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This is for general information that the form 62, bearing serial No. 2068668 issued by the Superintendent of Taxes, Unit-B, Kar Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006 was lost from our custody. In the event of anybody find it is requested to return it to Power Maker Unit-II, EPIP, Guwahati-781031, Contact No. 995756964, Lost/P/5930/1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Saifur Islam, by swearing an affidavit on 17.3.17 before the Notary Public Kamrup (Metre) at Guwahati changed the name of my daughter from Lubana Islam to Lubna Islam. PN/P/5917/1

I have changed my name from Leena Devi to Leena Sarma vide an affidavit before the Notary Baksa, on 16.3.2017. Hence forth I shall be known as Zenia Sarma in all purposes. PN/P/5917/1

I, Rita Begum have changed my name to Hasina Begum before Notary Public Rangia on 14.3.17 and shall henceforth be known as Hasina Begum for all purposes. PN/P/5915/1



Protestors hold a banner during a demonstration against racism and European asylum policy in Vienna, on Saturday. Banner reads, "No to headscarf ban!" - UNI

Israel threatens to 'destroy' Syrian air defence systems

JERUSALEM, March 19: Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman today threatened to destroy Syrian air defence systems after they fired ground-to-air missiles at Israeli warplanes carrying out strikes.

"The next time the Syrians use their air defence systems against our planes we will destroy them without the slightest hesitation," Lieberman said on Israeli public radio.

Israeli warplanes hit several targets in Syria on Friday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the strikes targeted weapons bound for Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah movement.

Syria's military said it had downed one of the Israeli planes and hit another as they were carrying out the pre-dawn strikes near the famed desert city of Palmyra that it recaptured from jihadists this month.

The Israeli military denied that any planes had been hit. The Syrian government has made similar claims in the past.

An Israeli army statement said "several anti-aircraft missiles" were fired following strikes.

The next time the Syrians use their air defence systems against our planes we will destroy them without the slightest hesitation

lowing the raid but that none hit their targets. One missile was intercepted by Israel's Arrow air defence system, Israeli media reported.

It was the most serious incident be-

tween the two countries since the Syrian civil war began six years ago.

In April 2016, Netanyahu admitted for the first time that Israel had attacked dozens of convoys transporting weapons in Syria destined for Hezbollah, which fought a 2006 war with Israel and is now battling alongside the Damascus regime.

Israel does not usually confirm or deny individual raids, but it may have been led to do so this time by the circumstances of the incident.

Israel seized most of the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed it in 1981, in a move never recognised by the international community.

Israel and Syria are still technically at war, though the border had remained largely quiet for decades until 2011 when the Syrian conflict began. - AFP



Incoming President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife Elke Buedenbender pose for photographers as outgoing German President Joachim Gauck and his partner Daniela Schadt walk towards the presidential Bellevue Palace in Berlin, on Sunday. - UNI

2 killed, eight missing in boat mishap in China

BEIJING, March 19: Two sailors were killed and eight others remain missing following two separate boat accidents in east China today.

Rescuers are searching for six sailors of a fishing boat which sank in the waters off east China's Zhejiang province, State-run Xinhua news agency reported. There were with 11 people aboard, sank around Neshuanghu island, administered by Zhoushan City, it said. Five people have been rescued.

Another vessel sank after hitting a rock in the waters off Zhangzhou City in east China's Fujian Province. Two sailors were killed and two others went missing. - PTI

New wi-fi system to provide 100 times faster internet

LONDON, March 19: Scientists have developed a new wireless internet based on harmless infrared rays that is 100 times faster than existing wi-fi network and has the capacity to support more devices without getting congested.

Slow wi-fi is a source of irritation that nearly everyone experiences. Wireless devices in the home consume ever more data, and it is only growing, and congesting the wi-fi network, researchers said.

The wireless network developed by researchers at Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands not only has a huge capacity – more than 40 Gigabits per second (Gbps) – but also there is no need to share since every device gets its own ray of light.

The system is simple and cheap to set up. The wireless data comes from a few central 'light antennas', for instance mounted on the ceiling, which are able to very precisely direct the rays of light supplied by an optical fibre. The antennas contain a pair of gratings that radiate light rays of different wavelengths at different angles ('passive diffraction gratings').

Changing the light wavelengths also changes the direction of the ray of light. Since a safe infrared wavelength is used that does not reach the vulnerable retina in your eye, this technique is harmless.

If you walk around as a user and your smartphone or tablet moves out of the light antenna's line of sight, then another light antenna takes over, researchers said.

The network tracks the precise location of every wireless device using its radio signal transmitted in the return direction, they said. It is a simple matter to add devices: they are assigned different wavelengths by the same light antenna and so do not have to share capacity.

Moreover, there is no longer any interference from a neighbouring wi-fi network.

Current wi-fi uses radio signals with a frequency of 2.5 or five gigahertz.

The new system uses infrared light with wavelengths of 1,500 nanometres and higher.

This light has frequencies that are thousands of times higher, some 200 terahertz, which makes the data capacity of the light rays much larger.

Researchers managed to achieve a speed of 42.8 Gbit/s over a distance of 2.5 metres. Even if you have the very best wi-fi system available, you would not get more than 300 Megabit/s in total, which is some hundred times less than the speed per ray of light achieved by the new system.

The system has so far used the light rays only to download; uploads are still done using radio signals since in most applications much less capacity is needed for uploading. - PTI

B'desh SC upholds death sentence of HuJI leader, 2 others

DHAKA, March 19: Bangladesh Supreme Court today upheld the death sentence of banned Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami's former leader and two of his accomplices for attacking Britain's envoy in 2004, paving the way for their execution.

HuJI leader Mufti Hannan lost the legal battle to have himself from the charges of an attempt on life of the former UK envoy to Bangladesh. Hannan and two of his associates attacked a shrine in 2004 that left three persons dead and injured Anwar Chowdhury, the British high commissioner at the time.

"There now remains no barrier in executing (HuJI chief) Mufti Abdul Hannan and the two other operatives of the outfit," a spokesman of attorney general's office said as the Supreme Court's Appellate Division rejected a plea by the convicts seeking review of the apex court decision.

He said a three-member apex court bench led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha rejected the plea after holding hearing on the convicts' review petition.

According to Bangladesh's legal system, the convicts can seek presidential clemency to save their neck and unless they are pardoned jail authorities could hang them in four weeks time.

The apex court on December 7, 2016 upheld the three militants' death penalty endorsing a previous High Court verdict in February this year that had validated a lower court judgment handing them the capital punishment. - PTI



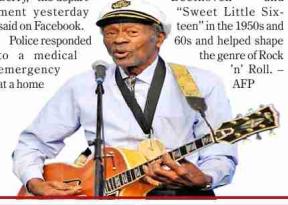
Mufti Hannan

Rock 'n' Roll legend Chuck Berry dead at 90

WASHINGTON, March 19: Rock 'n' Roll legend Chuck Berry has died at the age of 90, police in Missouri said.

"The St Charles County Police Department sadly confirms the death of Charles Edward Anderson Berry Sr, better known as legendary musician Chuck Berry," the department yesterday said on Facebook.

Berry, a guitarist and singer, was known for such hits as "Roll over Beethoven" and "Sweet Little Sixteen" in the 1950s and 60s and helped shape the genre of Rock 'n' Roll. - AFP



Army chief Rawat to visit Nepal

KATHMANDU, March 19: Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat will arrive here on a four-day official visit to Nepal on March 28 during which he is scheduled to call on the country's top leadership and hold talks on stepping up bilateral defence cooperation.

Rawat will meet President Donald Trump was away in Florida the time. On March 18, 2017 at approximately 11:05 pm, an individual drove a vehicle up to a Secret Service checkpoint located at 15th Street and E Street NWth a Secret Service spokesman said in the latest of a series of White House security concerns.

"Upon contact with the individual, US Secret Service Uniform Division Officers detained the individual and declared his vehicle suspicious. In accordance with proper protocols, Secret Service personnel increased their posture of readiness," he added.

Just hours earlier, a person was arrested after jumping over a bike rack in an apparent bid to reach the fence outside the White House, the Secret Service said.

The individual was detained immediately and criminal charges are pending, the agency said in a statement, without identifying the suspect. - AFP

E-Tender Notice No: SR/DEEGH/14-15/0001 Underlined items are works tenders through E-Tendering system against following works which will be closed on 04-04-2017 at 15.00 hrs. and will be opened on 21-04-2017 at 15.30 hrs.

Sl. No.: Tender No: SR/DEEGH/14-15/0001, Name of work: GHY-Provision of 110 V.D.C mobile laptop charging points in 88 Sleeper (SCNI) coaches. Tender Value: ₹2,32,000/-, Last Date of Bid: 04/04/2017, Cost of Tender document: ₹3,000/-, Completion period: 04-04-2017, Sl. No.: Tender No: EL/GH/748/14 dt. 04-03-2017, Name of work: AI GHY: Repairing of 8 nos ACCL coaches. Tender Value: ₹1,60,000/-, Last Date of Bid: 04/03/2017, Cost of Tender document: ₹1,000/-, Completion period: 03-04-2017.

Note: (1) The complete information with the tender document of above works will be available on website <http://www.reps.gov.in>. The tenderer required to submit his tender on this website. (2) The tenderer shall not submit his tender in the form of e-tendering shall not be accepted against above e-tender. (3) The tenderer and contractors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class, Digital signature and PAN number. (4) The tender entered into rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rate in any other format will not be accepted. (5) Letter or attached with tender letter or attached by tenderers shall not be considered. (6) Documents which are not signed by the tenderer and contractors shall not be accepted. (7) All the tenderers/contractors are advised to make payment for the cost of tender document and cost of tender document for instant tender in the form of ONLINE payment mode only available on IREPS portal, i.e. net banking, mobile banking, ATM, Manual payments through Demand Draft, Bankers cheque, Deposit receipt, etc. will not be acceptable. (8) Payment of earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) required of tenderer to be made before declaration of tender. (9) Tender will be declared as holiday, the tender will be opened on the next working day. Name of tender: SR/DEEGH/14-15/0001. In case of any difficulty, all the tenderers/contractors are requested to contact help desk available on website of IREPS.

Sl. No.: Tender No: EL/GH/749/14 dt. 04-03-2017, Name of work: AI GHY: Repairing of 8 nos ACCL coaches. Tender Value: ₹1,60,000/-, Last Date of Bid: 04/03/2017, Cost of Tender document: ₹1,000/-, Completion period: 03-04-2017.

Note: (1) The complete information with the tender document of above works will be available on website <http://www.reps.gov.in>. The tenderer required to submit his tender on this website. (2) The tenderer shall not submit his tender in the form of e-tendering shall not be accepted against above e-tender. (3) The tenderer and contractors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class, Digital signature and PAN number. (4) The tender entered into rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rate in any other format will not be accepted. (5) Letter or attached by tenderers shall not be considered. (6) Documents which are not signed by the tenderer and contractors shall not be accepted. (7) All the tenderers/contractors are advised to make payment for the cost of tender document and cost of tender document for instant tender in the form of ONLINE payment mode only available on IREPS portal, i.e. net banking, mobile banking, ATM, Manual payments through Demand Draft, Bankers cheque, Deposit receipt, etc. will not be acceptable. (8) Payment of earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) required of tenderer to be made before declaration of tender. (9) Tender will be declared as holiday, the tender will be opened on the next working day. Name of tender: SR/DEEGH/14-15/0001. In case of any difficulty, all the tenderers/contractors are requested to contact help desk available on website of IREPS.

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Seminar on technology and youth

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 19: The School of Distance Education under the Assam Down Town University (ADTU) is organising a two-day national seminar on "Technology, youth and career: A paradigm shift" at the university campus here on March 24 and 25.

Dr Bharat Bhushan, former Director of UGC-DEB and Deputy Director of Research Unit of IGNOU, New Delhi, will be the keynote speaker, said a statement.

Four sessions on the themes including 'Tools in modern education system,' 'Career and academic challenges,' 'Recent advancement in technology' and 'New trends in education for youth' will be conducted by Prof Anjan Kakoti Mahanta, HoD, Computer Science, Guwahati University; Prof Manohar Lal, former Director of School of Computer and Information Sciences of IGNOU, New Delhi; Dr BG Ummi, Director Research of ADTU, and Rajlakshmi Borthakur, CEO of Terra Blue XT of Electronic City, Bangalore, respectively.



Actress Chetana Das (left) and others performing Bihu dance with young participants at a workshop organised by Sanskritik Mancha at Shiligram in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

Dist admin bid to preserve city's scenic heritage

STAFF REPORTER



GUWAHATI, March 19: The Kamrup Metro district administration will form a society to identify and preserve unidentified cultural or historical landscape in the city.

The committee will also identify historically significant monuments and antique items within the Greater Guwahati region.

"Greater Guwahati is dotted with a good number of historical sites, monuments of religious and cultural significance, heritage landscape, items of unique value and historical importance, among others. But unfortunately, no systematic scientific attempt has been made to identify and preserve it. A good number of archaic items are either being ig-

nored or not preserved properly," said Dr M Angamuthu, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro.

He said a significant number of such structures are in the Greater Guwahati region and they need to be listed and registered.

"The district administration also intends to form a Registry to list all the structures. The society will also undertake various heritage-related capacity building programmes for the residents, schoolchildren, and others. The administration intends to involve various stakeholders like NGOs, government departments and educational institutions for this exercise. The idea is to make an endeavour to form a committee to preserve, conserve various objects, landscapes or artifacts of historical significance," said Dr Angamuthu.

Veterinary College alumni meet held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 19: The third meet of the Veterinary College Alumni Association (VCAA) was held at the College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara here on Saturday.

The meet was started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Dr KM Biju Baruah, Vice Chancellor of AAU. Dr Biju Baruah, working president of the Association, delivered the welcome address.

Four alumni of the college – Dr Biju Baruah, Dr Kakoty, former Director, AH & Veterinary, Govt of Manipur, Dr CK Rajkhowa, former Associate Dean, Lakhimpur College

of Veterinary Science, Dr BR Halder, former Director, Institute of Farm Management, Ranji, and Dr AH Ahmed, former Deputy Director of AH & Veterinary Dept, Govt of Assam – were felicitated for their outstanding contribution during their service lives.

At the inaugural function, Pallabita Goswami was awarded with the Dr Biju Baruah Chaudhury award for securing the highest marks in Veterinary Pathology, while Nahanita Ganguly received the Purana Chaudhury memorial award for securing the highest marks in Veterinary Pathology. They were given certificates and cash.

Biju Baruah, in his address as the chief guest, urged the

veterinarians to accept the challenge before them and contribute to the State's welfare.

Stating that 13 lakh and 45 lakh eggs are imported to Assam and the Northeast as a whole on a daily basis, Biju Baruah said that a large amount of money was being pumped out of the region in that manner.

Dr AK Chakraborty, DR (Veterinary), also addressed the inaugural session and gave a detailed account of the scenario concerning livestock in the State. He appraised the house that Assam's local pig was now recognised as a breed and initiatives had already been taken to recognise Assam local cattle as 'Lakhami.'

At the inaugural session, Dr

Mrijan Sarma, Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Govt of Assam, gave a detailed account of the projects being implemented in the State under the Department for Public welfare.

Dr Rabindra Nath Goswami, Dean, College of Veterinary Science and president of the VACC, thanked the gathering for their active participation in the meet and also called upon the alumni to offer their valuable suggestions for overall development of the college.

On the occasion, a seminar was also organised with the topic 'Application of bio-technology for improving livestock productivity in the region.'

Park needs a facelift

The Lakshminath Baruah Udyan, inaugurated in 2012, is part of beautification plan, adjacent to the Assam Secretariat, is left without any maintenance since then. The small park is very well-designed for citizens. Besides various trees identified with name, aquatic ducks and pure white swans also swim merrily in the pond. A few park benches are made for senior citizens. A cable bridge for children is connected across the circular path. Walkers love to hear the music coming from the hidden stone. Even youngsters are attracted to its small gym. But, it needs urgent facelift for its survival. The stinking washroom and the polluted pond make things terrible for joggers. The department concerned should take urgent steps to give the park a facelift.

— Kamal Baruah,
Rukminiagaon, Guwahati

Road condition

The road from Lokhra Charali to Battalion Gate near Dhempara (near Police Headquarters) is in pathetic condition and most of the portions of this six-km road are

– Devaraj Dey,
Kahilipara, Guwahati

Blocked footpath

It is practically impossible to walk freely on the road segment between the Chandram point and the Govt Press. Between 100 and 150 feet, the most portion of the footpath is occupied by two-wheeler repairing shop, food stall and paan shop, particularly near the PHE office. Every other day new vendors are coming up in one corner of the footpath or another. Can the authority concerned relocate these stalls, so that people can walk freely?

— P Bhattacharya,
Bamunimaidam,
Guwahati

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Railway passengers' body rues Govt 'lack of concern'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 19: Assam Rail Passengers' Association (ARPA) has criticised the State Government over the latter's alleged failure to pressure the Centre over various railway-related issues, including doubling of tracks and upgrading of rail infrastructure in Assam.

Dipankar Sharma, secretary of ARPA, said the Sarbananda Sonowal-led State Government has, just like the previous Congress regime at Dispur, failed to take up railway related issues with the Union Government.

"Similar steps have been taken by governments in some other states, including by the Kerala government very recently. There is a lot of potential for joint ventures between the Railway Ministry and the State Government," Sharma said.

He said that with the Lok Sabha MP from Nagaon Rajen Gohain serving as the Minister of State for Railways, Assam and the entire Northeastern region

have been lots of announcements regarding new projects in recent months, nothing much has moved on the ground. With regard to many of the new projects announced, there is no clarity regarding funds. This is unfortunate. Without proper follow-up action, nothing will change on the ground," Sharma said.

ARPA has also expressed concern about recent news reports that the proposal to turn Agyathuri into a world class terminal may not happen due to encroachment of railway land by squatters.

"If that is really the case, it will be a big setback as far as efforts to upgrade railway infrastructure in Assam are concerned. Already, there is too much congestion in the Agyathuri-Kamakhya section and a major terminal at Agyathuri is the need of

the hour," Sharma said. He said ARPA is planning to raise the issue of Agyathuri terminal at the next meeting of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee, which is expected to be held next month.

"If there is really encroachment on railway land, then NF Railway should immediately take up the matter with the State Government and the government should initiate steps to remove the squatters," Sharma said.

ARPA has also called upon the NF Railway to reschedule the timing of some local trains for the convenience of commuters and said that some of the trains depart around 4 am or 4.30 am from their stations of origin and this causes a lot of trouble to passengers.

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

If your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough.

— LOWELL LUNDSTRUM

The Assam Tribune

Pay revision

In a welcome exercise, the State Cabinet has cleared the decks for revised pay scale for government employees of all grades, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the employees. Similarly, there will also be a corresponding increase in pension. The benefits will come with retrospective effect from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, and the first six-month arrear amounting to Rs 1,500 crore is to be released before the ensuing Rongali Bihu festival, i.e., before April 14, while the next instalment is to be released by this year-end. This is the first time that the recommendations of a pay commission have been implemented on time, and as such the State Government deserves credit for the sincerity it has shown. As for pension, the pensioners aged between 60 and 80 years have been put in one slab, while those exceeding 80 years have been entitled to an additional amount equivalent to 20% of the basic pay. It has also done well to constitute a committee for addressing the entire gamut of grievances of the employees concerning pay and perks, especially those that are likely to arise in the wake of the implementation of the seventh pay panel. The increase in salary will entail an additional annual burden of Rs 3,100 crore on the State exchequer which would increase progressively every year due to the increase in DA. The State Government must plug the loopholes in its revenue generation so that developmental activities do not suffer on account of the salary hike.

The pay hike for the government employees could not have come at a better time. Escalating prices of essential commodities, particularly foodstuff, have hit the salaried class hard. With enhanced remuneration now assured for the employees, the beneficiaries too are under an obligation to put in a matching effort towards an honest and professional discharge of their duties. Rights and responsibilities are two sides of the same coin and it is absurd to think of one without the other. Our State government employees have not exactly earned a reputation in the all-important matter of discharge of their responsibilities. Indeed, anyone even remotely conversant with the ways of government offices will be astounded at the sheer lackadaisical attitude of a large segment of employees in performing even their routine works. The onus, therefore, is on the employees to usher in a vibrant work culture and check corrupt practices. Price rise has undoubtedly affected the lower and middle income groups including the salaried class, yet, it must not be forgotten that its impact has been far harsher on the marginal agriculturists, daily wage earners and all those toiling in the unorganized sector. The State Government as well as the Centre would do well to bring in effective interventions for providing some succour to these people, especially in matters such as health care, subsidized food grains, education for children, etc.

A bold move

For an area of its limited size, Assam has the highest number of natural water-bodies in the world. Apart from the mighty Brahmaputra and its numerous tributaries, the State possesses countless number of *beels*, swamps, derelict water-bodies etc., not to mention the numerous man-made reservoirs. This surfeit of water-bodies had ensured that this State was once not only renowned for the abundance of fish, but also a variety not to be found elsewhere. Today, thanks mainly to bureaucratic apathy, the production of indigenous fish has declined to just 2.94 lakh tonnes annually against a demand of 3.36 lakhs, the shortfall having to be imported from outside. Added to that is the sad truth that many piscine species have vanished from our rivers and *beels*, perhaps either becoming extinct or dangerously close to being so. Clearly the State Department of Fisheries has not been doing a proper job of it, neither embarking on fish breeding in a planned manner nor giving sufficient impetus to local entrepreneurs to increase their production. It is in this context that the decision of the State Government to hand over the administrative control of all natural water-bodies in the State to the Department of Fisheries from the Revenue Department is a bold move. The objective is to enlarge the area in which fish culture is practised, which in turn is expected to boost production.

However, there are two facets to the step that need to be addressed. First is the undeniable reality that in Assam traditionally most water-bodies have been considered to be public property and community fishing during festivals is a commonplace occurrence. A strategy, therefore, has to be adopted to mitigate any conflict which might occur with the indigenous populace nearby due to the Fishery Department taking over natural water-bodies – in the past such conflicts are known to have occurred. The second aspect is that the Fishery Department in the past has not shown sufficient initiative to boost production through use of scientific techniques which accounts for the shortfall. Thus the approach of the Department will have to significantly change. Reportedly, its director has ambitious plans for a five-fold increase in production in *beels* and derelict water-bodies. Currently, according to the Department's estimates, the average production in Assam is 300 kg per hectare per year in *beels* and 250 kg in case of derelict water-bodies. The Department plans to raise the production to 1,500 kg annually in *beels* and 3,000 kg in derelict water-bodies. Given its performance in the past, there will have to be a complete transformation in the work culture as well as adoption of scientific piscine cultivation if such a target is actually to be reached. It is all very well to announce enhanced targets but achieving them is a different kettle of fish altogether!

NE needs highways, not airports

■ Dr Francis Fernandez

The grandiose plan to bring the people of the North-east nearer to each other by establishing more and more airports within the region is a regular announcement by the Civil Aviation Ministry, reported in all the regional newspapers. Aside from the glorious boast of having a number of airports throughout the length and breadth of this region, there seems to have been no thought about the worth of such a plan, particularly in view of the conditions of the existing airports in the region.

These existing airports can be categorized into Group 1 (Guwahati, Agartala and Imphal), Group 2 (Dibrugarh, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Aizawl) and Group 3 (Tezpur, Shillong, Jorhat and North Lakhimpur).

There are other airports such as Baljek (Garo Hills) which have registered only a single flight at its inauguration in 2008, and not a single flight since then.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 12.52 crore, and inaugurated in 2008, the Baljek airport in the Garo Hills, Meghalaya, has not taken off at all. The 19-seater Dornier aircraft carrying the then President of India Pratibha Patil for its inauguration was the only plane to land at Baljek in the last eight years.

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12.52 crore, and inaugurated in 2008, the Baljek airport in the Garo Hills, Meghalaya, has not taken off at all. The 19-seater Dornier aircraft carrying the then President of India Pratibha Patil for its inauguration was the only plane to land at Baljek in the last eight years.

tions from Dibrugarh to Guwahati and comfortable road connections from Tezpur, Tura and Shillong to Guwahati are the factors that motivate airlines passengers to choose to fly from Guwahati, rather than the airports in their own cities which offer them very limited choices of flights and destinations. Nonetheless, everyone would benefit if the airports at Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur were to have more flights and to other destinations. Besides being

more convenient, they are also lighter on the pockets.

Financial viability, in terms of passengers served per year, has to be the primary criterion that should guide a discussion and decision about the setting up of airports.

Convenience has become the silent watchword of the people. Whether it be fast food or the plastic bag, credit cards or digital money, convenience is what the people look for. Convenient train connec-

tion, the present set of railway stations along the same route can be reached from the main road only by private transport or by hired vehicles, which doubles the journey expense. This line has only served to put Meghalaya on the railway map of India, without bringing about much benefit to the people.

Similarly too, the airlines' primary concern will be financial viability and profit, both of which are not offered by the airports belonging to the third group as mentioned above, both in terms of passengers as also in terms of the destinations they might wish to fly to. The state-owned Air India has, therefore, the unenviable burden of including these non-profitable destinations in their itinerary, thus adding to the heavy debt balance which Air India finds itself in.

In this connection, the government also needs to rethink its policy of railheads in all the States of North-east India. Taking the case of the railhead at Mendipathar in the Garo Hills, Meghalaya, it will prove to us the lack of utility of the colossal waste of the national exchequer.

With a well-maintained national highway that runs from Guwahati to Golparia, the people of Mendipathar are able to reach Guwahati within 3.5 hours, at any time of the day; instead, if they were to take the only train from Mendipathar to Guwahati in the early morning and the return train in the evening, they are first of all restricted to a single timing in one direction, and that too taking a longer period of time than transport by road; be-

Intolerance or an eyewash?

■ Rashmi Baruah

A few days ago, Twitter erupted with messages of support for the talented young singer Nafid Afrin, after a so-called 'fatwa' was reportedly issued by a group of 46 Muslim clerics in Assam. At the forefront was Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who tweeted: "Freedom of artists are essence of democracy. Spoke to Nafid and reiterated our Govt's commitment to provide safety and security to artists." After getting fatwa from 46 mullahs in Assam, 16-year-old Nafid Afrin said she'll never leave singing. Bravo girl!" twitted Taslima Nasreen. Music composer Vishal Dadlani wrote, "Anyone who tells a musician not to make music, doesn't understand anything about spirituality. Shame the people threatening Nafid Afrin."

A leaflet in Assamene, stating that it was a *gharhi* (an appeal), was circulated across Hojai and Nagaon districts, underlining that a musical programme to be held in Lankha on March 25 was 'against the Sharia'. It stated, 'Ifanti-Sharia acts are held on grounds surrounded by masjids, idgahs, madrassas and

graveyards, our future generations will incur the wrath of Allah.' It further goes on to say, "We humbly request you to restrain not only yourself from attending such an event but also encourage others to do the same." Apparently, the ofice-bearers of the Assam State Jainat Ulema and Ulama of the State have signed the appeal. State DPM Mukesh Sahay said that the matter was being investigated from all angles. The individuals whose names featured in the pamphlets have denied their involvement in the act. It could also be some kind of mischief. However, steps have been taken to ensure safety and security of the singer and her family members," he said. A bodyguard from the Police Department has been detailed for Nafid, at least until the show is over.

Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi lost no time in saying that the fundamentalist forces are growing in the State and creating a atmosphere of mistrust and conflict. In a manner of speaking, intolerance levels and distrust amongst different communities seem to be on the rise in our State.

Then there is also the matter of the rising number of news channels and newspapers in the State. Always on the lookout for higher TRPs or greater readership, most of these newer organizations stop at nothing

to promote their so-called 'news'. Nothing more than spreading sensationalism, the raw-behind-their-ears news gatherers would sometimes snoop around unsuspecting young women and film their dresses from behind, record someone misbehaving with a lady instead of going to her rescue, take pictures of girls enjoying a smoke or a drink. These very organizations are the ones who have been beating the drum about an appeal naming it a fatwa. It is true that there was a written appeal to boycott a musical function in Lankha on March 25. It is true that Nafid is supposed to perform at the same event. But nowhere in the leaflets distributed was her or any other artist's names mentioned. So where does the question of a fatwa against her arise?

The secretary of the Assam State Jamiat Ulema, Maulvi Faizul Karim Qasimi, has stated that the appeal was made since in earlier instances, people had got drunk and disturbed the peace and sanctity of the place, which is in close proximity to religious and educational institutes. Though Qasimi says that the notice does not mention Nafid in particular, the singer herself has claimed that a few local clerics had

objected to her participating in the reality singing show which shot her to fame. "They had dissuaded people from voting for me, saying that it was a *gharhi*, as it was against the Sharia," she said. Taking two separate instances from different times and combining them to say something does not result in great journalism. Journalism means reporting the truth, in an unbiased and objective manner. Sensationalism sells, but for a very short period. Once the fact that truth has been tampered with is out, people would stop following or believing in such journalists any more.

Our State Assam has always been known to be a melting pot of various faiths and cultures, languages and beliefs. Peaceful coexistence has been the backbone of the Assamese people, whether they are Ahoms or Bodos, Sikhs or Nepalis, or refugees from China, Bangladesh and erstwhile Burma, whether they are the hill tribes or the people of the plains. Except for sporadic instances, we have always maintained our identity as 'Assamese'. It is time now for all of us to stand as one and say, "We don't distinguish between religion or faith, beliefs or customs. We are Assamese. Let us be."

Promotion of tourism and Manas National Park

Letters

to the
EDITOR

Sir, — The Manas National Park has never been the first choice as the international/domestic tourist destination for obvious reasons. To make it truly a tourist choice, the Government of Assam, BTAD and the Central leadership must put their priorities straight. Simply by spending crores of taxpayers' money for the promotion of tourism in Assam, the Government cannot ignore the fact that the facilities like the access to the National Park, basic amenities, connectivity and well-maintained accommodation are far behind other tourist destinations of Assam. Apart from the pathetic condition of the connecting road, all the facilities in and around the Park belong to some individuals or NGOs.

Being situated on the fringe of the international border, with its diverse flora and fauna, animals and other inhabitants, the importance of the Manas National Park is yet to be understood by the Government, be it State or Central. The present Government has announced several crores of rupees for the development of roads and communication. We feel that the sponsoring authority of boxing competitions

should recommend the name of late Biran Boro for the Dronacharya Award posthumously. Side by side, the Ulubari Boxing Club should be developed into a fully-fledged boxing training centre so that our younger generation can get better training facilities. Yours etc., ARUN KULLU, Kalapara, Baska.

Honouring a coach

Sir, — Shiva Thapa, a two-time Olympian and bronze medalist in the World Championship, has carved out a niche in the history of the development of the art of boxing in India. We feel a sense of pride because he could win in the World Championship in spite of all the odds and the poor training facilities in Assam. Behind the story of his success stands his coach late Biran Boro who initiated Shiva into the boxing ring. As a trainer in the Ulubari Boxing Club in Guwahati, he taught Thapa the basic art of the boxing. It was Boro who infused Thapa with the traits of courage, endurance and confidence in the early years of training in the Ulubari Boxing Club. It is unfortunate that late Boro was not given the due credit in any form. We feel that the sponsoring authority of boxing competitions

Cleanliness

Sir, — Every citizen has the duty to keep the environment he lives in fit for healthy living. For this, the first and foremost task is to maintain cleanliness in all spheres. Many of the citizens expect the government machinery to do this. The involvement of the society at large in this matter is highly essential. We can do it installing dustbins at close intervals along the roadsides; building 'pay and use' toilets at suitable places of roadsides and creating a habit of using less plastic/polythene bags. Yours etc., RC NATH, Six Mile, Guwahati.

A golden heart

Sir, — Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has shown his golden heart by donating Rs 1.08 crore to the families of the CRPF jawans who were martyred while fighting the Maoists in Sukma recently. This gesture by Kumar is not the first of its kind. He donated Rs 9 lakh to the family of the martyred BSF jawan Gurman Singh. He had earlier also donated money to the Maharashtra drought victims. A big salute to Akshay Kumar for his extraordinary humanitarian efforts. He has proved that he is not only a real life hero like many others but a hero in the real life also. Celebrities in our country are seen rarely doing charities.

Hope this kind of gesture of Akshay Kumar will inspire other celebrities also. Yours etc., KISHOR KUMAR KALITA, Kalagona.

BDO exam

Sir, — This is with reference to the notification dated March 8, 2017 published by the APSC regarding the conduct of an entirely new recruitment process of BDO. I had appeared in the interview of the said examination and was waiting for the final result. So, being a genuine candidate, it is distressing and disappointing to me and the other candidates too to face the entire examination process again without any fault as it is total waste of all our efforts and hard work while preparing for the exam. Hence, I also respect the steps taken by new APSC chairman against corruption and malpractices involved in the various recruitment processes. Therefore, I request the APSC and the Government to conduct the BDO examination at least from the written test level. Moreover, there should be no doubt about the screening test as it was conducted in OMR sheets. Yours etc., A CANDIDATE, Guwahati.

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

Stork deaths have no link with Deepor Beel water content, claims Govt

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, March 19: Water of the Deepor Beel is "completely safe for wildlife and fisheries," the State Government has claimed, according to which the unnatural death of the Greater Adjutant Storks in the wetland early this year cannot be linked with the water of the wetland.

It needs mention here that over 20 Greater Adjutant Storks, a highly endangered bird species, were found dead on the eastern fringe of the Deepor Beel since January 22, 2017. There is a police case (30/2017) lodged under Section 447/429 of the IPC read with Section 51(1) of the Wildlife

Protection Act, 1972, lodged by the Circle Officer of the Azara Revenue Circle in this connection. RTI-cum-environment activist Rohit Choudhury had brought the incident to the notice of the Eastern Zone (EZ) Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a case (Original Application No.19/2014/EZ).

It is generally believed here that the Boragaon municipal solid waste (MSW) dumping ground of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) is responsible for this environmental tragedy.

In its affidavit before the EZ Bench of the NGT, the State Government said the fact that the water of the world famous wetland



is completely safe for wildlife and fisheries has been proved by January 24, 2017 report of the Pollution Control Board and January 25,

2017 report of the District Fishery Division Officer, Kamrup. Hence, the death of Greater Adjutant Storks cannot be attributed

or linked with the water content of Deepor Beel," the affidavit stated.

The State Government further said in its affidavit that the post-mortem report carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society on the carcasses of the Greater Adjutant Storks states that causes of the death are found to be - "Ulcereative enteritis and septicemia with severe parasitic infection."

The January 27, 2017 enquiry report of the Circle Officer, Azara Revenue Circle, also suggests that the death of the Greater Adjutant Storks "cannot be attributed or linked with the water

contents of Deepor Beel," the affidavit stated.

It said that the MSW dumping ground of the GMC was set up in 2006 and all necessary formalities under the prevailing law in force at the relevant point of time were duly complied with, and therefore, there has been no violation of any provision of any prevailing laws.

The GMC has already involved an expert team of the IIT Kharagpur for a solid waste management project at Boragaon and this team suggested various methods of waste disposal, which will have no adverse impact on the Deepor Beel as well as on the ecology of the area, stated the affidavit.

Poet Sananta Tanti presented Padmanath literary award

STAFF REPORTER

rials Shyamashis Bhattacharya.

A souvenir published on the occasion by the foundation, was released by Assamese writer Nirupama Borgohain. Borgohain thanked the foundation for giving awards to an Assamese poet and a Bengal poet together and said that this was a positive gesture in bringing the two communities closer.

Poet Sananta Tanti expressed gratitude and happiness for receiving the award given in the name of famous Pandit Padmanath. The Ramnath Biswas literary award recipient poet Udayan Ghosh offered thanks to the foundation authorities for their contribution in the fields of literature and culture.

The Padmanath memorial lecture on 'Evolution of Assamese prose' was delivered by renowned Assamese writer and a former president of Assam Sahitya Akademi Nagen Saikia. In his Ramnath memorial lecture, Tarun Mukhopadhyay of Kultata dwelt on Bengali prosaic verse.

The programme ended with an orchestra with dance based on folk and traditional

al music fusion with Indian classical music directed by Purabi Kaloty Sharma.

It may be recalled that both Padmanath (1868-1938) and Ramnath (1894-1955), in whose names the two awards are given, were born in Baniachang under Habiganj subdivision in the Sylhet district of undivided Assam. While Padmanath had a bright educational career, who spent major parts of his life as a professor in the Cotton College, Guwahati, and was historically associated with literature and was also one of the founder members of Assam Sahitya Sabha.

On the other hand, Ramnath had participated in the Indian freedom struggle as a member of the famous Anushilan Samiti and later travelled four continents of the world on a number of journeys with bicycle, which earned him the title of 'Bhuparjata' (globe-trotter).

The other hand, Ramnath had participated in the Indian freedom struggle as a member of the famous Anushilan Samiti and later travelled four continents of the world on a number of journeys with bicycle, which earned him the title of 'Bhuparjata' (globe-trotter).



Anjan Jyoti Choudhury along with singers Apurba Barbaruah and Sangeeta Kakati presenting Prerna Award to singer Nahid Afrin during an award distribution programme, in Guwahati on Sunday - UB Photos

BBCI, Kochi institute sign MoU for research

STAFF REPORTER

the institutes will participate in exchange teaching and training programmes.

Faculties from AIMs, Kochi, will participate in clinical and academic programmes at BBCI at four to six-month intervals. Faculties from BBCI will also get an opportunity for training at AIMs, Kochi.

The MoU is expected to contribute to capacity development in the field of oncology and improve the standard of care in this part of the country.

It is also expected that AIMs and BBCI can be mutually supportive for capacity development in various fields of oncology, clinical and academic collaboration and advancement of research projects for the benefit of the people of the country in general and the Northeast

region in particular.

According to experts, Kerela has the best healthcare delivery system in the country at present.

The incidence of cancer in Assam as per the Population Based Cancer Registry of ICMR is the fourth highest in the country.

Cancer of the oesophagus, hypopharynx, gall bladder, prostate and ovary is very common in Assam, whereas cancer of the lung, thyroid and breast is more common in Kerala.

BCCI is a recognised institute for cancer treatment, education and research, and experts hope that the MoU can act as a platform for broad-based collaboration in oncology between AIMs and BBCI.

More than 10,000 new cancer patients and approximately 80,000 old cancer patients visit the institute every year.

With extensive facilities

which Dr Stuti Deka, Department of Law, Gauhati University, laid stress on human rights and awareness about these rights among the people. Referring to the condition of human rights from the international to the Indian and local levels, Prof Rajkhowa laid emphasis on the protection of human rights.

The second session started at 2 pm in

which Dr Subarni Rajkhowa of the Department of Law, Gauhati University, in his speech, focused on human rights and awareness about these rights among the people. Referring to the condition of human rights from the international to the Indian and local levels, Prof Rajkhowa laid emphasis on the protection of human rights.

The programme ended at 4 pm with the vote of thanks to the dignitaries and audience given by the coordinators, Panjai Kumar Kalita and Rashmi Rekha Hazarika.

GUWAHATI, March 19: Beltaola College of Guwahati organised a seminar on human rights at its campus recently, stated a press release. All the faculty members of the college and a host of students participated in the programme.

The first session of the programme started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp at 10 am by principal Dr Ajit Borkotoky.

The second session started at 2 pm in

NESSIA submits suggestions to NITI Aayog team

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI: March 19: The North Eastern Small Scale Industries Association (NESSIA) has submitted its memorandum of suggestions to the NITI Aayog delegation for extension of NEIIPP-2007 for another 10 years.

It interacted with the delegation during the stakeholders' meeting that included representatives from the North East States and industry bodies, which was held recently in the city.

NESSIA State president and general secretary Sailesh Baruah and Kumud Medhi, respectively, while thanking the NITI Aayog team headed by its CEO Amitabh Kant for the initiative of the Centre for the development of North Eastern

States and industry bodies, which was held recently in the city.

NESSIA emphasised that

subsidy to the industries should be linked to employment of the indigenous local people.

"Provision of employment is

a must as per assurance of the

State government and needs

to be included in the policy so

that no incentive under the

policy is allowed to be claimed

unless the employment criteria

are fulfilled by the unit.

A further call for special incentives for revival of sick/

NEIIPP micro sector industries.

NESSIA also emphasised on

development of tourism, hos-

tility, food processing and

agro-based industries in rural areas under the micro and SSI

sectors.

growth of micro sector industries to create maximum employment opportunities, especially for rural youths.

"In Assam, 23 lakh people are unemployed. It is not possible to cater to the employment needs of all the unemployed, but this problem can be resolved by setting up industries. The existing NEIIPP-2007 is not attracting micro sector industries as it was mainly for the big industries, whereas micro and SSI sectors are the largest employers," Baruah said.

NESSIA emphasised that subsidy to the industries should be linked to employment of the indigenous local people. "Provision of employment is a must as per assurance of the State government and needs to be included in the policy so that no incentive under the policy is allowed to be claimed unless the employment criteria are fulfilled by the unit. A further call for special incentives for revival of sick/ NEIIPP micro sector industries.

NESSIA also emphasised on development of tourism, hospitality, food processing and agro-based industries in rural areas under the micro and SSI sectors.

Steps to ensure better ...

(Contd from page 1)

for conducting quality control tests of PWD works, but the system was not effective. "To ensure a better quality control mechanism, we are now contemplating on making a team with good retired engineers. I have already spoken to the Chief Minister about it. We are planning to engage the team and pay them an honorarium for the service," he said.

The minister also informed that the PWD has now incorporated a condition in the tender document mandating the contractor to ensure maintenance of the constructed road for a period of one year after completion of the work. Such a provision is already there in case of the PMGSY roads.

Suklabaidya said he is also planning to personally visit some districts this season and inspect the quality of work. The process of tender will be made online up to the division level to prevent irregularities in the exercise, he added.

Yogi Adityanath ...

(Contd from page 1)

motive is development. When UP develops, India develops. We want to serve UP's youth & create opportunities for them..."

Ongoing Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and his father and Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav also attended the function.

The swearing-in ceremony was the culmination of a seven-phase Assembly election spread over two months in the most populous State, which gave BJP a landslide victory in the 403-member Assembly. The BJP and its allies won 325

seats. Adityanath, who lacks administrative experience, was unanimously elected yesterday as the BJP legislature party leader at a meeting of the newly-elected MLAs, a move that took many by surprise.

Soon after he was sworn in, Adityanath assumed charge in the newly-constructed Lok Bhawan.

The elevation of Adityanath, who has had a chequered rapport with the BJP leadership, has left many puzzled, with political circles abuzz with talk of the RSS having prevailed over the party in deciding the Chief Minister.

However, RSS joint general secretary V Bhaijan told reporters in Coimbatore that it was a political decision and the RSS had no say in the selection of chief ministers in the BJP-ruled States. - PTI

Over 11 lakh ...

(Contd from page 1)

pose a threat to regional stability. The report further said that the decline in Hindu population in Bangladesh proved that a sizeable number of them migrated to India, while it is believed that a large number of Muslims also migrated to India over the years. It is estimated that about one-fourth of the Bangladeshi nationals, who migrated to India, particularly those who migrated to Assam, were Muslims, the report added.

The CIA pointed out that initially both the governments in India and Bangladesh had shown little interest on the issue of illegal migration. But later India decided to fence the international border to check such illegal migration. The CIA also warned that continuous migration might affect the relation between India and Bangladesh in other key areas, including the flow of water of rivers.

Subodh ...

(Contd from page 1)

Silapather case enjoyed a cordial relationship," the sources stated.

Meanwhile, Director General of Assam Police Mukesh Sahay today said that the police is very close to a breakthrough in the ongoing search operation against Subodh Biswas.

"There is nothing more we can share now. The operation is going on in the right path," the DGP asserted.



(From left) Triniv Barman of Assam, Kiran Loishram of Meghalaya, Soibam Konchan of Manipur Rody H Vanshaliertpui of Mizoram, Kabeli Cholay of Nagaland and Rinky Chakma of Tripura, winners of Northeast fb Colors Femina Miss India 2017 along with fashion designer Jacob Colvin and Nandini Baruah during the Assam auditions, in Guwahati on Sunday. - UB Photos


**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain/thunder showers is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh and light to moderate rain/thunder showers with occasional shower at a few places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Wind speed: Gusts up to 30 kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on March 20.

Temperature
Max (°C) Min (°C)

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	23.2	14.5
Tezpur	23.6	15.0
Silchar	30.7	16.6
Dibr	23.6	16.4
Jorhat	23.9	14.7
N Lakhimpur	24.2	14.5
Shillong	17.5	6.5
Imphal	23.2	11.7
Homerata	25.5	13.8
Aizawl	28.8	6.6
Agartala	31.6	16.7
Kohima	18.6	8.0
Pasighat	24.0	13.6
Cherrapunji	19.7	9.8

Manipur CM confident of winning floor test today

IMPHAL, March 19: The longest-ever economic blockade on Manipur Highways by United Naga Council (UNC) over the creation of new districts in the volatile North-Eastern border State came to an end on the 139th day on Sunday.

"We have decided to lift the blockade from midnight tonight following an understanding reached with us during a tripartite talk in Senapati involving representatives of Centre and State Government here," said UNC general secretary Stephen S Milan on phone from Senapati district headquarters, 60 km north of Imphal.

Manipur has been reeling under an indefinite economic blockade by UNC in protest against the creation of Sadar Hills and Jiribam into full-fledged districts, since November last.

The talk between the representatives of Centre, State and UNC was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Suresh Babu and Commissioner (Home) Radha Kumar

representing Manipur Government, while Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) North East in-charge Syamendra Garg represented Government of India. Former presidents of UNC Paul Leo Samson Remee and Lohri Adani, UNC general secretary S Milan, ANSAM president Shatsang and Naga Women Union president LM Tabitha also attended the talk.

As per the understanding,

Manipur Government will unconditionally release the arrested UNC president Gaidon

Kamei and its publicity secretary Stephen besides closing all the cases against Naga tribals leaders and student leaders in connection with the blockade. UNC will also lift the blockade with immediate effect to create conducive environment for the democratic process of consultation and dialogue, sources said. At the same time, the State Government agrees to start consultation with all the stakeholders to redress the issues. "The next tripartite talks will be held within a month at political level," it added.

State mourning for Arunachal ex-Minister

ITANAGAR, March 19: Arunachal Pradesh Governor P B Acharya has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcoming his 'New India' vision.

He said that along with rest of

the country the people of Arunachal are very inspired by his vision of 'New India'.

Acharya said that providing opportunities to the poor and reducing the burden of middle class to enable them to exert their potential and aspiration will be the foundation of the New India. The Governor further said that the vision of 'New India' with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' will definitely reinforce

We, the people of this stra-

Sale of fish in Tripura border haat under Dhaka's consideration
CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, March 19: Sale of delicious fishes in Kamalasagar-Tarapur border haat of Tripura is under consideration of Bangladesh government, said Addl DM of Brahmbari district of Bangladesh Dr Mahammed Saharul Alam.

In view of the persistent demand by Indian side, a proposal of selling fish in Kamalasagar-Tarapur border haat was sent to Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Government for approval. "If the government approves the plan, then Bangladeshi fish will be allowed to be sold in border haat. We want the trade must

be a win-win situation for both sides", he said after a meeting with his Indian counterpart Addl DM (Sehipahala) Manik Lal Das on Saturday.

There has been growing demand for making Bangladeshi fish available at the border haat keeping in mind the increasing demand for this item. Although the trade has been showing an upward trend in Kamalasagar-Tarapur border haat, Bangladeshi vendors are not finding it profitable because of the low demand of goods.

No decision was taken in the meeting for a change in the market day. "It was decided in the meeting that market which is now on Sunday will be allowed to be sold in border haat. We want the trade must

continue as the Bangladeshi side sought time to consider the matter", said an official.

The Indo-Bangla Joint Border Management Committee meeting held at Kamalasagar BOP on Saturday decided that security personnel will not be allowed to enter into the border haat with arms henceforth.

At present, two border haats are doing very well, while two more border haats are in the pipeline at Raghina in North district and Dhalaihat in Dhalai district of Tripura. The exports to Bangladesh stood at Rs 358 crore during 2014-15 FY, while Tripura's imports from to the neighbouring country has risen to Rs 357 crore.

State mourning for Arunachal ex-Minister

ITANAGAR, March 19: Arunachal Pradesh Government has declared one-day State mourning on March 20 in view of the death of former Deputy Minister Ngirang Tazap.

During the period of State mourning, the national flag will be flown at half-mast in all government establishments throughout Arunachal Pradesh and the State Government offices outside as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

Tazap, former Deputy Minister of PWBD & RWD in George Apang Ministry from 1990-95, breathed his last at International Hospital in Guwahati on Saturday after prolonged illness. He was 58. Governor PB Acharya and Chief Minister Pema Khandu have condoled the demise of the veteran politician and former Deputy Minister. — Correspondent

Sec 144 imposed near Meghalaya Assembly

SHILLONG, March 19: East Khasi Hills district administration has promulgated an order under Section 144 CrPC prohibiting assembly of five or more persons within a radius of 500 metres of the State Assembly at Riblong here.

Similar restrictions have been put in place within a radius of 100 metres of Main and Additional Secretariat. The order was imposed as there is likelihood that groups may organise demonstrations near the Meghalaya Assembly during the Budget Session. — Staff Correspondent

Lack of NPR, NRC hampering verification of citizenship: Sangma

SHILLONG, March 19: Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma on Friday said absence of the National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) makes it difficult to verify as to who is an Indian citizen and who is not.

"We talked about dealing with illegal immigration of foreigners in a country having 125 crore population but irony is we are yet to even have the NRC," Sangma told the Assembly.

In a supplementary reply, the Chief Minister said that in the absence of NPR and NRC, it becomes difficult on how to legally verify as to "who is an Indian citizen and who is not."

He also said that the whole exercise of the amendment was to pave way for Hindus persecuted outside to get rehabilitated in India. Basaiawmoit said there is a lot of protest because the local indigenous population will be threatened.

Prior to NRC, Sangma said we need to have NPR, which

enables to have proper record

of Indian nationals as it also provides us classification of different categories of the people.

The CM, however, lamented that this could not be taken up because of the apprehensions expressed from different quarters, adding due to this the State is not able to arrive at a collective decision in completing the NRP.

Stating there is complete clarity on the part of the State Government, he said, "We are moving with utmost caution and commitment and therefore we will need to further discuss and engage on the approach." — PTI



A large quantity of ganja was seized by police at Bara Bazar in Shillong on Sunday. — UB Photos

Former Mizoram CM Zoramthanga turns over a new leaf

AIZAWL, March 19: He had made a transition from a rebel leader to an elegant Chief Minister of Mizoram. Now, Zoramthanga has proven that he is a good writer too.

Zoramthanga's first published book "Mizo Hmam Movement History (with English subtitle 'History of Mizo Nationalism Movement') has sold out within eight days after it was launched.

"10,000 copies were printed in the first edition, which I think may be the highest number of copies for a single book printed in Mizoram in a single edition. There was no single copy left in the bookstores eight days from the launching of the book," said Zoramthanga. "That was beyond my expectation," he added.

Though the Mizo's independence movement led by the Mizo National Front is termed as "insurgency", Zoramthanga wants it rewritten as "Mizo nationalist movement".

The Colonial writers called the Revolt of 1857 as Sepoy Mutiny. But considering its importance and the involvement of people moved by a nationalist feeling,

modern writers preferred to call it as "The first war of Indian Independence".

Likewise, the term Mizo insurgency movement should be renamed and should be written as Mizo Nationalism movement," Zoramthanga said.

The 226-page book published by himself contains hitherto unknown events and anecdotes about the peace negotiations between Centre and MNE, which began in 1974 with the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) acting as a link and ended with the signing of Mizoram Accord on New Year's eve, 30, 1986.

"This book will be a treasure trove of events of MNF insurgency, many of which are yet to come out the open," said Zoramthanga.

The book recounts an interesting incident of how he and Lalenga (with his wife), both in kurtas-pyjamas, had once given in the RAW a slip by escaping from the Government guesthouse in New Delhi's elite Gulmohar Park when the peace talks

had hit an impasse.

Also narrated in the book is the escape of a group of MNF rebels, including their leader Lalenga, from Rangamati in Chittagong Hill Tracts in the aftermath of the Bangladesh War in December 1971. Though an Indian Air Force chopper gave chase, the rebels managed to escape.

It also recounts the way Lalenga and a few of his cohorts, including Zoramthanga, were furtively put on a Karachi-bound plane from Rangoon by Pakistan's ISI to receive training in commando warfare. The MNF team stayed in an ISI guesthouse.

The meeting between the MNF leaders, Lalenga and Zoramthanga, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, is one of the high points of the narrative.

Zoramthanga said he wrote this book based on his diaries that he maintained for forty years and narratives of Lalenga that he memorised, without any references from any other document or book.



Newma News



Christians attending Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Synod Milngi, at Ummulong, in West Jaintia Hills on Sunday. — UB Photos

Manipur blockade lifted
SOBHAPATI SAMOM

IMPHAL, March 19: The longest-ever economic blockade on Manipur Highways by United Naga Council (UNC) over the creation of new districts in the volatile North-Eastern border State came to an end on the 139th day on Sunday.

"We have decided to lift the blockade from midnight tonight following an understanding reached with us during a tripartite talk in Senapati involving representatives of Centre and State Government

representing Manipur Government, while Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) North East in-charge Syamendra Garg represented Government of India. Former presidents of UNC Paul Leo Samson Remee and Lohri Adani, UNC general secretary S Milan, ANSAM president Shatsang and Naga Women Union president LM Tabitha also attended the talk.

As per the understanding,

Manipur Government will unconditionally release the arrested UNC president Gaidon

Extortionists, spotters arrested in Garo Hills

TURA, March 19: An extortionist, who had been collecting money from businessmen in South West Garo Hills (SWGH) district along with a spotter, who had been assisting him in his criminal activities, were arrested yesterday.

After being brought to Amriti, Tengsrong admitted to demanding money from traders, mainly from Mahendragan, by identifying himself to be the self-styled area commander of Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) using the alias Dilkii and Jambu.

The suspected extortionist identified a spotter, identified as Sulhrab Mai (35). Mai hails from Lukachar village and used to identify and collect tele-

phone numbers of victims and pass them on to Tengsrong on the condition of getting a part of the looted money.

Based on the statement of the arrested Tengsrong, the police apprehended Suhrab.

Interestingly, Tengsrong also had another case pending against him under Tura PS in WGH, Mantu Ch Morin, the other person apprehended by the police, was later let off on a bail bond after police found no complicity of Mantu in the case.

— Correspondent

Arunachal Govt welcomes PM's 'New India' vision
CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, March 19:

Arunachal Pradesh Governor P B Acharya has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcoming his 'New India' vision.

He said that along with rest of

the country the people of Arunachal are very inspired by his vision of 'New India'.

Acharya said that providing

opportunities to the poor and reducing the burden of middle class to enable them to exert their potential and aspiration will be the foundation of the New India. The Governor further said that the vision of New India with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' will definitely reinforce

the spirit of cooperative federalism, which in turn will strengthen the country. It envisages a strong Centre-State relationship and will cement stronger foundation for all round development in every part of the country irrespective of political affiliations.

He also pointed out that the people of the Frontier State are aware of Prime Minister's goodwill gestures towards them, adding that the State is taking initiatives in all the programmes launched by the Central Government with special focus on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jan Dhan Yojana, Digital India and now cashless India.

We, the people of this stra-

Future cops get tips to face recruitment test in Garo Hills
CORRESPONDENT

TURA, March 19: The dis-

trict civil and police adminis-

tration of South West Garo Hills on Saturday made their pitch to empower "future cops" for the upcoming police recruitment

written examination scheduled for March 24-April 1 next.

At least 300 candidates from

the district, who have cleared

the physical endurance test,

were given a day-long drill

where they were given tips,

do's and don'ts and correct ways

of filling up optical mark recog-

nition (OMR) sheets. The can-

didates were also given lessons in

English, Mathematics and

General Knowledge.

For the past two years, stu-

dents from Garo hills have

been successfully appearing for

different examinations with

confidence, as they are

being skilled and equipped

with knowledge.

Last year, 60 candidates from

Garo Hills had qualified for

Indian Army. This year, 17 new

police stations are being estab-

lished in the State and about

1,700 personnel are being re-

cruited in special force — 10 and

the State police.

CAPSULE**SBI-BMB merger**

NEW DELHI, March 19: The government is expected to give final approval to the merger of Bharatya Mahila Bank (BMB) with the country's largest lender SBI within three months. The Cabinet last month approved amalgamation of SBI with its associate of SBI with the parent but the merger of BMB was not considered due to some issues, sources said. – PTI

NTPC

NEW DELHI, March 19: State-run power producer NTPC today said it has commissioned the second unit of 660 MW of Mouda Super Thermal Power Station Stage-II. "We wish to inform that 2nd unit of 660 MW of Mouda Super Thermal Power Station Stage-II (2x660 MW) has been commissioned." NTPC said in a filing to the BSE. – PTI

Vodafone India

MUMBAI, March 19: Telecom service provider Vodafone today said it has partnered with Amazon Prime Video India to enable its users to access large selection of Hollywood, Bollywood, regional movies. USTV shows, kids' programming and global Amazon originals. – PTI

Supertech plan

NSG-V DELHI, March 19: Realty firm Supertech plans to invest about Rs 4,000 crore to develop low-cost homes as it expects demand for affordable housing to rise after getting infrastructure status in the Budget. Supertech has engaged consultants to raise about Rs 1,000 crore through external commercial borrowing to fund... 40,000 affordable homes planned over the next four years, its Chairman R K Arora said. – PTI

Tata Housing

MUMBAI, March 19: With nearly 70 million sq ft of projects under development, realty player Tata Housing Development Company is hoping to reach 100-million mark in FY18, a senior company official said. "We have already delivered around 25 million sqft and nearly 70 million sqft is under various stages of construction..." Tata Housing Head (Mar) Rajeev Dash told PTI.

Anchors

MUMBAI, March 19: Anchor Electricals, a subsidiary of Panasonic Corporation, is aiming to grow its revenue by 20 per cent to Rs 2,600 crore in 2017-18, a company official said. "Next year we want to grow over 20 per cent and are looking at a net revenue of Rs 2,600 crore," Anchor Electricals Director-Sales and Marketing Ashok Gangar told PTI here.

Skiper target

KOLKATA, March 19: Diversified firm Skiper is eyeing a 10 per cent revenue from its PVC pipes business in the next two years as it looks to clock 20 per cent growth in consolidated PAT year-on-year. The Kolkata-based firm is betting big on government initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Smart Cities and other infrastructure projects. – PTI

Cruise policy, circuits to make India global hotspot: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, March 19: A policy is in the works to make India a global destination for cruise shipping and efforts are on to identify such circuits, besides a slew of steps, to boost infrastructure, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

"A high-level task force has been appointed and top global consultants are drawing up blueprint for it," Gadkari, who holds the shipping, road transport and highway portfolios, told PTI.

Five circuits each are being identified for international and domestic cruise services and a report is likely by May this year.

India, with 7,500 km of coastline, has taken steps on war footing to promote cruise tour,

nies," the minister said.

Besides, consultants of international repute have been roped in, he said.

The idea is to put India on the global cruise map both for oceans and rivers, Gadkari said, adding that it comes with a huge job potential. India saw 1.76 lakh cruise passengers in 2016-17, a merely 0.5 per cent of the global pie.

Domestic cruise passengers are estimated to grow to 1.5 million by 2031-32.

Of the 12 major ports, only five – Mumbai, Goa, Cochin, New Mangalore and Chennai – have facilities to berth international cruise ships.

One of the circuits identified so far is "coastal circuit" for development of coastal

tourism infrastructure, an official said.

The government is developing a modern 2 lakh square feet terminal in Mumbai at an estimated cost of Rs 225 crore to make it a landmark destination, which will have infrastructure to accommodate cruise ships with capacity for 4,000 passengers.

The project includes hospitality, retail, shopping, restaurants and will allow foreign visitors during non-cruise seasons.

According to Gadkari, a decision has been taken to have passenger terminals at all major ports to cater to cruise tourists because such tourism is bound to boost the economy. – PTI

Set up index to monitor services sector inflation: House panel to govt

NEW DELHI, March 19:

The inflation data currently fails to capture the ground reality, a Parliamentary panel has said, asking the government to come up with a separate price index for the services sector so as to reflect the rising costs in areas such as healthcare and education.

Although services account for around 60 per cent of the country's economy, they are captured fully neither by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation nor by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which reflects the rate of price rise at retail level.

The Standing Committee on Finance, headed by Congress leader Veerappa Moily, has said that accurate data on services inflation is crucial for understanding relative price movements, particularly since the services sector accounts for over half the GDP," it said in its report tabled in Parliament on Friday.

"The Committee would, therefore, recommend a separate and distinct index namely, Business Service Price Index, which will accurately factor in and reflect the rising costs of different services in the economy, enabling the government to tailor their policy responses accordingly," it added.

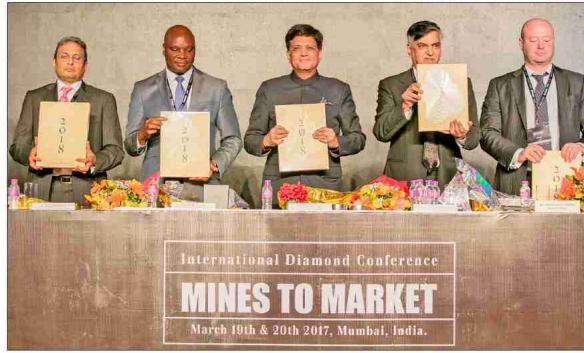
The Reserve Bank, it further said, has shifted its focus from wholesale prices to retail inflation while determining its monetary policy because WPI did not include services in its basket.

However, the rising costs of education, healthcare, entertainment and transportation do not get fully reflected even in CPI, it added.

As per government data, retail inflation rose 3.65 per cent in February, year-on-year,

as food inflation quickened. The rates at the wholesale level also soared to a 39-month high

of 6.55 per cent. – PTI



Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines (Ind Charge) Piyush Goyal releasing the Jewellery Trend Book - 2018, at the 'International Diamond Conference: Mines to Market', in Mumbai on Sunday. – PTI

G20 nations bow to US pressure on free trade endorsement

BERLIN, March 19: The world's biggest economies have dropped a long-standing public endorsement of free trade at their first meeting with US President Donald Trump's administration.

Finance Ministers and central bank Governors from the G-20 group of leading economies, including the US, China, Mexico, Germany and India, held two days of tough talking in the German town of Baden-Baden.

The formal statement issued after the meeting on Saturday contained only a bland reference to "working to strengthen the

This is my first G20, so what was in the past communiqué is not necessarily relevant from my standpoint," Mnuchin said.

Consequently by its absence was the phrase "we will resist all forms of protectionism" that was contained in the communiqué from the last meeting of the group in China in July 2016.

It also did not contain a pledge to finance efforts to combat climate change, Efe news said. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, however, downplayed the content of the statement.

"This is my first G20, so what was in the past communiqué is not necessarily relevant from my standpoint," Mnuchin said.

In a press conference afterward, he described the meeting as extremely productive and stressed that Trump's administration believed in free trade.

However, he added that it was good for the US as long as it was balanced.

He said the US, which since Trump took office, has withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and called for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to be renegotiated, was looking to enter into trade that

were a "win-win" situation for the parties involved.

The Finance Minister of host Germany, Wolfgang Schaeuble, said for his part that the negotiations were very difficult but that a door had been left open for future talks.

He added that the final communiqué contained language that was not very concrete but which reflected the economies' shared commitment to fair trade, as demanded by the US, and rejection of currency manipulation.

Trump has also won G20 members, China and Japan, of currency manipulation. – IANS

BY RAVI CHOWDHARY

Maruti, Tata, Renault gain market share in Apr-Feb

NEW DELHI, March 19: Maruti Suzuki India, Tata Motors and Renault are only the top seven players in the Indian passenger vehicle segment to have gained market share in 11 months of the current fiscal.

Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Honda Cars India and Toyota Kirloskar Motor, all have witnessed fall in market share during the period.

According to the latest data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the

domestic passenger vehicles (PV) segment grew by 9.16 per cent to 27,64,206 units in April-February period, having sold 16,82 per cent with 4,64,948 units in the ongoing fiscal. It had a market share of 17.49 per cent in the year-ago period, having sold 4,43,123 units.

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Jats not marching towards Delhi today

NEW DELHI, March 19: Jats, agitating for quota, today announced that they will not march towards Delhi tomorrow as planned, a decision that came as a relief to the national capital which was bracing for trouble.

The leader of the jat agitation, after a four-hour meeting with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar here, said the demands of the community had been met and therefore the stir will end. Two Union Ministers Birender Singh and PP Chaudhary both jats themselves, were also present during the deliberations.

After the announcement, the authorities in Delhi, which was on ten-day curfew, eased restrictions which were proposed to be put in the capital tomorrow. Delhi Metro said its services will now run normally except for curbs on exit at certain stations close to Parliament.

However, there was violence in Patakhedi in Haryana today when jat agitators were stopped by police from moving towards Delhi.

At least 35 people, including an SP, a DSP and 16 other policemen, were injured in the clashes. Khattar, while addressing a press conference after the truce deal, promised 'full justice' to the jats described their demands as "genuine".

RSS to debate rising Jihadi attacks in West Bengal

COIMBATORE, March 19: The RSS today accused the West Bengal government of remaining a mute spectator to attacks unleashed by Islamic fundamentalists in the state and appealing to the 'jihads'.

RSS Joint General Secretary Bhagiai said the Akhila Bharati Pratinidhi Sabha (National Executive Council) of RSS will debate the issue of alleged "terror being unleashed" by Islamic fundamentalists in West Bengal for the last three years.

After debating the issue during the three-day RSS meet here, a resolution will be adopted and sent to the Centre to take steps to prevent 'jihadi' attacks on society and to pressure the West Bengal Government to rein in the fundamentalists, Bhagiai told reporters here.

Alleging that the Trinamool Congress Government was not taking any action and remaining a mute spectator to the attacks, Bhagiai said. - PTI

India should focus on development of villages: Dalai

DEWAS (MP), March 19: India should focus on development of villages to ensure prosperity, the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said today.

"India's prosperity depends on the development of villages instead of developing big cities. So, the journey of development should start from rural areas of the country," the Dalai Lama told a gathering at Tural village of Dewas district in Madhya Pradesh.

He was here to participate in the ongoing 'Namami Devi Narmada-Sewa Yatra,' which is aimed at conserving Narmada river. "India is predominantly an agriculture-based economy and rural India must be transformed for the country's development."

"The focus should be on developing basic facilities like health and education in rural areas. All the basic requirements of the people should be made available in the villages. India will transform only through the rural transformation," the Dalai Lama said.

The Tibetan spiritual leader also stressed the need for greater participation of women in different fields.

"The women are more sensitive and full of compassion. Their enhanced participation will make the world a better place as they can ensure promoting deeper human values," he said.

While lauding the river conservation campaign launched by MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who also participated in the programme, the Dalai Lama said the people should think holistically as far as global warming was concerned.

"The environment has been changing across the world. Our approach should be holistic. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been making efforts for conservation of river Narmada. People should actively participate in such campaigns to make them successful," he said.

The Tibetan spiritual leader said, "Our ancestors were living here on the earth. Our future generation will live here. We need to save water, carry out plantations." He said the people across the world have been facing problems due to racism and apartheid.

"We need to be united against the discrimination and atrocities. The racism and apartheid are behind most of the social problems across the world. Every person in the world wants to live in peace and happiness," he added.

The Dalai Lama said the basic needs of all seven billion people of the world like water and food were same despite the technology revolution. - PTI

'Bachelor CMs' club gets a new entrant

NEW DELHI, March 19: The club of bachelor chief ministers in the country has just expanded.

Priest-turned politician Yogi Adityanath, 44, who was today sworn in as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, now joins Trivendra Singh Rawat, 56, (Uttarakhand), ML Khattar, 62, (Haryana), Sanbananda Sonowal, 54, (Assam) and 70-year-old BDP chief Naveen Patnaik (Odisha) in the league of singletons running state governments.

Adityanath is also the first male bachelor chief minister of the country's most populous state.

And by coincidence barring Patnaik and 62-year-old CPI supremo Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), all the chief ministers, who are unencumbered by a family, are from the BJP.

Rawat was sworn in yesterday and like Khattar is a former RSS pracharak.

Refusing to accept defeat after numerous failures in her quest to dethrone Left front in West Bengal, Mamata, a spinster, rose like a phoenix and finally succeeded in unseating the Left Front government in 2011.

She is currently serving her second term.

The firebrand TMC leader often claimed in her public meetings that she has dedicated her entire life to the people of West Bengal and has no time for thinking about herself.

Among the current crop of top politicians, Rahul Gandhi, 46, the son of the Congress party, BSP chief Mayawati, 61, and senior BJP leader Uma Bharti, 57, are unmarried.

Singhodee can even become an article of pride for politicians. "I'm of low caste, I'm unmarried, and I'm yours," Mayawati has often proclaimed in her election rallies.

Naveen Patnaik, who is ruling Odisha since 2000, is also known for telling his electorate that unlike the Congress family, there is no danger of his government indulging in family rule as he himself is unmarried and has no family.

Rahul Gandhi when asked about his singhodee ahead of 2014 Lok Sabha polls had replied, "Right now I am engaged in fighting the elections. Unfortunately, I have not been focused on private life."

"It is two years from now, one year from now?" he was asked. "When I find the right girl," Gandhi

responded. "That means you have not found the right girl?" the reporter asked. "When I find the right girl," Gandhi said again, "I will get married."

Among the other chief ministers, Nitish Kumar in Bihar and Manohar Parrikar in Goa, are widowers. Like many RSS activists, Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of the ideological fountainehead of the BJP, decided against tying the knot.

Arvind Singh Patnaik, a BJP stalwart, never married. He used to undermine his bachelor status in public meetings saying that since he has no family, there is no question of nepotism or family rule. He became the Prime Minister of the country thrice.

Undoubtedly the most notable among all unmarried public figures was Dr APJ Abdul Kalam – a scientist who served as the country's 11th President. He died at the age of 83 in 2015.

Best known as the 'Missile Man of India', Dr Kalam's affection for space science overstepped the desire of walking on the marital landscape.

Another top political figure J Jayalalithaa, the late chief minister of Tamil Nadu, was a spinster. She died in December last year at the age of 68. - PTI

Court bars man from driving vehicle for life

NEW DELHI, March 19:

A man has been barred from driving any vehicle for his entire life by a Delhi court as a stern punishment for rashly driving a truck, crushing to death a nine-year-old boy in 2000. The court ordered cancellation of the driving licence of Sunil Kumar Mishra, a resident of Pratapgarh in UP, saying no fresh licence should be issued to him as he is barred from obtaining it "throughout his life".

The court said the order be circulated to all registration authorities across the country.

Besides this, the convict was sent to jail for one year for causing the death of the school-going child by negligence. - PTI

Get cases of fraud in PMAY (Urban) scheme probed: Panel to govt

NEW DELHI, March 19: A Parliamentary panel has asked Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) Ministry to immediately get thoroughly investigated the alleged cases of fraud in its housing scheme PMAY (Urban).

"The Committee is perturbed to note cases of fraud and cheating taking place in many cities including NCR of Delhi for allocation of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with fake propaganda that a house can be booked by just paying Rs 150 by unscrupulous elements and fraud NGOs etc," the panel said.

The standing committee on urban development, in its reports 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' for HUPA Ministry, noted that a lot of bogus builders/developers are apparently registering and

enlisting a lot of consumers for allotment of economic weaker section/ lower income group house in the name of affordable housing scheme under the mission of 'Housing for All by 2022'.

"The committee strongly caution and recommended that HUPA Ministry should immediately swing into action and get such complaints as those already investigated in all states and UTs as one of their prime scheme, named PMAY (U) is being misused for illegal money-making by some corrupt-minded social elements," the panel, headed by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Pinaki Misra, said.

The panel underlined that any delay in catching those involved will give them liberty to rob millions of poor poor and have-nots of the society.

"If unchecked, poor and homeless

masses will feel cheated and betrayed and also it will be difficult for them to trust any of the government schemes henceforth," the committee said in its report tabled in Parliament recently.

The panel pitched for aggressive awareness programmes through visual and print media to educate and inform common people to beware of fraudulent persons and NGOs.

Meanwhile, the committee also recommended higher allocation of budgetary funds for HUPA Ministry.

"The committee recommend for a real increased budgetary provisions to be provided henceforth in favour of HUPA ministry, responsible for fulfilling aspirations and expectations of millions of urban poor and homeless," the panel said. - PTI

Money spent on Tilak film that was never made

NEW DELHI, March 19: Files related to the grant of Rs 2.5 crore for a film on Bal Gangadhar Tilak that was never made, have gone missing from the government's records.

The revelation surfaced during a hearing before the Central Information Commission which was adjudicating a matter related to the Union Culture Ministry. "The Commission finds that key records of sanction and payment of Rs 2.5 crore to Vinay Dhumal for production of a movie on Bal Gangadhar Tilak is missing and except for some oral statements by the CPIO and Deputy Secretary, there is no record present of who held the files," Information Commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu noted.

He has directed the Culture Ministry to initiate an inquiry into the missing files, and submit a report about action taken within 60 days of receiving this order. The case related to VR Kamalapurkar who had filed an RTI application with the Culture Ministry seeking to know the records related the film on Tilak which was sanctioned in 2005.

The cfo of the ministry officials told the Commission that Rs 2.5 crore was given to Dhumal, a producer, to make the film but it was never made.

Nirmala Goyal, a Deputy Secretary, said the ministry was able to find out about this embezzlement only after the RTI application was filed by Kamalapurkar in 2011.

"The money was transferred to Vinay in two installments. She (Goyal) said, however, the movie was never made and there was no inquiry into the utility of the funds," Acharyulu said.

Central Public Information Officer of the ministry, Arun Ach, an Under Secretary who was also present during the hearing, said the matter was referred to the CBI for inquiry but the final report is awaited.

"The file containing the details of the film project, sanctioning of the project and the officers involved in the monetary transactions was not traceable in the record room of the erstwhile Commemoration bureau (of the ministry)," he told the Commission. - PTI

Parents can evict abusive adult child from their house: HC

NEW DELHI, March 19: Children who abuse their parents while staying with them in their house can be evicted from the property, the Delhi High Court ruled.

Justice Mammohan, in his ruling, specified that the house need not be self-acquired or owned by the parents.

"As long as the parents have the legal possession of the property, they can evict their abusive adult children," the court said, adding that even the "courts have repeatedly acknowledged the right of senior citizens or parents to peacefully and with dignity".

This is a major improvisation in a 2007 law that had left it to state governments to frame rules to protect the life and property of senior citizens.

The court's verdict came after it heard an appeal by an alcoholic policeman and his brother, challenging a Maintenance Tribunal's October 2015 order to evict the two from the residence where their elderly and ailing parents lived.

The brothers had contended that the tribunal had exceeded its jurisdiction in passing the order as there was no claim for maintenance and the relief was granted only on the allegations of physical assault, maltreatment, harassment and forced ouster of their parents from the property.

The alcoholic, whose services were terminated from Delhi Police, had said that even in cases of parental abuse, no eviction order could be passed under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007.

The court, while interpreting the provisions of the Act, said the "senior citizens' maintenance tribunal can issue eviction order to ensure that senior citizens live peacefully in their house without being forced to accommodate a son who physically assaults and mentally harasses them or threatens to dispossess them". In its 51-page judgement, the court noted that the directions to evict the adult children from the property was necessary in certain cases like the present one, to ensure a normal life for senior citizens. - PTI

GEAR UP WITH BENEFITS OF DIGITAL SIGNATURE

Cut operational costs

Address legal compliance

Improve efficiency and collaboration

Automate and expedite business processes

- Your Digital signature is equivalent to your hand written signature, keep your digital signature key securely, do not share it with anyone.
- Use of strong password to access the digital signature key lowers the risk of compromise.
- In the case of digital signature key being lost or stolen. Contact the Certifying Authority (CA) Immediately and get the Digital Signature Certificate revoked.
- For Details please visit <http://cca.gov.in>

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You can ramp up your virtual life with this 'smart' mirror, writes Sourabh Kulesh

'Magic' in the mirror!

At a time when everyone is talking about connected devices, here comes a touchscreen 'smart' mirror that—just like your smartphone—can be your personal assistant.

All you need is a wi-fi connection and an android phone for the app download.

You can turn this normal mirror from domestic firm Nuovo into a smart device that will keep you updated with notifications from social sites like Facebook and Twitter, get your latest news from leading publications, help access YouTube videos and even book a cab through Uber.

"Based on a Linux-based operating system, the mirror is a plug-and-play device. It is a robust material that can be installed in any area of the user's choice. It can be wall-hung or built-in into the decorative wall as per user's need," Pranson Shrivastava, founder and CEO of Nuovo, told IANS.

Have a problem remembering the daily tasks? No problem—the smart mirror can help you stay on top of your schedule with the help of Google Calendar and keep you updated with the latest decor trends and even lets you access e-mails.

A user can even control which app is displayed on the mirror. The apps which are integrated in the mirror include Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, clock (with stopwatch and alarm), news, YouTube, maps, Uber, and calendar updates.

According to Shrivastava, the technology is se-

cure and does not store users data on the device.

"The mirror does not store any personal data of the user. The user behaviour data is stored in our cloud-based server with top-notch security features," Shrivastava added.

The company provides one-year warranty and extended warranty is also offered. Nuovo provides free-of-cost installation.

The device, launched in February this year, comes with a choice of frames—wooden, metal and decorative—and is available in four sizes—24-inch, 32-inch, 42-inch and 50-inch.

In a wooden frame, the 24-inch version is priced at Rs 145,499, the 32-inch comes for Rs 175,599, the 42-inch is available for Rs 226,599 and the 50-inch model for Rs 305,999. The metal-frame variant is costly with the four variants at Rs 155,599, Rs 187,999, Rs 239,999 and Rs 335,999.

Asked if Indians were ready to adopt such technology, Shrivastava said the first prototype was made keeping in mind its usability in homes.

There will be other prototypes as well, which will be made keeping in mind commercial offices, hotels and the like as per their requirements.

"This is our first product in the market. In the next six months, we have a pipeline of products to be rolled out which when combined together in any habitable space shall enhance user experience and improve the performance of habitable spaces," Shrivastava said. —IANS

Kids	Entertainment	Movies
CN 13:00 Rotti No. 21 14:00 Rotti No. 22 15:30 Lava 16:00 We Bare Bears 16:30 Benji and the Bad Girls 17:30 Benji and the Bad Girls 18:00 Lanja 18:30 Benji and the Bad Girls 19:00 Benji and the Bad Girls 19:30 Benji and the Bad Girls 20:30 Rotti No. 21 21:00 Benji and the Bad Girls 21:30 Lanja 22:00 Lanja 22:30 Dragon Ball Z 23:00 Teleshopping	colors 13:00 Pediwali Bajrak 13:30 The Kapti Show 18:30 Pediwali Bajrak 20:30 Esha Mohanty 20:30 Esha Mohanty 21:00 Benji and the Bad Girls 21:30 Benji and the Bad Girls 22:00 Pediwali Bajrak 22:30 Crime Patrol 100 23:00 Crime Patrol 100	23:00 Kol Laut Ke Aye Hai 23:30 Ye Ha! Mohobutan
PNB 12:00 Tashkii Casting 12:30 The Tom And Jerry Show 13:30 Benji and the Bad Girls 14:00 Yo-Kai Watch 14:30 Chhota Bheem and the Big Cat 16:00 Benji and the Bad Girls 17:00 Mighty Raju 17:30 Chhota Bheem	StarPlus 12:00 Benji and the Bad Girls 13:30 Shakti-Astha Ki Ehaas Ki 14:00 Shakti-Astha Ki Ehaas Ki 15:30 Shakti-Astha Ki Ehaas Ki 16:00 Shakti-Astha Ki Ehaas Ki 17:00 Shakti-Astha Ki Ehaas Ki 18:30 Di Se Dilak 19:00 Duski Pyar Ki	12:00 Jalsa Rejha 13:00 Kumkum Bhagya 13:30 Zindagi Ki Manek 14:00 Jaldi Pyar Ki 15:30 Jaldi Pyar Ki 16:00 Ek Tha Raja Da Th Rani 16:30 Ek Tha Raja Da Th Rani 17:00 Vinod Anna Sa 17:30 Zindagi Ki Manek 18:00 Agne Sunte Ho 18:30 Benji Kache 19:00 Benji Kache 19:30 Sanyukt 20:30 Pihu Alota 21:00 Kumkum Bhagya 21:30 Benji Kache 22:30 Vinod Anna Sa 23:00 Benji Kache
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Around the WORLD

US man live-streams his death on Facebook

NEW YORK, March 19: A 36-year-old "mentally ill" man in the US has live-streamed his own death on Facebook when a police officer shot him during a traffic stop.

Rodney James Hess was streaming on Facebook Live when he was shot on Thursday, his family said in their own Facebook posting.

Hess was arrested by police in Alamo, Tennessee, and was killed as his fiancée watched on helplessly online.

Hess was shot after Crockett County sheriff's deputies approached his vehicle because it was parked at a perpendicular angle along Highway 412 near the west Tennessee town of Alamo, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokesman Josh DeVine said in a statement.

Officers reported that Hess refused to stop and made erratic statements and tried to strike officers at least twice with his vehicle, DeVine said.

"During the escalation of events, at least one Crockett County deputy fired his service weapon through the front windshield of the vehicle driven by Hess, striking him," DeVine said. — PTI



Britain's Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge and Prince William attend the Six Nations Championship match between France and Wales at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis near Paris, on Saturday. — UNI

Turning your skin into smartphone controls

BERLIN, March 19: Scientists have developed ultra-thin temporary electronic tattoos which can turn skin blemishes and wrinkles into touch-sensitive buttons for "wearable" smartphone controls.

Researchers, including those from Saarland University in Germany, used conductive ink to print wires and electrodes on temporary tattoo paper.

The tattoos, called SkinMarks, are thinner than the width of a human hair. These tattoos are transferred onto the skin using water and last a couple of days before rubbing off. "New scientist" reported.

"People hardly know the location of their own bumps and freckles, which makes them ideal locations for touch-sensitive buttons," said Martin Weigel of Saarland University.

"You could adjust your smartphone volume by sliding one finger across a tattoo placed along the side of another finger. Bend the tattooed finger, and the volume slider could become a play and pause button," researchers said.

Similarly, tattoos on the knuckles could act as a scroll wheel, while the hand is making a fist, but then return to one long slider when the fingers are extended. "We make use of the elastic properties of the skin, including bending and stretching," said Jürgen Steimle of Saarland University. — PTI

Philippine military attacks extremist bomb-makers

MANILA, March 19: The Philippine military has used aircraft and artillery to attack a group of Muslim extremists who were learning how to make improvised explosive devices, a spokesman said today.

The attacks between March 13-16 were a severe blow to fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), some of whose members have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, said Brigadier General Restituto Padilla.

"The target was completely destroyed," he told AFP following assaults by planes, helicopter gunships and artillery in the southern island of Mindanao.

There were no civilians in the area during the attack, he said.

Foreign and local extremists were meeting in a BIFF enclave in the southern province of Maguindanao when the attack was launched, Padilla said, declining to say where the foreigners had come from.

He cited intelligence sources as saying 21 extremists were killed and 26 wounded, although no bodies were recovered.

Muslim rebels often carry away their dead and wounded.

Five completed improvised explosive devices were recovered along with bomb-making manuals and materials, the military said.

Troops are still tracking down the remnants of the BIFF group, Padilla said. — AFP

My son was no terrorist: father of French airport attacker

PARIS, March 19: The father of the French man shot dead at Orly airport in Paris after attacking a soldier said today his son was "not a terrorist" and that his actions were caused by drink and drugs.

"My son was not a terrorist. He never prayed and he drank. This is what happens under the influence of drink and cannabis," the father of Ziyed Ben Belgacem told France's Europe 1 radio.

Ben Belgacem triggered a major scare at Orly international airport south of Paris yesterday when



He grabbed a female soldier on patrol and put a gun to her head. He seized her assault rifle, saying he wanted to "die for Allah".

and kill others, before being shot dead by the soldier's two colleagues. The attack came around two hours after Ben Belgacem, who had several convictions for armed robbery, fired on police after being pulled over for speeding after spending the night in a bar.

An officer was lightly injured in that attack at the Garges-les-Gonesse suburb north of Paris, which set in motion a series of events culminating with Ben Belgacem's death at the airport.

The father, who was released

from police custody today after being questioned, said his son phoned him minutes after the shooting "in a state of extreme agitation".

"He said to me: 'Daddy, please forgive me. I've screwed up with a police officer.'

He then cut short the conversation and drove to the airport, stealing another car en route.

His father then presented himself at a police station, where he was later informed of his son's death. — AFP

Xi Jinping, Tillerson vow to strengthen ties



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson before their meeting at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing on Sunday. — UNI

BEIJING, March 19: Chinese President Xi Jinping today vowed to work with the US for healthy and stable development of bilateral ties, calling cooperation the "correct" choice for both the countries.

"We should properly handle and manage sensitive issues to promote the healthy and stable development of Sino-US relationship from a new start," Xi told Secretary of State Rex Tillerson here.

Cooperation is the "only correct" choice for both the countries, Xi said apparently referring to anti-China rhetoric by US President Donald Trump.

Trump had branded China a currency manipulator, stealing American jobs and also threatened to impose 45 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods.

Five new sub-atomic particles discovered

GENEVA, March 19: Scientists using the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator have discovered a new system of five particles all in a single analysis. The exceptionality of this discovery is that observing five new states at once is rather unique event, researchers said.

The LHCb experiment is one of seven particle physics detector experiments collecting data at the Large Hadron Collider accelerator at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research).

The collaboration has announced the measurement of a very rare particle decay and evidence of a new manifestation of matter-antimatter asymmetry, to name just two examples.

The new particles were found to be excited states – a particle state that has a higher energy than the absolute minimum configuration (or ground state) – of a particle called Omega-c-zero.

This Omega-c-zero is a baryon, a particle with three quarks, containing

two "strange" and one "charm" quark. Omega-c-zero decays via the strong force into another baryon, called Xi-c-plus, (containing a "charm", a "strange" and an "up" quark) and a kaon K-. Then the Xi-c-plusparticle decays in turn into a proton p, a kaon K and a pion p+.

From the analysis of the trajectories and the energy left in the detector by all the particles in this final configuration, the LHCb collaboration could trace back the initial event – the decay of the Omega-c-zero – and its excited states. These particle states are named, according to the standard convention, Oc(30000), Oc(30500), Oc(30660), Oc(30900) and Oc(31190). The numbers indicate their masses in megaelectronvolts (MeV), as measured by LHCb.

The next step will be the determination of the quantum numbers of these new particles – characteristic numbers used to identify the properties of a specific particle – and the determination of their theoretical significance. — PTI

site programmes.

In his meeting with Tillerson today, Xi said the two sides should grasp the general direction for the development of China-US relations in an attitude responsible for history and future generations.

He suggested that the two countries increase strategic trust and mutual understanding, review bilateral ties from long-term and strategic perspectives and expand fields of cooperation for win-win outcomes. State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The two countries should also enhance coordination on regional hotspot issues, respect each other's core interests and major concerns and encourage friendly exchanges, Xi said as he invited Trump to China. — PTI

N Korea tests new rocket engine: KCNA



SEOUL, March 19: North Korea has tested a new high-performance rocket engine, the country's state media said today.

Overseeing the test, leader Kim Jong-Un "emphasised that the whole world will soon witness what eventful significance the great victory won today carries", KCNA reported, hinting that the North is preparing to launch a new satellite rocket.

"The development and completion of a new-type high-thrust engine would help consolidate the scientific

and technological foundation to match the world-level satellite delivery capability in the field of outer space development, he noted", KCNA said.

Rocket engines are easily re-purposed for use as missiles.

Outside observers say that the nuclear-armed Pyongyang's space programme is a fig leaf for weapons tests.

The tougher US talk followed two North Korean nuclear tests last year and recent missile launches that Pyongyang described as practice for an attack on US bases in Japan. — AFP

UNSC asks Kabul to tackle threats posed by terror groups

UNITED NATIONS, March 19: A UNSC resolution has called on Afghanistan to tackle the "threats" posed by the Taliban, al-Qaeda, ISIS affiliates and other terrorist groups which threaten the security and stability of the war-torn country.

The resolution adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on Friday extended the mandate of UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan until March 17, 2018, and expressed serious concern at the presence and potential growth of ISIS affiliates in the country.

The 15-member council reiterated its support for the Afghan Government in securing their country and in their fight against terrorism.

It called on the Afghan government, with international assistance, to continue tackling "threat posed by the Taliban as well as by al-Qaeda, ISIS affiliates and other terrorist groups."

Stressing the political mission's role in supporting an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, it welcomed current efforts to strengthen regional connectivity and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, citing the example of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project and the Chabahar port project between Afghanistan, India and Iran.

The TAPI project, which has a preliminary cost estimate of USD 10 billion, aims to export up to 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year through a proposed approximately 1,800-kilometre (km) pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

The port of Chabahar is located in southeastern Iran in the Gulf of Oman. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean. India, Iran and Afghanistan have signed the trilateral contract for the establishment of a transport and transit corridor among the three countries.

It also urged further efforts to strengthen regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through regional development initiatives such as the Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road) Initiative. — PTI

UK murder suspect recruited by ISIS: report

LONDON, March 19: A former Bangladeshi-origin murder suspect who was radicalised in a British prison is believed to have gone to Syria to join the Islamic State.

Shahan Choudhury was also joined by his wife and three young children in the war zone after they left their London flat last year, according to a media report.

Choudhury first came to the attention of British police in 2005 when he was charged with the murder of Karl Hamilton, a 17-year-old hospital worker.

Then 18, Choudhury was accused of being part of a gang of Asian youths who clashed with Hamilton and his friends over an alleged 15-pound drug debt. The Sunday Times reported.

Outside observers say that the nuclear-armed Pyongyang's space programme is a fig leaf for weapons tests.

The tougher US talk followed two North Korean nuclear tests last year and recent missile launches that Pyongyang described as practice for an attack on US bases in Japan. — AFP

But his family believe he was "brainwashed" by Islamist extremists during the 18 months he spent awaiting trial on remand at Belmarsh maximum security prison in south-east London.

"He was just like any other western kid when he went in but by the time he came out he was going on about religion and how the non-believers would all end up in the hellfire," a relative told the newspaper. Choudhury, now 30, is thought to have travelled to Syria towards the end of 2015.

His 26-year-old wife Meekah is expected to have followed him in early 2016 with their two daughters, aged about four and two, and their baby son. The family disappeared overnight, leaving all their possessions at the flat, according to their landlady.

Choudhury is the latest Briton to come to light as a follower of UK-based radical Islamist preacher Anjem Choudary, currently in jail for attracting support for ISIS after avoiding prosecution for almost two decades. — PTI

Death toll rises to 72 in Peru rains, flooding, mudslides

LIMA (Peru), March 19: Peruvian authorities say the intense rains, overflowing rivers, mudslides and flooding being experienced in the country are the worst seen in in two decades, affecting more than half the nation. The death toll since the beginning of the year hit 72.

Prime Minister Fernando Zavala today updated the number of dead to 72 in comments to local radio station RPP. The government says 374 people were killed in 1998 during a similar period of massive rains and flooding.

Lima has been without water service since the beginning of the week. The government has deployed the armed forces to help police control public order in the 811 cities that have declared an emergency. — AP



Rishabh Pant celebrates after reaching his ton during day four of the 3rd Test against Australia at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi, on Sunday.

Chelsea extend lead at top, Arsenal suffer blow

LONDON, March 19: Gary Cahill made amends for conceding a penalty by scoring a late winner as Chelsea beat Stoke 2-1 to move 13 points clear atop the English Premier League on Saturday.

The England centre back smashed home from close range following a corner in the 87th minute to seal a fifth straight victory for the likely champions.

Willian's free kick put Chelsea ahead in the 13th, and Jonathan Walters equalised from the penalty spot in the 37th after the striker was nudged by Cahill.

Stoke right back Phil Bardsley was sent off in second-half



Chelsea's Gary Cahill (centre) celebrates with his teammates after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League match against Stoke City at the bet365 Stadium, on Saturday.

stoppage time after collecting a second yellow card for a foul on Cesc Fabregas.

Chelsea won without star winger Eden Hazard, who was missing because of an unspecified injury.

The latest triumph for Antonio Conte's unstoppable charges came after London rivals Arsenal's season continued to unravel with a third straight 1-1 away league defeat, this time at West Bromwich Albion.

Arsenal's defeat came amid more protests from some of the most vociferous of the Gunners' faithful about Wenger as the manager acknowledged that his side were in the middle of "a unique bad patch" in his two-decade managerial reign. – Agencies

Wenger promises decision on future 'very soon'

WEST BROMWICH (UK), March 19: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said he has made a decision on his future and will make it public very soon.

Wenger revealed after seeing his side humbled 3-1 at West Bromwich Albion on Saturday that he has decided whether to stay with Arsenal when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Fans rioted on the Frenchman at the Hawthorns with 'Wenger Out' banners, anti-Wenger songs and a plane overhead towing a banner calling for his departure.

That was followed by another plane with a pro-Wenger banner, but he still suffered the ignominy of travelling fans singing "you don't know what you're doing" near the end of the game.

Wenger has previously said he will make a decision on his future before the end of the campaign and it appears the news will break in the near future.

"I know, so what I will do in my future, so you will soon know, very soon," he said.

"You will see. Today I do not necessarily worry about that, we are in a unique bad patch we never had in 20 years."

"We lose game after game at the moment and that for me is much more important than my future." – AFP

On paper, Tamil Nadu may

be slightly a better side than Bengal on a man to basis. Dinesh Karthik with 495 runs is a match-winner on his day. A breezy 65-70 runs from Karthik can turn the match on its head.

"Bengal are a fantastic side and I would not like to believe that Tamil Nadu are favourites tomorrow. The best part is that we have had players who have performed throughout the tournament," seasonal Karthik said.

"It would have been great had Abhi (Abhinav Mukund, (Murali) Vijay and (Ravichandran) Ashwin been there as they were a part of earlier triumphs. But they are on national duty so we knew not get them. But one player we are equally miss is T Natarajan for the variations that he can bring," Karthik said. – PTI

With a smile.

Wawrinka's path to the final, just his fourth at the elite Masters level, included a close shave against lucky loser Yoshihito Nishioka in the fourth round and a third-set tiebreaker against rising Austrian talent Dominic Thiem in the quarterfinals.

Against Spain's 23rd-ranked Carreno Busta, however, it was clear sailing for the three-time Grand Slam champion, who didn't face a break point in the 64 minute match.

One break of Carreno Busta's serve was enough to give him the first set, and Wawrin-

Pujara, Saha put India in complete command

RANCHI, March 19: Cheteshwar Pujara's marathon double hundred complemented by Wriddhiman Saha's dogged century put India in complete command with an imposing total of 463 for 9 against Australia on the fourth day of the third Test.

With a substantial lead of 152 in their kitty, Indian bowlers then went all out as Australia were bowled out at 23 for when their wickets were drawn.

Ravindra Jadeja (26) got a couple of deliveries to land on the rough and breach through the defences of David Warner (14) and Nathan Lyon (2).

An overjoyed Virat Kohli was seen patting his heavily strapped injured shoulder after Warner's dismissal, an obvious reference to Glenn Maxwell's mocking yesterday.

The match has undoubtedly been set up by Pujara's (202) marathon vigil

which lasted for more than 11 hours (672 minutes).

He faced 525 deliveries – most by any Indian batsman in an innings surpassing Rohit Dravid's Indian record of 495 balls against Pakistan at Rawalpindi back in 2004.

The Saunashtra right-hander hit 21 boundaries in his third Test double hundred, adding a record 11 runs for the seventh wicket stand which could well prove to be a game-changer.

Wriddhiman also played his part to perfection on route his career-best score of 117. This was the third Test century for the wicketkeeper-batsman, who has now cemented his place in the team. He faced 233 balls hitting eight fours and a six.

Jadeja (54, 55 balls) used the long hard to good effect and stretched the lead to 150 plus with the Australian

bowlers finding little assistance from the surface.

Left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe sent down a record 77 overs picking 3/196 in the process. The number of overs bowled by O'Keefe is highest by an overseas bowler on Indian soil.

Comeback man Pat Cummins was the most successful bowler bagging 4/106 in 39 overs. It was a laudable effort considering the pace at which he bowls and the fact that he was playing Test cricket after a long time.

But Nathan Lyon (1/163 in 46 overs) was a disappointment once again.

The Indian team did not waver from their safety first approach as 243 runs were scored in the 80 overs that they batted on the day.

The idea was to out-har the opposition and take the game into the final day which they have successfully done. – PTI

FIFA promises to deliver 'magnificent' U-17 WC

NEW DELHI, March 19: India's vast size and diversity posed as obstacles in the initial preparatory stage, but having crossed the hurdles, FIFA's head of events Jaime Yarza has promised to deliver a "magnificent" U-17 World Cup football.

India is bracing up to host its biggest-ever football tournament, and the world's third biggest, from October 6 to 28 in six cities.

"India is massive and has so many diverse regions that coordination with the various authorities can be challenging. In addition to this

the distances to cover when we do inspections can be quite big. The infrastructure needed huge improvements but in general I am confident that it will be a magnificent FIFA World Cup," Yarza told PTI.

Better football education,

stadia and training facilities could be some of the lasting legacies of India hosting the tournament, he said.

"In the years to come I really hope to see India's footballers rise to the top in Asia and this would be the true legacy of the FIFA U17 World Cup," he said.

"From an organisational point of view, we want to leave the right legacy in the football structures of the country – better sport managers, better stadia and better training sites. All of this should and will benefit football in India in the years to come."

Yarza lauded the government support ahead of his final inspection of the six venues this week.

Yarza and his team will land

here on Tuesday for the inspection visit and will be in the country till March 27. – PTI

Jaime Yarza

Tamil Nadu face Bengal in Hazare final today

NEW DELHI, March 19: A confident Tamil Nadu with a host of experienced limited overs specialists will start as favourites against a youthful Bengal side led by their inspirational skipper Manoj Tiwary in the final of Vijay Hazare Trophy, here tomorrow.

Both Bengal and Tamil Nadu have proved their mettle in the limited overs format having played back-to-back finals in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 editions.

On both occasions, it was Tamil Nadu, who comfortably won the finishing line with Abhinav Mukund and Murali Vijay scoring centuries.

It will be an occasion when Tiwary and his young boys can extract revenge against Vijay Shankar's team who are known to fire on big occasions.

"We lose game after game at the moment and that for me is much more important than my future." – AFP

On paper, Tamil Nadu may

be slightly a better side than Bengal on a man to basis. Dinesh Karthik with 495 runs is a match-winner on his day. A breezy 65-70 runs from Karthik can turn the match on its head.

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"It would have been great had Abhi (Abhinav Mukund, (Murali) Vijay and (Ravichandran) Ashwin been there as they were a part of earlier triumphs. But they are on national duty so we knew not get them. But one player we are equally miss is T Natarajan for the variations that he can bring," Karthik said. – PTI

With a smile.

Wawrinka's path to the final, just his fourth at the elite Masters level, included a close shave against lucky loser Yoshihito Nishioka in the fourth round and a third-set tiebreaker against rising Austrian talent Dominic Thiem in the quarterfinals.

Against Spain's 23rd-ranked Carreno Busta, however, it was clear sailing for the three-time Grand Slam champion, who didn't face a break point in the 64 minute match.

One break of Carreno Busta's

serve was enough to give him the first set, and Wawrin-

Federer, Wawrinka to meet in all-Swiss Indian Wells final

INDIAN WELLS, March 19: Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka set up an all-Swiss final at the Indian Wells Masters with straight-sets semi-final victories.

Federer, who won 18 Grand Slam titles at the Australian Open, subdued 17th-seeded American Jack Sock 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) to earn a crack at a record-equal fifth Indian Wells title.

US Open champion Wawrinka, past the quarterfinals in the

land and Delray Beach, raised his game in the second set, which went on serve to the tie-breaker, where Federer won the last three points to seal the win on his first match point.

Federer has won 19 of 22

career meetings with Wawrinka, including a semifinal win at the Australian Open in January.

Asked to analyse the match-up, Wawrinka had little to offer.

"Roger, we all know him, so nothing to say," he said

ka earned a hard-won break for a 2-1 lead in the second with a blistering forehand on his fifth break point of the game that Carreno Busta had no hope of getting back.

Another break in the seventh game left Wawrinka to serve it out, and he punctuated the contest with a love game.

"Most of the time I know when I start to win the matches in the tournament, I start to get the confidence, the good



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a shot to Jack Sock of the United States during the BNP Paribas Open semifinal at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in California, on Saturday.

California desert for the first time, knocked out Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3, 6-3.

Federer went into his clash with Sock well-rested after his highly anticipated quarterfinal with Nick Kyrgios never materialised as the Australian pulled out with illness he suspected was caused by food poisoning.

Federer, who had trounced Joe Raafel Nadal 6-2, 6-3 in the fourth round, picked up right where he left off as he raced through the first set in 21 minutes.

But Sock, winner of two titles already this year at Auckland with a smile.

Wawrinka's path to the final, just his fourth at the elite Masters level, included a close shave against lucky loser Yoshihito Nishioka in the fourth round and a third-set tiebreaker against rising Austrian talent Dominic Thiem in the quarterfinals.

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Casemiro sends Real Madrid five points clear

MADRID, March 19: Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane hailed his side's character to hold off an Athletic Bilbao onslaught as Casemiro proved the unlikely hero in a vital 2-1 win on Saturday.

The Brazilian midfielder slotted home from close range 22 minutes from time to move Madrid five points clear of Barcelona at the top of La Liga.

"We were meant to suffer a lot, but at the same time we played a lot, and the character of our team was excellent," said Zidane.

"It was a hugely important game to win and continue with our good run."

Karim Benzema fired the visitors' half-time lead from Cristiano Ronaldo's cross before Arntz Aduriz briefly levelled for Athletic.

Barcelona can cut the gap back to two points when they face Valencia at the Camp Nou on Sunday.

Defeat ends Athletic's 19-game unbeaten run at home as they remain four points off the European places in seventh.

"We clearly dominated the game,"

the top for Ronaldo broke Athletic's off-side trap and the Portuguese produced an inch-perfect low cross for Benzema to slot home his sixth goal in as many

games against Athletic.

Real continued to threaten on the counter-attack as Arribalzaga was called into action once more to save

the ball in the net in their first serious attack only to be denied by the off-side flag.

Dani Carvajal timed his run to meet Benzema's through ball but he squared to Ronaldo when going for goal would have been the better option, and the World Player of the Year's tap-in was ruled out.

Six minutes later Ronaldo was denied again, this time by a stunning save from Kepa Arribalzaga as the young goalkeeper leapt low to his left to turn the ball to safety.

Sergio Ramos should have continued his remarkable goalscoring streak when he headed wide when unmarked from a Toni Kroos free-kick.

Madrid finally made the breakthrough on 25 minutes as Casemiro's ball over

the top for Ronaldo broke Athletic's off-side trap and the Portuguese produced an inch-perfect low cross for Benzema to slot home his sixth goal in as many

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City Cricket Club annex T-20 title

TIHU, March 19: City Cricket Club (CCC) of Guwahati defeated a team from Club 18-89 runs in the final match of the Satish Chandra Tamu T-20 Cricket Tournament at Sarbari stadium here today.

Put in to the bat, City Cricket Club scored 173/5 losing seven wicketts in their stipulated overs. Amjad Ali and Sahir Rahman scored unbeaten knocks of 55 and 50 respectively while Ankurjyoti boys could only manage 90 runs losing eight wickets. Sahir Rahman of City Cricket Club was adjudged among others, stated a release.



City Cricket Club players pose with Satish Chandra Tamu trophy.

Inter-district school hockey

GUWAHATI, March 19: Betkuchi High School of Guwahati and Peace Cottage School of Dibrugarh won the respective boys and girls title of the U-17 inter-district school hockey tournament.

In the boys final, Betkuchi High School got the best of Kaoimani High School 3-0 while in the girls final, Peace Cottage School thrashed Guwahati Bodo ME School 12-0.

With this win, both the teams qualified for the Jawaharlal Nehru Cup Hockey National Tournament to be held at New Town.

Bangladesh pull off historic win over Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, March 19: Opener Tamim Iqbal top-scored with 82 runs in the second innings as Bangladesh pulled off a historic four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second Test match in style. - AFP

SCORECARD

Sri Lanka 1st Innings 467

Sri Lanka 2nd Innings (overs 1-186.5) 458-5

Sri Lanka 3rd Innings (overs 1-190.5) 519-5

Sri Lanka 4th Innings (overs 1-191.5) 519-6

Sri Lanka 5th Innings (overs 1-192.5) 519-7

Sri Lanka 6th Innings (overs 1-193.5) 519-8

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Sri Lanka 13th Innings (overs 1-200.5) 519-15

Sri Lanka 14th Innings (overs 1-201.5) 519-16

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Sri Lanka 18th Innings (overs 1-205.5) 519-20

Sri Lanka 19th Innings (overs 1-206.5) 519-21

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Sri Lanka 22nd Innings (overs 1-209.5) 519-24

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Sri Lanka 24th Innings (overs 1-211.5) 519-26

Sri Lanka 25th Innings (overs 1-212.5) 519-27

Sri Lanka 26th Innings (overs 1-213.5) 519-28

Sri Lanka 27th Innings (overs 1-214.5) 519-29

Sri Lanka 28th Innings (overs 1-215.5) 519-30

Sri Lanka 29th Innings (overs 1-216.5) 519-31

Sri Lanka 30th Innings (overs 1-217.5) 519-32

Sri Lanka 31st Innings (overs 1-218.5) 519-33

Sri Lanka 32nd Innings (overs 1-219.5) 519-34

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Sri Lanka 40th Innings (overs 1-227.5) 519-42

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