum submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, when an AGP delegation called on them here this afternoon, is significant given the stand of the BJP, which has assured citizenship to the migrant Bengali Hindus. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016 proposing citizenship rights to Hindu Bengalis with a

(See page 7)

CBI to probe Lafikul murder

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: Following the State government's request, the Union government has handed over the investigation of the Lafikul Islam murder case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Union Minister of State for DoNER, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, etc., Dr Jitendra Singh today informed Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of this decision of the Union government over phone, an official press release here stated.

JOCOSERIOUS



Voting for us means... democratically they have to follow whatever we say!

State govt plans review petition on medical seats

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The State government is going to move the Gauhati High Court with a petition to review its August 25, 2017 order on admission to the medical colleges of the State. The court may prevent a vast section of the students belonging to the OBC (other backward classes) and the tea garden and ex-tea garden communities from getting their names enrolled in medical colleges of the State.

In view of this, students belonging to these communities and their guardians resisted the counselling proposed to be held today for admission to the State's medical colleges.

The problem arose when the State government notified the admission rule for the medical colleges this year with a provision for exclusion of the students belonging to the creamy layer of the OBC. However, the quotas

This new rule was challenged by some of the students, who were declared non-eligible by the creamy layer clause, in the Gauhati High Court. Some of the aspirant students, who were affected by the mandatory provision of the 2015 rule for studying in the State schools between classes VII and XII and the amended provision of 2016 rule, which made it compulsory for aspirants to study in the State schools between classes VI and X, also challenged these provisions.

The Gauhati High Court scrapped the rules of 2016. It also directed the State government to go by the 2015 rule in matters of admission of students to the medical colleges.

CM directive on development of border areas

STAFF REPORTER

Assam Tribune.

"May be the government is also considering options to rehabilitate the evicted settlers," the official added.

The massive eviction drive launched inside the wildlife sanctuary on Friday was suspended for two days, with the administration claiming that some settlers have volunteered to shift their belongings on their own.

The administration had also said that there was a need to mobilize the operation in a better way.

Sources, however, indicated that there was political pressure on the administration. Of officials, when asked, refused to

(See page 7)

Uncertainty over Amchang eviction

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

tion drive on Tuesday.

"We had held a meeting yesterday to review the preparations. We have even ordered the food for the personnel who

May be the government is considering options to rehabilitate the evicted settlers

In fact, the decision to defer the eviction was taken last evening and intimated to the Forest department.

Official sources said the Forest department had yesterday reviewed the preparations for resuming the evic-

tion drive on Tuesday.

"We had held a meeting yesterday to review the preparations. We have even ordered the food for the personnel who

are rehabilitation them properly."

He further said that the government has already started working on rehabilitating the flood-affected people and once it receives a comprehensive report from all the DCs it

wave of flood has already affected 24,327 hectare of crop land in the State. Sonowal asked the DCs to give seeds for Rabi crops to the farmers. Moreover, he instructed for immediate vaccination to cattle, an off-

icial statement said.

To stop recurrence of any electrocuted deaths in flood-affected areas, he also directed APCL to ensure that the PWD to be on its toes and pre-

pare a blueprint to repair the communication links in the

damaged transformers if required to regularise electricity supply to the flood affected areas.

Taking stock of the entire network of embankments created to save the people from the fury of flood, he asked the Water Resources Department to initiate repairing of the breaches caused by the deluge.

Sonowal also directed the DCs to restore the snapped communication and asked them to repair the damage in roads and culverts. He also asked the PWD to be on its toes and pre-

pare a blueprint to repair the

communication links in the

flood ravaged areas, to repair trans-

formers and change the dam-

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Mamata slams Centre over 'partiality' in help to tackle violence



KOLKATA, Aug 28: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday slammed the central government and accused it of partiality in extending help to BJP and non-BJP ruled states in handling unrest.

Referring to the violence and resultant deaths in Haryana's Panchkula following the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh on August 25, Banerjee alleged: "The BJP is trying to start a riot here (West Bengal) in the name of Ram and Rahim. They always try to create a divide between the Hindus and Muslims. But in Panchkula, over 30 people were killed and so many others injured while trying to stop one 'Ram Rahim'."

Addressing a rally organised by

Tinamool Congress' students wing on its foundation day, she said the centre was "partial" to Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states with regard to deployment of central forces in strife-torn areas of the country.

"During unrest in Darjeeling, we got only four Army battalions to tackle the situation, that too after court order. The Haryana government got 40 battalions to handle ruckus. There is one arrangement for BJP-ruled states and another for non-BJP governments. Is this how the government should be run?" Banerjee asked.

In a veiled attack, Banerjee accused the BJP of stoking violence in the name of religion over Durga Puja immersions for vested political interests.

With Muharram (October 1) slated

to be observed a day after Dussehra or Bijoya Dashami (September 30), the administration had fixed September 30, as also October 2-4, for immersion of idols of Durga and her children.

"Durga Puja is our regional festival. Can we immerse the idols on Ekadashi? In our culture, immersion never happens on Ekadashi (October 1). Those who don't know are spreading rumours. Even fools know there is no immersion on Ekadashi."

"If we have four days to immerse the idols and they have one day (those observing Muharram) for (taizia) immersion then what is the problem?" the Chief Minister said.

Banerjee stressed on giving each community its due importance..-IANS

New CJI Dipak Misra has several landmark judgements to his credit

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: Justice Dipak Misra, who was sworn in as Chief Justice of India, succeeding incumbent JS Khehar, is known as a man behind many landmark judgments.

CJI Misra, 63, who will hold office for 13 months and six days until his retirement on October 2018, is known as a well-read judge, including of ancient Indian scriptures.

Chief Justice Misra started his practice with the Orissa High Court. He was appointed as Additional Judge of the Orissa High Court on January 17, 1996.

He was later transferred to the Madhya Pradesh High Court on March 3, 1997.

He became a permanent judge on December 19, 1997. Justice Misra was appointed as Chief Justice of Patna High Court on December 23, 2009. Subsequently, he was transferred as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on May 24, 2010.

CJI Misra was elevated as a Supreme Court judge on October 10, 2011.

Chief Justice Misra is one of those judges who has a strong nose for the finer nuances of law that contributes in taking the law forward.

In one of his judgments, CJI Misra had said no to marriage as a compromise be-

tween a rape accused and the victim.

He had pronounced the judgment upholding the death sentence of four convicts in the December 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape case. Justice Misra authoring the judgment had said: "If ever a case called for hanging, this was it."

Chief Justice Misra presided over the bench that struck down the provision of the Cine Costume and Make-up Artists Association prohibiting women make-up artists and hairdressers from becoming its members.

He was the author of the constitution bench judgment that had ruled that criminal defamation was not unconstitutional.

He had also passed an order making the playing of the national anthem in cinema halls mandatory.

Chief Justice Misra presided over a bench that saw reversing of the Centre's decision to impose President's rule in Uttarakhand after the ousting of Harish Rawat as Chief Minister of the state.

He along with Justice PC Pant and Justice Amitava Roy will be remembered for sitting through the night to hear last minute appeal by 1993 Bombay bomb blasts accused Yaqub Memon against his

death sentence after his plea against issuance of death warrant was rejected.

CJI Misra is heading a bench hearing a challenge to Delhi High Court's September 23, 2016 order, allowing messaging app WhatsApp to roll out its new privacy policy but stopping it from sharing its users' data collected up to September 23, 2016, with Facebook or any other related company.

The hearing was adjourned on July 21 as it was felt that the matter would involve the question of right to privacy.

The hearing is likely to continue as a nine-judge constitution bench has ruled that right to privacy is a fundamental right.

At present he is heading the bench that had ordered the auction of Sahara's Aamby Valley property to recover investors money which Sahara's two companies – Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Limited – had raised in 2008 and 2009 through Fully Convertible Debentures (OFCDs). Besides the Sahara matter, Chief Justice Misra is also heading the bench that is hearing the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) matter involving reforms in its organisation and functioning. -IANS

Prime Minister to visit Udaipur on Tuesday

JAIPUR, Aug 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Tuesday visit Udaipur, where he will inaugurate some completed road projects and lay the foundation stones for some new projects in the state, officials said.

"The Prime Minister will be in the city for around three hours, during which he will address a public meeting at Khetola Maidan," a senior state government official said. He is scheduled to arrive in the city at around 12:30 pm and leave for Delhi at 3:45 pm.

Modi, besides laying the foundation stones and inaugurating national highway projects, will also dedicate to the nation a few completed national highways projects.

He will also perform the ground breaking ceremony for a few other projects, including state highways, rural roads and the Jaipur Ring Road project. - IANS



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj meeting with Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in New Delhi, on Monday. - UNI

Court extends Kashmiri businessman's NIA custody

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: A court here on Monday extended the NIA custody of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali till September 2.

During the in-camera proceedings, District Judge Poonam Bambra remanded Watali in National Investigation Agency's custody till September 2.

Arrested on August 17, Watali is accused of acting as a conduit for channelling funds for secessionists and terror activities in the Kashmir Valley and was remembered for his role in the 2008 Parliament attack.

The defence opposed the NIA plea, saying that he had funds from Pakistan and banned terrorist organisations and transferring the same to various Hurriyat leaders. Watali is known to be friends with Pakistani leaders as well as separatists, besides mainstream politicians in Kashmir the NIA said.

Informant sources said NIA has sought extension of Watali's custody so as to unearth his connection with foreign countries. The NIA also told the court that it is analysing and scrutinising certain suspicious documents related to properties, bank accounts, financial transactions and names of persons who received large cash payments which were seized during the investigation.

The defence opposed the NIA plea, saying that he had joined investigation and was cooperating in the probe.

Meanwhile, the court on Monday has also extended judicial custody of other four Kashmiri separatists – Nayem Khan, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Raja Mehrujuddin Kalwal and Bashir Ahmad Bhat alias Peer Saifullah – till September 27.

They were presented before the court after their 14-day judicial custody expired.

Altaf Ahmad Shah is the son-in-law of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani who advocated Jammu and Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. In July, the agency arrested seven separatist leaders for their alleged involvement in Pakistan-funded unrest in the Kashmir Valley. - IANS


GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Queries relating to GST on Services, received from various sectors have been scrutinised and developed into short FAQs.

Q. 1 a) Will GST be charged on actual tariff or declared tariff for accommodation services?

b) What will be GST rate if cost goes up (more than declared tariff) owing to additional bed?

c) Where will the declared tariff be published?

d) Same room may have different tariff at different times depending on season or flow of tourists as per dynamic pricing. Which rate to be used then?

e) If tariff changes between booking and actual usage, which rate will be used?

f) GST at what rate would be levied if an upgrade is provided to the customer at a lower rate?

Ans a) Declared or published tariff is relevant only for determination of the tax rate slab. GST will be payable on the actual amount charged (transaction value).

b) GST rate would be determined according to declared tariff for the room, and GST at the rate so determined would be levied on the entire amount charged from the customer. For example, if the declared tariff is Rs. 7000/- per unit per day but the amount charged from the customer on account of extra bed is Rs. 8000/-, GST shall be charged at 18% on Rs. 8000/-.

c) Tariff declared anywhere, say on the websites through which business is being procured or printed on tariff card or displayed at the reception will be the declared tariff. In case different tariff is declared at different places, highest of such declared tariffs shall be the declared tariff for the purpose of levy of GST.

d) In case different tariff is declared for different seasons or periods of the year, the tariff declared for the season in which the service of accommodation is provided shall apply.

e) Declared tariff at the time of supply of this service would apply.

f) If declared tariff of the accommodation provided by way of upgrade is Rs. 10000/-, but amount charged is Rs. 7000/-, then GST would be levied @ 28% on Rs. 7000/-.

Q. 2 Visa notification No. 11/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated the 28th June 2017 entry 34, GST on the service of admission into casino under Heading 9996 (recreational, cultural and sporting services) has been levied @ 28%. Since the value of supply rule has not specified the method of determining taxable amount in casino, casino operators have been informed to collect 28% GST on gross amount collected as admission charge or entry fee. The method of levy adopted needs to be clarified.

Ans Relevant part of entry 34 of the said CGST notification reads as under:

"Heading 9996 (recreational, cultural and sporting services)-...

(iii) Services by way of admission to entertainment events or access to amusement facilities including exhibition of cinematograph films, theme parks, water parks, joy rides, merry-go-rounds, go-carting, casinos, race-course, ballet, any sporting event such as Indian Premier League and the like. - 14%

(iv)...

(v) Gambling. - 14%"

As is evident from the notification, "entry to casinos" and "gambling" are two different services, and GST is leviable at 28% on both these services (14% CGST and 14% SGST) on the value determined as per section 15 of the CGST Act. Thus, GST @ 28% would apply on entry to casinos as well as on betting/gambling services being provided by casinos on the transaction value of betting, i.e. the total bet value, in addition to GST levy on any other services being provided by the casinos (such as services by way of supply of food/ drinks etc. at the casinos). Betting, in pre-GST regime, was subjected to Betting Tax on full bet value.

Disclaimer : The replies given above are only for educational and guidance purposes and do not hold any legal validity.

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Central Board of Excise and Customs & Commercial Taxes Departments of States/Union Territories

doc ID: 156213120201717



Refresher course in emerging trends in science and technology
CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, Aug 28: The Human Resource Development Centre (formerly Academic Staff College) of the Gauhati University is organising an inter-disciplinary refresher course in emerging trends in science and technology from October 25 to November 14. The proposed course is being sponsored by the University Grants Commission.

The main objective of the course is to update faculty members working in colleges, universities and higher education institutions in the frontier areas of science and technology.

Eminent scientists, technocrats and educationists from different parts of India are expected to act as resource persons.

Prof Jogen Chandra Kalita, Director, UGC-HRDC, Gauhati University has requested interested faculty members from the field of science and technology of universities, institutions and colleges to apply through proper channel.

Anti-ageing, facial aesthetic surgery meet on Sept 3

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The 12th regional continuing medical education (CME) programme and five surgical and aesthetic procedural workshop will be held on September 3 at the Swagat Super Specialty Surgical Institute, Maligaon.

The programme is being conducted by the Aesthetic Society of North East India having members from different specialities connected with aesthetic health of the people including those from dermatology, ENT, plastic surgery, obesity surgery and oculo-facial surgery.

The theme of the programme is 'Emerging trends in aesthetic Surgery in the North East India', according to a release.

The procedures that are being planned to be demonstrated live are nose correction surgery Rhinoplasty, eyelid correction Blepharoplasty, anti-ageing corrective procedures like face lift and many similar procedures.

Interested delegates and patients can contact Dr Arananda Das or S Nessa, the press release added.

Various govt depts, customers owe Brahmaputra Ashok several crores

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The Brahmaputra Ashok, which will close down on August 31, has outstanding bills to the tune of several crores of rupees, some even pending since 1987 when the hotel was opened.

Ironically, the government is justifying the move to close down the hotel citing the huge losses it has been incurring.

According to a report prepared by the hotel management on August 23, different customers, mostly government departments, owe the hotel Rs 2.36 crore. This is besides some bulk amounts like dues to the tune of over Rs 2 crore from catering in the National Games held in the city in 2007, over which an arbitration case is going on.

The Chief Minister's Secretariat

at has outstanding bills to the tune of Rs 20.42 lakh, while the Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner's office has around Rs 22.44 lakh unpaid bills.

Among others are AASU (Rs 2.31 lakh), BCPL (Rs 4.14 lakh), ASEAN Car Rally, 2012 (Rs 13.50 lakh), Director, Sports & Youth Welfare (Rs 11.12 lakh), Director, Tourism (Rs 9.13 lakh), GAD (Rs 13.65 lakh), etc.

Most of the outstanding bills pertain to State government departments. According to the document, De Himanta Biswa Sarma also has an unpaid bill of Rs 34,900 in his name.

The Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) has been claiming that the hotel was running on losses, justifying its move to close it down.

"Some bills of DC office are pending since 1987," a source in the hotel said.

The hotel staff says reminders are sent to the people and departments who have outstanding bills. "Some respond at times, others don't," they say, blaming the problem on the mismanagement on the part of ITDC and lack of monitoring on the part of the Assam government.

The hotel was a joint venture of the ITDC and the Assam Tourism department.

In 2011, the hotel was at a non-profit and no-loss state. In 2012-13, there was an operational profit of Rs 35 lakh, and in the following year it went up to Rs 55 lakh. However, after big private hotels came up in the city, the business went down. We got very little government busi-

ness. All programmes were organised in private hotels," the staff said.

"Even if we do not get the bills, we have to incur the recurring expenditures like salaries, maintenance etc," they added.

The iconic hotel, located on the scenic banks of the Brahmaputra, has an operational expenditure of around Rs 30 lakh every month.

The Union Cabinet had in May last approved disinvestment of three ITDC hotels at Bhopal, Bharatpur and Guwahati.

The ATDC, which took over the hotel on July 1, plans to convert it into a State guest house and convention centre. There are two State guest houses in the city – one occupied by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal (Brahmaputra House) and another atop Koinadhora hill by his predecessor Tarun Gogoi.



Medical students protesting in front of the office of the Directorate of Medical Education, Assam, seeking redressal of their grievances, at Six Mile in Guwahati on Monday. – AT photo

Post-GST market blues hit idol makers hard

MAMATA MISHRA

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: Caught up between the snapped rail connectivity and the impact of prevailing market conditions, the idol makers of Guwahati are in a dilemma to figure out a way for maintaining profit margin and retaining customer base this festive season.

With less than four weeks left for the grand Durga Puja, the artisans are feeling the pinch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on several essential items required for idol-making.

Durga Puja is starting from September 26 and would continue till September 30.

Busy wrapping a shiny silk *dhuti* around the Biswakarma idol with his assistants in a small idol-making workshop at Panbari, Nirajan Pal is annoyed at being asked about the market conditions!

"Some people think idols are all about clay and hay. The other day, a customer argued why the rates are high when clay idols are exempted from GST. Where would one get the shine and sheen without that varnish oil and the pearly glow of the paints, which makes the idols look divine? The maximum number of weapons, ornaments and drapes come from



Since 18 per cent GST is applicable on man-made yarn, brocade and other clothes used to dress up the idols are also costlier.

"Many regular customers booked the idols months back. Now we have to deliver them at the pre-negotiated rates and think about our profits as well," another artisan from Panbari area said.

If the surge in the cost of accessories adorning the idols of gods and goddesses was not enough, the idol-makers

and Durga Puja organisers are wary about the restoration of rail link, the lingering of which will have a telling impact on Puja grandeur in Assam.

According to Tapas Naha, general secretary of Kalikatri Rest Camp Durga Puja Samiti, the committee is contemplating to bring down the cost this time owing to less collection of donations and lukewarm response from sponsors.

"Less number sponsors have come up this time, compelling us to cut the cost. Moreover, the costs are high due to new taxation and preventing confusion in the market. Last year, our budget was around Rs 24 lakh, which was quite good," Naha added.

More than the costs, the movement of artisans and technicians for giving the finishing touches to the idols and grand-scale pandals are a bigger headache for the Geetanganar Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samity.

"The cost hike is on expected lines, but as we have planned to make grand idol this time with added height, the contract has been fixed with experts from outside Assam, nearly four months back. To give the finishing touches to the idols, we might need to bring some of the artisans via flights," Mrinmoy Deka of the committee mentioned.

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Newly laid roads: points to ponder

There has been noticeable acceleration on the road development front in the last couple of months in Guwahati, bringing great relief to the citizens who were disgusted at seeing bad roads year after year, with the authorities always taking the communities' woes for granted.

Overnight road-laying is much convenient and time-saving. The roads have now become smoother and this has also contributed to much smoother traffic movement.

There are, of course, two aspects which the authorities always ought to pay attention to, before handing over the sanction orders to the contractors concerned.

One, the roadbeds in most of the newly-laid segments have been left unattended. This could lead to quicker deterioration of the roads

starting at the edges. In other words, it seems to have reduced the durability of the new blacktopping. It has also increased the chances of dust pollution being caused by the soil existing on the sides.

Secondly, the raising of the road levels is stated to have turned some nearby residential compounds into low-lying areas. Therefore, attention must be given to keeping the height of a particular road the same as before (as is being followed in model towns and cities), instead of adopting the easier option of putting a new layer of asphalt on its existing surface. The raising of the road levels leads to water-logging, too.

– Debasish Barbaruah,
New Guwahati
Unhygienic Six Mile

Six Mile is emerging as one of

the busiest areas of the Guwahati city with growing population, corporate and government offices, hospitals, hotels, malls, flats and residential complexes

citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to: citizensvoice36@gmail.com

and movement of top VIPs and bureaucrats throughout the day. However, the citizens living in the area are deprived of basic infrastructure. The most affected areas are: the Six Mile flyover juncture, Chachal Path towards Nagaland House, VIP Road towards Narengi, towards GS Road and towards Panjabari Road.

Due to unregulated parking/traffic movements and commuters, growth of uncivilised dwellers and pedestrians, illegal street markets and vendors, the entire area has become chaotic, unhygienic and unsafe, giving a big blow to the government's Swachh Bharat mission. The authorities concerned should look into the matter and take some steps for the betterment of the area.

– Sharique Hussain, Six Mile

State guest house

There was actually no need of another State guest house when we already have the State Guest House at Koinadhora and the Brahmaputra State Guest House on MG Road near the Governor's House. If our former Chief Minister and the present Chief Minister move into official

accommodations at Dispur, those guest houses can be used for government guests. Moreover, the Circuit House is always there. Brahmaputra Ashok is the only hotel in Guwahati on the riverfront where guests from other parts of the nation and abroad can enjoy the view. When the government is talking about promoting tourism, why is it converting such an asset into a dead investment? It is true that running a hotel is not the job of a government, so the premises should be handed over through tender to a competent private party with the condition that the existing employees should be absorbed there. Or else, we will soon hear that the Brahmaputra Ashok has been turned into another CM's residence.

– RN Dutta Barua,
Panbazar

Brahmaputra Ashok saga

Contractual staff move High Court

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The contractual employees of Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok today filed a writ petition at the Gauhati High Court, alleging that the Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) violated the rules mandated under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for closing down an undertaking.

A single bench of Justice Achintya Malli Bujor Barua posted the matter for hearing on Tuesday.

The court also asked the government to produce records regarding the matter during tomorrow's hearing, Jyotirmoy Roy, the counsel of the contractual staff, said.

According to Section 25 (o) of the Industrial Disputes Act,

"an employer who intends to close down an undertaking to which this Chapter applies shall, in the prescribed manner, apply for prior permission at least ninety days before the date on which the intended closure is to become effective, to the appropriate government, stating clearly the reasons for the intended closure of the undertaking and a copy of such application shall also be served simultaneously on the representatives of the workmen in the prescribed manner."

The ATDC, which took over the hotel on July 1 last, has notified that it would close down from September 1.

Dainik Asam Literary Award to Monalisa Saikia

STAFF REPORTER

kataki Award in 2004. Her other story collections include

Sangopane Hejuja, Panir El Jibon Nil Pabon, Big Bazar



por Prithibi and Satyaban Dur Hot Nabajha.

It needs mention here that since its inception in 1975, the Dainik Asam has been playing a pioneering role in promoting the culture and literature of the State. For more than five decades, the newspaper has been promoting quality literature through its regular pages and supplements.

The *Dainik Asam* short story competition and novel competition by *Dainik Asam* and Satyabh Prakash have given suitable platforms to many talented writers of the State.

After celebrating its golden jubilee year in 2015, the prominent daily newspaper started the Dainik Asam Literary Award to carry forward the legacy.

Call for unity, integrity among people of State

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The Guwahati Senior Citizens' Association (GSCA) has appealed to the people of Assam in general and the youths and students in particular not to be misguided by vested interested circles harbouring bad designs against the unity and integrity of the State.

The observation was made with reference to the unfortunate incidents at Silapathar and lately in Nagaon in which irresponsible and misguided elements from the Bengal-spreading people created some untoward incidents involving the prestige and fair name of the Assamese people.

The GSCA, which observed its 17th foundation day at the Pandit Tirthanath Sarma Bhawan under the presidentship of senior journalist DN Chakravarty on Sunday, also urged the elderly sections of the State to guide the community along the correct channels.

Inaugurating the function, scientist Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami urged the senior citizens

to lead a balanced life with a balanced diet and balanced mental and physical exercise. He also requested the elderly people to set to it that their lives as senior citizens act as useful guides to society at large, especially to the younger generation.

Dr Hitesh Deka, Vice Chancellor of the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, in his address as the appointed speaker, regretted the loss of values and the disappearance of the joint family system which were mainly responsible for the decadence of the moral fabric of the people and social cohesion.

Deben Gogoi, a nonagenarian and writer Eli Ahmed, were felicitated on the occasion. Acknowledging their felicitations, both Gogoi and Ahmed hoped that the GSCA would continue to guide the citizens of Guwahati and en-



Workers constructing an underground road connecting the old Gauhati High Court building with its new building, on Monday. – UB Photos

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

You cannot run away from a weakness; you must sometimes fight it out or perish.

— ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

The Assam Tribune

Need for unity

As the Narendra Modi juggernaut sweeps across the nation, the need for a strong and united Opposition has become more imperative than ever. By now it has been made clear that individual like Amit Shah puts party before principles in framing political strategies. In the tinner States like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Goa, tactics of dubious ethical dimensions were adopted to wrest power, the strategy being to place one of the BJP's own as the Governor and be called to form a government despite not winning a majority of the seats. It is a universal truth that horse trading becomes more facile when a party is in power, which explains how the BJP has managed to survive in those States. The biggest lesson to the party after the general elections was its runaway victory in Uttar Pradesh where, since then, the worst forms of intolerance and bigotry directed against minority communities are being displayed. The triumphant march of the party has also emboldened the worms to come out of the woodworks, which often resort to violence and bullying in the name of protecting Hindutva ideology. Also, being in the seat of power induces shifts in loyalty of other parties that understand which side of the bread is buttered, the unexpected joining hands of Nitish Kumar and the BJP in Bihar and the political developments in Tamil Nadu being salient examples.

Having come up trumps in the game of numbers and aware that it has enormous popular backing, the BJP of late has been taking unilateral decisions, with a demoralized and fragmented Opposition putting up merely feeble resistance. Democracy, if it is not to slide into a disguised form of autocracy, must have an Opposition capable of emerging as an alternative. Surprisingly, the lead for laying the groundwork towards Opposition unity has not been taken by larger entities like the Congress, but regional satraps and their parties. Not only was the Congress under-represented, but also certain parties which should have been equally keen on Opposition unity, were missing. Mayawati's BSP being a notable example. Also, aging leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav and regional party chiefs like Mamata Banerjee with their limited sphere of influence are unlikely to emerge as possible challengers to the redoubtable Narendra Modi. Yet the Patna meet called by Lalu is a step in the right direction, attended as it was by a majority of non-BJP parties. Naturally, rhetoric and intentions are not enough; concrete alliances have to be forged and an electoral strategy framed if the Opposition entities are to give the BJP a run for its money in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Above all the Congress, the sole party with a national presence and the one that can impart coherence to the concept of Opposition unity, must play a more proactive role.

Erratic rainfall

Erratic rainfall has of late become a conspicuous phenomenon in the State. This has been evident in excessive and scanty precipitation patterns during the monsoon season. During the recent high floods in the State, we also witnessed a drought-like situation almost simultaneously. Curiously, even when the overall rainfall has been normal, the distribution has deviated considerably. Experts believe these to be the early warnings of an impending climatic change looming large over the region. Needless to say, the climatic aberrations have impacted agriculture — the chief engagement with a vast segment of the State's populace — adversely, causing substantial fall in crop yield. The past 10 years or so have been witness to an occasional disturbing phase of reduced rainfall, resulting in drought-like situations several times. With dry spells as well as floods occurring with increasing frequency in the State, the Government, the Agriculture Department in particular, needs to adopt a long-term mechanism to offset the calamitous impacts of weather aberrations. Among the urgent needs is to revamp the defunct irrigation system. It reflects poorly on the Government that notwithstanding the presence of the perennial Brahmaputra and a vast network of rivers, irrigation has remained a non-starter in the State. This has made agriculture totally dependent on the monsoons and any aberration in rainfall pattern — as experienced in the recent past — invariably impacts agriculture hard. Irrigation apart, development of drought-resistant seeds and crop insurance for farmers also merit attention of the authorities.

As is being increasingly shown by the vagaries of nature, dependence on monsoon can be hazardous for agriculture. Prudence dictates that the authorities treat the ongoing aberrations seriously and adopt long-term measures to counter the threat. The scope for small irrigation, which is also low-cost and environment-friendly, is immense in the State. It is time we went about harnessing this huge potential. Thoughts should also be directed towards effecting some changes in our crop pattern so that we can switch over to the relevant crop when the situation so demands. On the whole, we need to reorient our agricultural strategy keeping in mind the alterations caused by global warming and climate change. For this, a multi-pronged agenda that would take care of every aspect from development of seeds and plantation of saplings to harvesting and storage in a changing physical environment is a dire need. Sadly, even as the problem areas plaguing agriculture have been glaringly evident, equally conspicuous has been the inertia of the authorities to address the ills plaguing the sector. The changing situations also warrant extensive agricultural research so that we are not caught on the wrong foot in the event of a monsoon failure. Bracing ourselves for possible harder days is highly imperative for protecting agriculture from the vagaries of nature.

The Beaten TRACK

DN Bezboruah

In India, we have not only had several successive generations of very intelligent and imaginative souls who have created a plethora of gods and goddesses, but we have also had the political climate for the creation of 'godmen' who have very special privileges and support in a country that has even enabled them to live in style. And raise private armies of their own. Last Thursday and Friday, the nation got a taste of what such a godman could stoop to in order to demonstrate his clout. Worse, the nation woke up to the discovery of the kind of political and administrative support such godmen enjoyed that could virtually cripple the power of the government to maintain law and order.

The word 'godman' is virtually confined to India. Very few other countries support the notion that there could be a species of humanity called 'godmen' that could literally control the behaviour and general conduct of thousands of citizens and strike terror in the hearts of purposeful administrators, literally paralysing them from functioning rationally. We keep forgetting that the gods and goddesses that we worship are all created by our fertile imaginations. Given this scenario, there is no dearth of men in India who pretend that they are creatures endowed with capacities and abilities well above those of common men, and ought, therefore, to have a status higher than ordinary human beings. They take the bold and fraudulent step of projecting themselves as godmen. The best part is that they do not have to proclaim themselves as godmen. They

get hold of gullible and not so intelligent but very obedient men and women who insist that they are godmen, and keep making this assertion until more and more souls with limited intelligence but an abundance of blind faith also begin to adore the adventurous souls as godmen. Once a person is established as a godman, there is no limit to the incomes that can accrue to him through misdirected human faith. That is the time for him to think of creating a private army of hired devotees who can be counted on even to lay down their lives in protecting their godman. All in all, this is a very lucrative business with many additional advantages. In other words, this is a way of using religion (or what passes for religion) to make a lot of people to make easy money, to create a private army and to build up an armoury. In other words, every device is used to make oneself invincible. It matters little that there is nothing even remotely divine or godlike about any of the so-called godmen, as long as they can have even senior government officers on their side. By and large, they are indiscriminately greedy creatures — greedy for money, power and unmerited adulation — who ought to be left alone. But this is unlikely to happen in India because for a lot of people including those with university degrees, what is even mistakenly regarded as having anything to do with religion or with 'divine beings' is a popular pastime.

Much of what generally happens when a 'godman' is arrested for his crimes is almost never spontane-

ous even though it may be made out to be so. When Gurmeet Ram Raheem Singh, guru of Dera Sacha Sauda, was convicted of rape charges, he got his private army to start a riot which led to the death of 36 people and injuries to 269 others. He took the precaution of telling his devotees not to take his name or to admit belonging to the sect. But this does not appear to have saved him after he was convicted of having committed rape and after heches-

bank". The court bluntly asked the Chief Minister why he had allowed the assembly of Dera Sacha Sauda supporters who rioted against the conviction of their guru Gurmeet Ram Rahim for rape. They had been assembling for a whole week with no action from the Government to apprehend any of them. Most of the deaths were in Panichula, where the CBI special court that convicted Gurmeet is located. Wanting to know why the Haryana

Government had allowed the Dera supporters to gather in Panichula for seven days, the three-judge bench of the court said, "The Chief Minister is also the Home Minister — why have you allowed people to assemble for seven days?" The bench reportedly told Haryana Advocate-General Baldev Raj Mahajan, "You have been misleading us. There is a sea of difference between administrative and political decisions. Administrative decisions were always responsible because of political decisions." Chief Minister Khatar's submission that mischievous elements among Dera supporters were responsible for the killings and injuries failed to cut any ice. The three-judge bench said: "If they were antisocial elements, why were they allowed entry for seven days? This was political surrender to allure a vote." The court also remarked that national integrity was above political parties. "Are we one nation or a party nation?... You should get the politicians to understand this: the nation is one. The Prime Minister is of India, and not a party. The Chief Minister is also of the State, and not a party. (To the

Additional Solicitor-General) You are the Additional Solicitor-General of India, and not of the BJP?" One

can well assess the kind of support that godmen like Gurmeet get from the administration until their criminal activities are clearly established from the action of Haryana DGP Sandhu who said she was Gurmeet Ram Rahim's daughter! Known as Honeypreet Insan to her friends, she describes herself as Gurmeet's daughter, since all his followers refer to him as Father! What kind of same administrative decision can one expect in a country where even some very senior police officers can stymie their own expected actions by having forged such gratuitous relationships with criminals?

Much of the problems in such cases arise from the fact that in India the priorities often get distorted. There is no dearth of politicians who have always put their party above the country. They are strongly attracted by political parties or groups that suffer from similar aberrations. They lose all sense of proportion and propriety when confronted with situations where electoral gains for their party have to be weighed against the consequential harm done to the nation. This is what partially explains the compulsions that goad ministers to sanction grants of sums like Rs 50 lakh to Gurmeet's Dera much against their better judgement. What is indeed astonishing is that even the Prime Minister of India should have a soft corner for people like Gurmeet merely because an organization like the Dera has access to a large number of voters. What is amusing, however, is the speed with which our politicians are able to jettison their favoured godmen the moment they are convicted for having committed any heinous crime.

North-east and the Israeli interests in SE Asia

Vijayanta Sharma Pathak

The Mossad of Israel, one of the most ruthless intelligence organizations in the world, has been accused of infiltrating and funding Muslim extremist religious groups in many parts of the globe. One of the sensational early executions inside Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein bear the signature of the Mossad. Some of the foreign fighters, recruited by the CIA, that fought against the Soviets in Afghanistan, are believed to have become — willingly or unwillingly — Mossad pawns. Those have been playing destabilizing roles in the countries where they are settled. One of the greatest abilities of the Mossad is that it can mobilize the US resources anywhere to protect Israeli interests. Pakistan has already allowed the US forces to use its soil, air and intelligence. The Mossad works out a scenario and pushes the American troops to do what the Mossad would like to do in Pakistan. The Mossad is also said to have bases in China and an intelligence network in Mizoram and Manipur in the North-east. Mizoram and Manipur harbour one of the lost tribes of Israel, even as the Jewish Mizos are alleged to be a part of the system that goes to make a citizen of Israel.

The Mossad's relations with neighboring China are strictly confidential. Mossad has a natural and logical reason to generate influence in the North-east of India, even as the ISI is busy trying its best to entrench itself in the region. Indira Gandhi created Bangladesh to preempt the ISI from being a force to reckon with. The India-Israeli intelligence agencies played a key role in creating Bangladesh. Gandhi initiated the move to ingratiate Israel as early as 1968 when the RAW was born. Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, had said the Israelites must cultivate the Hindus in terms of the exigency of geopolitical dynamics. The Mossad cells in China are said to be creating a bulwark against the increasing influence being exercised by jihadis in the Chinese provinces such as Xinjiang, Yunnan and other regions. The demographic changes in the North-east are under the Mossad's scanner. The Israelis have been fighting their war with the Palestinians for 3,000 years and they couldn't afford to be complementary anywhere around the globe in the light of its status as a global power.

The Bnei Menashe, or the Sons of Menasseh, a small group within the indigenous people of Manipur and Mizoram, say that they have descended from Jews banished from ancient Israel to India in the eighth century BC. An Israel chief rabbi recognized them as a lost tribe in 2005 and about 1,700 moved to Israel before the government stopped giving them visas. Israel recently reversed that policy, agreeing to let the remaining 7,200 Bnei Menashe immigrate. Over the centuries, they became animists, and in the 19th century, British missionaries converted many to Christianity. The absorption of Mizoram Jews has been identified as an indication that would eventually go on to surface as a broader trend.

The Mossad's interest in the Buddhist Himalayan kingdom Bhutan is unique and an entity in itself. The Mossad's geostrategic plan is to cast its influence in South-east Asia and South Asia. The US President's Asia pivot also features clandestine operations by the CIA, Mossad and the RAW in the Himalayan region. Bhutan, parts of which were within Assam, especially of the present-day Sikkim Jorethang district, has already established diplomatic ties with 32 nations. This has upset both the RAW and CIA, and the Mossad. Bhu-

tan's foreign policy independence has set hurdles in the alliance of the three intelligence organizations. In 1975, US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gave India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi the go-ahead when the RAW allegedly orchestrated dubious protests against the Chogyal. The King of Sikkim, Sikkin, was a semi-independent nation adjacent to Bhutan. Sikkin's Gyalo, the Queen, was the American-born Hope Cooke, who married the king of Sikkin. The king had endeavoured to follow close on the heels of Bhutan as a member-nation of the United Nations. India is alleged to have orchestrated anti-royal and anti-Buddhist demonstrations by utilizing Hindu and Nepali residents of Sikkin. The end result was the Indian Army's foray to Sikkin to restore the rule of law. The king was overthrown and Sikkin was declared an integral State of India. Ever since the absorption of Sikkin into India, CIA station chiefs in New Delhi have been monitoring attempts by the Sikkinese, among them Buddhist and Zopha Buddhists, in connection with the security environment in India.

No strategic and tactical decision would ignore the North-east, particularly Mizoram and Manipur; that are

the settlement of members of one of the lost tribes of Israel. The secret link between Israel and Mizoram in the North-east, and Manipur and China by extension is considerably old. Relations between Israel and RAW date back to the 1940s. Israel was one among the first countries that recognized the regime of Mao Zedong. Attachment between Israel and China is unique in character. Their brainstorming in the 21st century is said to have covered North-east India, particularly Arunachal Pradesh. The communist link between China and Israel has developed throughout the bygone years and decades. The Communist Party of China is said to have repudiated key interest in the North-east region of India. The undercurrents between Israel, China and India sandwich North-east India that is strategically significant. Israel sees the North-east as a springboard for pushing Israel's strategic initiative in South-east Asia as well as South Asia. Similar to the erstwhile spy agency of the USSR, Israel has been successful in concealing its hidden intentions outside the parameters of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict.

If the CIA has left footprints in the sands of time in South and South-east Asia, can Israel be far behind?

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — I would like to draw the attention of the valued readers as well as the Government and the authorities concerned on the pitfalls of the Assamese language in our society (your editorial, 'Assamese language', August 25) vis-a-vis the unstoppable growth in infrastructure and our opening up to the world. Today Assam is fraught with the danger to its root itself — the Assamese language. In my school, I meet classmates who refuse to talk in Assamese because of the fear of framing a sentence wrong. It is difficult to find a student who would never bring English words while speaking in his/her mother tongue. Today it is an embarrassment if we do not know the latest best-seller of the English literature, but not care a hoot what the latest creations in the Assamese literature are. Here the Government and we as individuals need to do something. The Government should make it mandatory to include Assamese as a subject, irrespective of the population in all types of schools in

Learning one's mother tongue

Assam because in the present scenario, the mother tongue has almost become a stray language. The parents and guardians must take the responsibility to teach their mother tongues. Yours etc., SHRESTHI BORDOLOI, Narengi, Guwahati.

More options

Sir, — In support of the letter by Hem Chutia (AT, August 25), I would like to add a few more points. Unlike the Science stream, there are comparatively less number of options in the Commerce and Humanities (Arts) stream. Particularly in the colleges of Assam, the subjects that have attracted the emerging industries as well as corporate sectors have been neglected for years. This has compelled the young generation to go outside the State for higher education in those subjects. As a result once they leave the State for better education, they generally tend to settle in other States for job. This may also be a sort of brain drain in our State. We all understand that colleges prepare the base for the university studies. Therefore, introduction of subjects like

psychology, social work, journalism and mass communication, hotel management, entrepreneurship development, etc., is the need of hour in the Humanities and Commerce streams in the colleges of Assam. I hope the State Education Minister will look into the matter seriously. Yours etc., CHANDRA KR DAHAL, Dulijian.

TRP matters

Sir, — It is believed that the media is a strong pillar in democracy; in fact, it is called the fourth estate. In the last few years, the media has grown manifold in its business which is distinctively discernible. Media can play a crucial role in political, economic and social reforms of a society. But it is very unfortunate that nowadays the media tries to run a rat race, play the game of TRP and publicity for its own benefit. We rarely see news reporting in its true sense today. Especially in the electronic media, we instead hear opinions from the news room which impact the minds of millions of viewers leading to change in their perception in looking at things or issues. We have also seen a lot of reporting which are

politically biased or financially motivated. Young Assamese aspiring with want to get inspired by unbiased and yet bold journalism. Proper guidance and directions how to work efficiently and towards the development of human society are the need of the hour. Yours etc., JAYSANKAR TALUKDAR, OSA, Rukmingiaon, Guwahati.

Harmful video games

Sir, — Through your esteemed letters, the parents and guardians of children who are addicted to playing video games, mostly in smart phones. Playing video games by children has become a big problem nowadays. These games lack any usefulness. They harm the eyesight of the children, waste their valuable time, and make them inattentive to study. Moreover, it increases their ill-health. The lack of a culture of outdoor sports and physical activities harms the physical as well as mental health of the children. Playing video games makes them irritated and absent minded which is harmful. Every guardian should try to distract them from playing video games. Yours etc., DIPAK DEKA, Pathsala.

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



Participants at the Special Literary Festival organised by the Bodo Writers' Academy, at Dhamadham in Nalbari district on Sunday – UB Photos

OBITUARY

Dr Anil Kr Roy

 GUWAHATI, Aug 28: Dr Anil Kumar Roy, former Director of Research, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat passed away on August 26 at a private nursing home in Guwahati at the age of 81.

Prior to joining at AAU he was a mycologist. Dr Roy was an alumnus of the Benaras Hindu University and had a brilliant academic career. He obtained Doctoral Degree from the University of Edinburgh, UK and Post Doctoral Degree from Maryland University, Baltimore, USA. He was a renowned plant pathologist and had commendable scientific publications to his credit.

He was actively associated with the Senior Citizens' Forum and Bharat Vikas Parishad, Jorhat as senior member and adviser.

A resident of Joy Nagar, Jorhat, he is survived by his wife, a daughter, son-in-law and a grand son.

Flood-damaged kilns affecting livelihood of Asarikandi villagers

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Aug 28: Unlike every year, the fervour of the ensuing festive season is missing among the people living in the Asarikandi village of Dhubri district, because most of their kilns have been destroyed.

The artisans of this village wait for the festive season every year to sell a huge chunk of their products, which they will not be able to do this time as the recent flood had damaged all their stored products. They will also not be able to make new products to comply with the demands during the ensuing festive season as most of the kilns have either been destroyed or been affected in such a way which would necessitate a huge amount of money and time to renovation.

The villagers informed that there are 70 kilns in the village that serve almost 180 families who make a living based on terracotta products. Almost 350 people are directly dependent on this terracotta industry. According to the villagers, out of these

70 kilns, the second wave of flood this year has totally destroyed almost 20 of them while 32 kilns have been affected severely.

Chandan Pal, a young certified master craftsman of this village said that every year during this time of the year, the villagers become busy producing various terracotta products to meet the demand during the festive season. He added that every year the villages supplies more than one crore *devis* for Diwali, a traditional form of Goddess Durga during the Durga Puja along with various decorative and gift items made out of clay. He also said that as the autumn season is ensuing, the demand for flower pots is also on the rise. But the damaged stored products and destroyed kilns have forced them to be jobless. "The condition of many of the villagers are such that they have already started leaving the village to the nearby towns and to Guwahati as labourers, just to feed their family here. In fact, my

brother has also left, who is also an amateur terracotta craftsman," the master craftsman said.

The villagers informed that while to rebuild the destroyed kilns, they will need around Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh, to repair the semi-destroyed kilns to a usable condition they will need at least Rs 20,000, which is very tough for them to afford.

While talking to this correspondent, 76-year-old artisan Nonigopal Pal said that he has been involved with this industry from a very early age but in his entire life he has not seen such devastating floods like the recent one.

"The 1988 floods were much bigger than the recent one, but was less destructive. The recent floods entered the village very suddenly," said Nonigopal, who has been awarded at many forums for his works. He added, "The recent floods have affected the terracotta industry of this historic village like never before and it will take years to get it back to its earlier status."

Surabhi Borah: a tribute



Surabhi Borah breathed her last on August 20 at Guwahati. She had bravely battled an illness for the past couple of years.

Hailing from Nagaon, Faudzirupi, she spent a considerable time at Bisimpur, Shillong and then settled at Kharibari in Guwahati for a little over the last two decades.

Socially a very active lady, both in her Shillong days and then Guwahati, she was involved with various socio-religious organisations.

She had been instrumental in founding a much sought-after Bihu dance troupe "Moushak" at Shillong way back in the late 1980's and had a select and niche clientele base.

She was also very actively involved with the Khargali Namghar and other socio-religious organisations.

A very friendly amicable soul, she fondly endearing charm of making quick friends more akin to a family member, she will be missed by all her loved and dear ones.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

— **Sharmistha Borah
Goswami**

and college days. After completing a brilliant academic life, he started his career as a teacher in 1949 at Chinmaya High School and Shankardev Seminary of Jorhat, and then was appointed the headmaster of the newly-established Dhekaijuli High School.

Later, he shifted from the academic side to accountancy. He gathered rich working experience as a teacher in many schools under the Government of Assam; as school inspector in NEFA, as Divisional Accountant in PWD and E&D Department under the Government of Assam and also in AGCC under BRPL. After completing his suc-

cessful service life, Late Saikia settled at Dibrugarh (Puberun Path, Jhan Phukan Nagar) and continued an eventful life devoting himself fully in social, spiritual and academic engagements. Of an amiable nature, Late Saikia's demise is a great loss to the society.

He leaves behind his wife, one daughter, two sons, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and many well-wishers.

Today, on the day of his *adyashradhha*, we pray to the Almighty to bless his soul with eternal peace.

— **Subarna Saikia,
Dr Utpal Kumar Saikia,
Pranab Kumar Saikia**

High School, he joined the same school as a teacher in 1950. Later, he joined the Railways and retired as an Officer in 1992. During his service period, he passed BA from Bar Brosoh College, Guwahati as a private candidate.

He was a very positive man with in-depth knowledge of lan-

guage and literature, religious books and epics. He was a major source of encouragement for me, my family and my daughters as well as to his friends and relatives.

On the day of his *adyashradhha* today, I pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of his soul.

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— **Trilochan Baruah**

Public cooperation, support must for smooth law-and-order: DGP

ANN Service

BAIHATA CHARIALI, Aug 28: "Public cooperation and support is vital for peaceful maintenance of law-and-order in the society. Sometimes it is seen that without the active involvement and support of the public, the people responsible cannot run the administration properly," said Mukesh Sahay, Director General of Police (DGP), Assam in the open meeting of the annual session of the citizen committee of North Guwahati (Gauripur) police outpost held at the auditorium of North Guwahati College yesterday.

Participating in the session as the chief guest, the DGP said that since the people of Assam are cooperating with the police administration to curb anti-social activities, the overall situation of the State is peaceful now. No untoward incident took place on the eve of the Independence Day this year.

Delivering a speech on the occasion,

Nekibur Zaman, senior advocate of Gauhati High Court said that the citizen committee of police stations in the State was first formed on July 7, 1996 at the Panbari PS under the leadership of then Director of Police of Guwahati city with an aim to establish good relations between the police and the public, removing wrong impressions of the general public about the police etc. This was done so that the police is able to get the support and cooperation from all sections of the people during investigations to fight anti-social activities in the society. The senior advocate also said that though there are a number of skilled officers in the Assam Police but they cannot utilise their skill and talents properly since they have to do additional work like VIP duty etc.

Zaman called upon the higher authority of the police administration not to give additional load of duty to the same person.

In his lecture, Kuladhar Saikia, Special DGP (Law and Order) said that after the formation of citizen committee of police station in 2001, he had launched another scheme titled, "Project Prahar" to make the people aware about witch-hunting in tribal-dominated Kokrajhar district, which also received immense positive response from the masses.

The open meeting was held under the chairmanship of Pankaj Choudhury, president of the citizen committee, in which Superintendent of Police, Kamrup (R) district, Partha Sarathi Mahanta, SDPO of Rangiya Pranab Pegu, OC of Changsarai PS Open Kalita, including a number of social workers, bank, forest and education officers also participated.

The committee also released the sown-veni of the session, *Nagrik* in the open meeting. Earlier, the president hoisted the flag and the *Swadhin Bharat tarpan* was performed by Badreswar Pegu, I/C of North Guwahati (Gauripur) police outpost.

Call to boost State economy through agriculture

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, Aug 28: Under the Prime Minister's Sankalp Se Siddhi – the new India Manthan programme, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nalbari organised a farmers' meet at Nalbari Natura Mandir on Sunday.

The programme was organised with the aim to double the income of farmers within 2022. The meeting was inaugurated by Rajen Gohain, Union Minister of State for Railways. At the beginning, the meet took

an oath to increase the income of farmers responding to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the meeting, Gohain said that economic development through agriculture is the only way to remove the State's economic backwardness.

Gohain requested the farmers to take the benefit of Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana. He also stressed on the need of creating work culture among the people. The minister distributed soil health cards to three farmers of the district.



Seized illegal timber at Sonari in Charaideo district, on Sunday. – UB Photos

BPL students felicitated

CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, Aug 28: The Dimasa Laihridom Mel (Dimasa Sahitya Sahit) Dimasa District Committee, in support of Dr Kripesh Ranjan Sarmah, serving at Guwahati International Hospital felicitated 11 students from 9 districts of the district belonging to BPL category, who had good

results in the HSLLC & HSSLIC Examination 2016/2017 with a cash award Rs 10, 000 and a certificate each in a public meeting held at Cultural Institute Hall Haflong on Sunday.

One of the students, Jaydesh Hojai was awarded by the DLM and the rest of the ten were sponsored by Dr Kripesh Ranjan Sarmah, DLM CC Committee president Biswajyoti Barman.

that he was encouraged to sponsor the awards, as he was also awarded during his student life.

DLM Dima Hasao District Committee president Kalijoy Sengyung presided over the meeting, which was attended mainly by Dr Kripesh Ranjan Sarmah, DLM CC Committee president Biswajyoti Barman.

40 lakh missing names from updated NRC

Govt must state how it will deal with the issue: Pramod Boro

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: Kamrup District Council for Child Welfare is going to organise a national-level painting competition on September 3 next at the Bengali Higher Secondary School, Paltan Bazar, here from 9 am. Students in the age-group of 5 to 16 years of greater Guwahati can participate by paying a joining fee of Rs 50, stated a press release.

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That he was encouraged to sponsor the awards, as he was also awarded during his student life.

DLM Dima Hasao District Committee president Kalijoy Sengyung presided over the meeting, which was attended mainly by Dr Kripesh Ranjan Sarmah, DLM CC Committee president Biswajyoti Barman.

Addressing the function, senior advocate and a founder of the United Democratic Front (UDF) Nurul Islam Choudhury warned that during the past 29 months an amount of around Rs 247 crore meant for the updating of the document was siphoned off by several quarters.

Once the draft NRC is published, those people whose names would not feature in the document would move the Foreigners' Tribunals and then the High Court and even the Supreme Court of India. Thus the entire process to publish the final copy of the NRC is bound to take at least 20 years.

As a preemptive measure, the Government should frame a policy to prevent such a development, he said.

Bharatiya Janata Party's State general secretary Dilip Saikia explained the stand taken by his party. Those Hindus who have come from other countries in the face of persecution would be provided shelter in differ-

ent parts of the country as per the provisions of the country's constitution, he said.

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"Scrap decision": Participants in an open discussion on naming of the State's proposed model colleges after RSS ideologue Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya here on Friday were unanimous in their opinion that honouring public sentiment, the State Government should scrap its decision.

Instead, the participants argued, such institutions should be named after the illustrious sons of Assam, who have made remarkable contributions to the State's society.

The discussion was organised by the Cotton College Retired Teachers' Forum and was presided over by its president Prof Ranjit Nath Bhattacharjee.

The participants, who included eminent educationists Dr Gajendra Nath Lalukdar, Prof Mihesh Chandra Bhuyan, Udayaditta Bharali, Prof Jatin Nath, Priyabrat Lahkar, Samindra Hujuri, Sourabhi Saikia and journalist Adip Phukan, were of the view that the Government should find some other ways to honour Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in his birth centenary year.

Around the WORLD

803 pardoned on Eid

ABU DHABI, Aug 28: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Monday ordered the release of 803 prisoners on the upcoming Islamic festival Eid Al-Adha.

Sheikh Khalifa pledged to settle the financial obligations of the released prisoners, reports *Xinhua*. The pardon comes within the framework of the keenness of the UAE president to give the pardoned prisoners a chance to start a new life, and alleviate the suffering of their families, sources said.

Eid Al-Adha will be observed from Thursday until Sunday.

Heads of state and monarchs in the Arab world regularly pardon prisoners on the occasion of Islamic feasts. —IANS

Car bombing kills 12

BAGHDAD, Aug 28: A car bomb ripped through a busy market area in eastern Baghdad today, killing at least 12 people, Iraqi officials said.

The explosives-laden car went off at the wholesale Jamila market in Baghdad's Shiite district of Sadr City, a police officer said. The explosion also wounded 28 other people, he added, saying the death toll was expected to rise further. A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to journalists.

A plume of thick black smoke billowed from the area and people were running away in panic. At the site, twisted metal and shards of glass littered the pavement, along with vegetables and other goods sold at the market. —AP

2 killed in landslide

BEIJING, Aug 28: A landslide buried nearly 34 homes in southwest China's Guizhou province today, killing at least two persons and leaving 25 others missing, the latest natural calamity to hit the country that prompted authorities to issue a grade-IV emergency response.

The landslide affected 34 households, according to Bijie city's information department. Rescuers have managed to pull out six persons, among whom two died and 25 others remain missing, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported. —PTI



US President Donald Trump waves as he along with First Lady Melania Trump and their son Barron walk on South Lawn of the White House upon their return to Washington, from Camp David, on Sunday. —UNI

'Nurse murdered at least 90 patients'

BERLIN, Aug 28: A male nurse jailed for life two years ago for killing two patients with lethal drug overdoses murdered at least 90 patients in total, police said today, calling it post-war Germany's worst killing spree.

Nils Hoegel, 40, was jailed in February 2015 for two murders and several attempted murders of intensive-care patients at the Delmenhorst hospital near the northern city of Bremen.

Police said today that investigators exhuming and analysing more bodies had found some evidence of scores of additional murders.

The death toll "is unique in the history of the German republic," said chief police investigator Andre Schmidt, adding that Hoegel killed randomly and preyed especially on those in critical condition.

There was "evidence for at least 90 murders, and at least as many (suspected) cases again that can no longer be proven," he told a press conference, declaring himself "speechless" at the outcome.

Hoegel had admitted to injecting patients with a drug so that they could then try to revive them and, when successful, share a favour from his medical peers.

He said he felt euphoric when he managed to bring a patient back to life, and devastated when he failed.

After the revelations of the nurse's murderous obsession, police and prosecutors launched a special forensic commission dubbed "Kardio" (Cardio) to look into other patient deaths.

Presenting their findings, police said Monday that more than 130 bodies had been exhumed and tested for traces of the deadly drug. —AFP

Texas inundated, millions battle 'catastrophic' flooding

HOUSTON, Aug 28: Around 13 million people continue to battle 'catastrophic' flooding and torrential rains in storm-ravaged Texas where Hurricane Harvey has wreaked havoc, turning streets into raging rivers and claiming at least five lives.

US President Donald Trump will travel to Texas tomorrow to get first-hand information on the flooding from Hurricane Harvey, the most powerful hurricane to hit America in 12 years.

The hurricane left a trail of destruction as it swept through Texas yesterday, pummelling the region with heavy rains and forcing hundreds of trapped residents to climb onto rooftops after its landfall on the US Gulf Coast.

According to the Indian Consulate in Houston, at least 200 Indian students at Universities of Houston are marooned due to widespread flooding.

Houston is home to a sizable Indian population.

The hurricane has now turned into a tropical storm and is dumping rain on southern Texas. The National Weather Service said the rainfall could top 50 inches, setting an all-time rainfall record for the state. Streets in Houston and many other cities are flooded.

The National Weather Service called the flooding in Texas 'unprecedented' as the State experienced a record breaking 50 inches of rain in parts of the city.

"The breadth and intensity of this rainfall are beyond anything experienced before. Catastrophic flooding is now underway and expected to continue for days," the service said in a statement.

Harvey was born hammering Texas since Friday, when it first made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane. At least five people have died and the death toll is expected to rise as the storm has triggering record floods, tidal surges and tornados.

The last Category 4 storm to hit the US was Hurricane Charley in August 2004 in Florida. —PTI

North Korea scraps air show

North Korea scraps air show

SEOUL, Aug 28: North Korea has cancelled this year's Wonsan Air Show, travel agents said today, with reports suggesting tightened travel restrictions by several countries due to nuclear tensions with Pyongyang could be behind the move.

The first-ever Wonsan International Friendship Air Festival was held in September last year, attracting hundreds of foreigners as the isolated North showcased a line-up of civilian and military aircraft. The event had been planned to take place every two years, but North Korea said in March the first was so successful that it was bringing forward the second edition.

But the gathering, scheduled for late September, was cancelled by the North Korean Preparatory Committee due to "current geopolitical circumstances", specialist website NK News reported, citing an email from the organisers.

It did not give specific reasons but cited "uncertainty" and "recently upgraded travel warnings" regarding trips to the North, the report said.

A US travel ban issued following the June death of US student Otto Warmbier, who was released in a coma after being held by Pyongyang for more than a year, will come into effect on Friday.

Britain updated its advice at the weekend to urge its citizens against "all but essential travel".

Japan's public broadcaster NHK cited diplomatic sources as saying the reason for the cancellation was unclear. It said there was speculation it could be part of the North's efforts to save fuel in the face of increasingly tough United Nations Security Council sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. —AFP

Hundreds hospitalised after mystery 'mist' in UK



শুভেচ্ছাবণী

এই পৃষ্ঠাটি এক ক্রীড়াজন
ক্রীড়া ইল শাস্তির প্রস্তুত

হক্কীয় যাদুকর মেজর ধ্যানচন্দন অসমিন উপপক্ষে আজি সময় দেশতে পালন করিবলগীয়া
বাস্তুর ক্রীড়া নির্বাসন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সকলো অনগ্রহ তথ্য ক্রীড়াপ্রেছী কাছাজ, পেন্সুরে, অলিম্পিক সংগঠক
আৰু ক্রীড়া পরিচালকদেৱ মেৰে আন্তৰিক দেশৰ ক্রীড়া বাজধানী আৰু অলিম্পিক কেন্দ্ৰৰ কাপে গঢ়ি তোলাৰ বাবে
পদচৰেগ প্ৰশংস কৰিবো। তাৰ অংশ হিচাবে অলিম্পিক আন্তৰিকগাঠনিক স্বৰাস্তীকৰণৰ সংগতে উজ্জ্বল মানৰ ক্রীড়া
অনুষ্ঠানৰ পৰিৱেল বচনৰ কাম আৰি দৃঢ়তাৰে অংশ কৰিবলৈ। বাজাধনৰ প্ৰয়াণৰকলৰ সুপ্ৰসাৰ
প্ৰতিভাসমূহ চিনাতক কৰি উন্নত পৰিৱেল প্ৰদানেৰে ডোকান্যামন খেলৌৎৰেসকলৰ অলিম্পিক নেপুণ্য বিকাশৰ
বাবে আৰু কাৰ্যসূচা আতত লৈছো।

আমাৰ এই প্ৰচেষ্টাত সকলো অনন্দাধাৰণৰ সহায়-সহযোগিতা অব্যাহত থাকিব বুলি আশা
কৰিবো।

(মৰিবৰ মোখ্যৰাম)
মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, অসম



Janasanyog/D/6330/7

Pakistan fumes over US general's remarks

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: Pakistan's leadership has slammed the top US commander in Afghanistan, General John W Nicholson, a day after he claimed that Washington "knows the Taliban leadership is in Quetta and Peshawar".

Turning the tables, Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal told *Dawn* newspaper that the Taliban were using Afghanistan as the launch pad for their operations, both inside and outside Pakistan."

He said the Taliban had no need to hide in Pakistan as they held more than 40 per cent of Afghanistan, the daily reported on Monday.

"If they have control over so much land and resources in Afghanistan, it means they

have hideouts there, not in Pakistan," Iqbal said.

Nicholson told Kabul's *Tolo* News on Saturday that Washington was aware of the Afghan Taliban leadership's presence in the two Pakistani cities, adding that the US military would continue to put pressure on Taliban sanctuaries inside and outside Afghanistan.

"The Quetta shura, Peshawar

shura—these shuras are identified by cities inside Pakistan. We know Afghan Taliban leaders are in these areas. Support for terrorists and insurgents has to be reduced—it has to be stopped," General Nicholson said.

The general's comments elicited a sharp reaction from Islamabad, which has already been fuming over US President Donald Trump's harsh remarks, with government ministers calling upon the US to stop blaming Pakistan for its failure in Afghanistan.

Pakistan People's Party spokesperson Farhatullah Babar said that both Trump and General Nicholson's statements indicated that the US wanted to blame all its failed policies on Pakistan. —IANS

Liverpool thrash Arsenal, Burnley hold Tottenham

LONDON, Aug 28: Liverpool forwards Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah tore Arsenal to shreds as Arsene Wenger's team crashed to a humiliating 4-0 defeat at Anfield on Sunday.

The trio found the net to condemn Arsenal to a second successive defeat after their 1-0 loss at Stoke City, leaving them six points below early Premier League pace-setters Manchester United in 16th place.

Liverpool rose to second place, two points below United and one above champions Chelsea, who recorded a straightforward 2-0 win over Everton.

"We were really well organised," said Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp.

"If you give Arsenal space and time, you lose before the game starts, so I don't think they could do a lot of what they wanted. Arsenal, and that is all credit to the boys because they worked really hard."

Tottenham Hotspur are two points further back in ninth place after their Wembley hooloo resulted in a 1-1 draw at home to Burnley.

Arsenal's defeat, and the toothless manner of their surrender, will once again raise questions about Wenger's position, less than three months af-



Roberto Firmino of Liverpool scores during the Premier League match against Arsenal at Anfield in Liverpool, on Sunday.

ter the Frenchman signed a new two-year contract.

It was Arsenal's heaviest league defeat since a 4-0 loss at Southham-

ton in December 2015.

"Mentally it was difficult," Wenger told Sky Sports. "A very disappointing performance. It was not good enough. We were beaten every-

disastrous.

"The result is a consequence of the performance. It was not good enough. We were beaten every-

where physically and in the end we made it easier for them."

Wenger was able to hand Alexis Sanchez his first start of the season after an abdominal strain, but saw his side fall behind in the 17th minute when Joe Gomez crossed from the right for Firmino to head home.

Firmino turned provider in the 40th minute with a pass down the left to Mane, who cut inside Rob Holding before drilling a shot into the bottom-right corner.

It was 3-0 before the hour as Liver-

pool cleared a corner and Salah beat Helder Bellerin to a bouncing ball midway into his own half before scoring clear to tuck a shot past Pepe Reina.

Sánchez, who has been strongly linked with a move away, was taken off just after the hour and looked a picture of misery as he sat on the bench, sinking his head between his legs.

Substitute Daniel Sturridge com-

pleted the scoring by heading in a cross from Salah in the 77th minute.

Tottenham have now won just once in 11 games at the new Wembley after following up last weekend's 2-1 loss to Chelsea with a frustrating draw against Burnley... AFP

Shakib's five-for puts Bangladesh on top

DHAKA, Aug 28: Shakib Al Hasan claimed five wickets to end a confident 43-run open- ing stand when he had Soumya Sarkar (15) caught by Usman Khawaja at long-on after seven-

overs. Soumya's knock ended a

partnership of 217 with opener

Nasir Hossain (56).

Shakib, who finished with 5-

69 and also top-scored in Bangla-

desh's first innings with 84,

was ably supported by off-spin-

er Mehedi Hasan.

Mehedi claimed three wick-

ets for 62 including the prized

scalp of skipper Steve Smith

for eight.

The hosts reached 45-1 at

stumps in their second innings,

with opener Tamim Iqbal on 30

and nightwatchman Tajul Islam

yet to score.

Lajong sign six foreign players for I-League

SHILLONG, Aug 28: Shillong Lajong Football Club today announced the signings of six foreign players for the I-League 2017-18 season.

The new signings are centre forward Abdoulaye Koffi Ivory Coast, centre back Laurence Doe of Liberia, defensive midfielder Daniel Odafin of Nigeria, Swedish-Gambian striker Saliou Jagne, attacking midfielder Aiman Salah Al-Hagri of Yemen and central defender Oh Juho of the Republic of Korea.

After acquiring the signatures of these foreign players, Lajong has completed their international signings formalities for the upcoming season. All six players are expected to strengthen in the Lajong squad as they bring with them years of experience playing in top professional leagues. —PTI

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State sports authority's role flayed

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 28: The Guwahati Squash Racket Association (GSRA) took a jibe at the Sports Authority of Assam (SAA) for playing a negative role as far as coaching of the game of squash is concerned.

The GSRA secretary Dhrubajyoti Kalita, addressing a press conference here today said, "The SAA Squash Complex situated in the RG Barman Sports Complex here, which was set up during the South Asian Games, on May 1, 2016 for a period of six months for conducting coaching to the youngsters.

The GSRA also organised tournaments like All Guwahati Open Squash Championship and a ranking tournament recently.

The vice-president of the GSRA Munin Nobis said, "After expiry of the agreement with the SAA we met Sports Minister Naba Kumar Doley, where Director of Sports Pabitra Ram Khound was also present. Doley instructed the Director to take the necessary step so that training can be continued in the complex and the GSRA can carry on their day to day activities.

the beginners under a Level II certified coach of Squash Federation of India. Since then the organisation has been organising coaching camps regularly where good number of city based boys and girls were introduced to the basics of the game. The number of participants gradually increased with the game becoming popular within a short span of time.

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Recently, the organisation contacted Dalip Tripathy, World Squash Federation's Level II coach, for conducting a camp from September 10 to 20. Tripathy, who trained international players like Saurav Ghosal, Dipika Pallikal, Ramon Tandiono, among others had agreed to impart training in the proposed camp despite his busy schedule.

But the spokesman of the SAA came into the picture for the GSRA.

Nobis further alleged that as per the SAA instruction they wanted to discuss the matter with the Assam Squash Racket Association (ASRA) which hardly has any existence. "The ASRA neither affiliated to the Assam Olympic Association nor has any activities since its inception in the year 2000 and it was not possible to discuss the matter with the State body. The ASRA even did not hold any meeting or urged the districts to form their units," Nobis said.

Col Ranji Borthakur, adviser of the GSRA opined that the authority should allow to continue training in the complex as a large number of youngsters have been attracted by this newly introduced game.

The officials of the city squash body has appealed to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to take necessary steps so that the coaching programme of the event can be continued as few players from this centre are coming out and have been able to draw attention in the national circuit.



Guwahati Squash Racket Association officials (From L) Dhrubajyoti Kalita, Munin Nobis, Pranab Saikia, Col Ranji Borthakur, Chayaram Boro addressing the media.

Demand for another field in Silchar raised

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Aug 28: At a time when Silchar, the second biggest city in the State is gradually becoming a concrete jungle, dearth of sufficient playgrounds for players has become a serious cause of concern for players and sports administrators. Voicing concerns on this issue, members of Ikhola Athleti- c Club, celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year placed a demand further to the government to allot a new playground for the players of the city.

The club members and advisers raised this demand before the State sports minister Md. Abul Karim, Padm on Monday during a felicitation function organised to honour 19 sports journalists from Barak Valley. Also, the Silchar correspondents of The Assam Tribune was honoured on the occasion.

In the meeting presided over by the club president Anup Kumar Singh, Bijendra Prasad Singh, general secretary of the club said, "We desperately need an alternative field. Also, there should be a separate office for the oldest sports journalists body Barak Uppotyoka Krira Sangbadik Sansha (BUKS)."

Policemen enter semis

TIHUA, Aug 28: Assam Police Blues entered the semifinals of the NSA Trophy Football Tournament defeating Udanshi Club of Barma 3-0 in the second quarterfinal at the Gurdon HS School, Nalbari play ground today. ASEB, Guwahati will play against Global Academy Kokrajhar tomorrow at 3 pm.

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