

NEWS CAPSULE

Uplift agenda

NEW DELHI, July 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to meet all chief secretaries together on Monday to fast-track all developmental projects of states by taking a cohesive approach. Finance secretaries and planning secretaries of all the states will also attend the meet. – PTI

VP candidate

NEW DELHI, July 9: The opposition parties are likely to put up a joint candidate for the Vice Presidential election and may decide on the name during their strategy meeting in Parliament on July 11. – PTI

Army guns

NEW DELHI, July 9: Weeks after the Army rejected an indigenously-built assault rifle, the government has decided to speed up the procurement procedure for over 1,85 lakh high calibre guns to replace the ageing INSAS rifles. – PTI

Dhemaji bandh

SILAPATHAR, July 9: A 12-hour Dhemaji district bandh has been called from 5 am tomorrow by two student bodies in protest against family members of those accused in the infamous Silapathar incident filing a case against 11 leaders of some local organizations. – Correspondent

Adarsh scam

NEW DELHI, July 9: Two former Army chiefs – General NC Vij and General Deepak Kapoor – and several other retired military officials have been named by a high-level inquiry committee appointed by the Defence Ministry for their alleged complicity in the Adarsh Housing Society scam in Mumbai. – PTI

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An aerial view of the flood-affected Kaziranga National Park, on Sunday. – UB Photos

Modi takes stock of State flood scene

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today called up Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal over phone from New Delhi and took stock of the prevailing flood situation in the State even as the overall death toll in the current wave of flood shot up to 24, with one more death being reported from Kaziranga.

Sonowal informed the Prime Minister about the government's effective and expeditious measures to reach out to the affected people.

He also informed that already Ministers of his cabinet have been directed to rush to affected areas to take stock of flood situation and step up relief and rescue operations ensuring proper arrangement for facilities for flood affected and relief camp inmates.

The Chief Minister also apprised that

the MPs and the MLAs of the respective flood-affected areas have also been asked to remain in their constituencies and supervise rescue and relief operations.

Centre advisory SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, July 9: The Centre today issued an advisory warning in view of the forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall in Assam and its adjoining states for the next two to three days, even as the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries were rising rapidly.

Official sources here said that heavy to very heavy rainfall will occur in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, North Bengal, Sikkim and parts of Bhutan in the next two to three days because of active southwest monsoon conditions.

However, the overall flood scenario did show some improvement for the second consecutive day with the number of affected districts coming down to 15 from yesterday's 19.

As per the official flood bulletin, the flood-affected districts are Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Golaghat, Cachar, Dhemaji, Biswanath, Kamrup, Sonitpur, Majuli, Barpeta, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Morigaon and Chirang.

"As on today, 4,86,726 people in 1,096 villages stand affected," the flood bulletin stated, adding that a crop area of 41239.19 hectares too remain submerged.

The Brahmaputra was still flowing above its danger level at Neamatiang, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Golparba and Dhubri while its tributaries Dhansiri and Jia Bharali are also maintaining identical trends, besides Siang, Dikhow and Khasiay.

(See page 7)

Dokalam stand-off Indian Army ready for long haul

NEW DELHI, July 9: The Indian Army is ready for a long haul in holding onto its position in the Doklam area near the Bhutan tri-junction, notwithstanding China retching up rhetoric against India demanding pulling back of its troops.

The Indian soldiers deployed in the disputed area have pitched in tents, in an indication that they are unlikely to retreat unless there was reciprocity from China's PLA personnel in ending the face-off at an altitude of around 10,000 feet in the Sikkim section.

A steady line of supplies is being maintained for the sol-

diers at the site, official sources said, signalling that Indian Army is not going to wilt under any pressure from China.

At the same time, they sounded confident of finding a diplomatic solution to the dispute, citing resolution of border skirmishes in the past through diplomacy.

Though China has been aggressively asserting that it was not ready for any "compromise" and that the "ball is in India's court", the view in the security establishment here is that there cannot be any unilateral approach in defusing the tension. – PTI

PWD minister reaches out to Bhutan stone suppliers

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, July 9: PWD Minister Parimal Suktakadaiya today reached out to suppliers in Bhutan to tide over the crisis of construction materials, particularly stone chips, faced by contractors and builders in and around Guwahati and low-

er Assam.

"We have spoken to the suppliers today. They have asked us about the quantity required. The required quantity will be intimated to them in a day or two. They have assured to supply the materials in Guwahati within a week's time," Suktakadaiya told *The Assam Tribune*.

Projects worth around Rs 450 crore – being executed by the Guwahati Development Department and PWD – in and around the capital city have come to a standstill due to the shortage of construction materials since the last two months or so.

India slams Pak for glorifying Burhan Wani

NEW DELHI, July 9: India today hit out at Pakistan for glorifying militant "commander" Burhan Wani, saying Islamabad's terror support and sponsorship need to be condemned by one and all.

In a strongly worded tweet, External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Gopal Bagayad said, "First @ForeignOfficePk read firm banned LeT's script. Now Pak COAS (Pakistan army chief) glorifies Burhan Wani. Pak's terror support and sponsorship need to be condemned by one and all."

Bagayad's comments came a day after Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa praised Wani, Hizbul Mujahideen "commander" who was killed in an encounter with Indian security forces last year.

(See page 7)

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Nagaland political crisis

Zeliang stakes claim to form government

CORRESPONDENT

present incoming Shurhozele even before the latter could enter the House through bye-election scheduled for July 29. It has been confirmed that Zeliang has 34 NPP legislators of 47 and seven independent members supporting him. They are presently camping at Borgos Resort in Kaziranga, Assam since yesterday. The resort has become a hideaway for dissidents of Nagaland state politics since 2014. The

India gets G20
praise on startup
funding

HAMBURG, July 9: Acknowledging steps being taken by India for sustainable and inclusive growth as well as support to global economy, the G20 has praised the initiatives in the country for promoting ease of doing business, start-up funding and labour reforms.

In its Hamburg Action Plan, adopted at the G20 Summit of leaders from the world's 20 largest economies, the group also noted that "in the financial sector, India is popularising a number of derivative instruments in exchanges or electronic trading platforms" as part of measures to enhance resilience of its economy.

It further said India is facilitating external commercial borrowings (ECBs) by startups in order to encourage innovation and promote ease of doing business, as part of the efforts being taken by the G20 members this year for maintaining momentum on structural reforms and sustainable growth. – PTI

As countermove Shurhozele sacks 4 ministers

NPP party faces its fourth re-bell since 2014, twice this year alone.

Sources said the situational circumstance drew both ripples, Zeliang and Lok Sabha MP Neiphiu Rio, who is also a former three-time chief minister of the state, together again and this time against their common foe – Chief Minister Shurhozele.

Zeliang on Saturday shot off a letter to Nagaland Governor PB Acharya staking claim to form the new NPP-led DAN government with the support of 41 legislators out of 59. It all now depends on the Governor who is out of station. Sources said he will be returning only

(See page 7)

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US-Russian ceasefire goes into effect in southern Syria

DAMASCUS, July 9: The ceasefire agreement reached between the US and Russia went into effect on Sunday in southern Syria, local media reported.

The ceasefire covers the provinces of Swida, Daraa and Quneitra, according to Xinhua news agency. On Friday, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the US and Russia reached a ceasefire agreement to quell fighting in southwest Syria.

He said the agreement, if it holds, may be a blueprint for other parts of the country. "This area in the south is our first show of success. We hope we can replicate that elsewhere," he said.

The ceasefire is part of the de-escalation zones' deal, which went into force last May in four Syrian areas including the southern part of Syria, where battles flared up again, prompting the US and Russia to agree to a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday welcomed the ceasefire in Syria but warned that Israel would not allow Iran and Hezbollah to establish a military presence in the neighbouring country.

"Israel will welcome a genuine ceasefire in Syria," Netanyahu said at his weekly cabinet meeting, referring to a ceasefire agreement reached Friday between the US and Russia to quell fighting in southwestern Syria, Xinhua news agency reported.

"This ceasefire must not enable the establishment of a military presence by Iran and its proxies in Syria in general and in

Israeli on Sunday welcomed the ceasefire in Syria but warned that it would not allow Iran and Hezbollah to establish a military presence in the neighbouring country

southern Syria in particular," he added.

Netanyahu said that Israel will continue to monitor developments beyond its disputed border with Syria, "while strongly upholding our red lines."

He explained that these red lines include preventing Hezbollah, or Iranian forces, from establishing a ground presence along our border, and prevent the establishment of an Iranian military presence in Syria as a whole," said Netanyahu. The ceasefire agreement was achieved after meetings between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the G20 conference in Hamburg, Germany. — IANS



Japanese Self-Defence Force soldiers conduct search and rescue operation near houses damaged by a heavy rain in Asakura, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan on Sunday. — UNI

Trump son, son-in-law 'met with Kremlin-linked lawyer'

WASHINGTON, July 9: Donald Trump's eldest son, son-in-law and then-campaign chairman met with a Russian lawyer shortly after Trump won the Republican nomination, in what appears to be the earliest known private meeting between key aides to the President and a Russian.

Representatives of Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner confirmed the June 2016 meeting to the Associated Press after the *New York Times* reported yesterday of the gathering of the men and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya at Trump Tower. Trump Jr. said he invited the other two Americans, was asked to attend by an acquaintance not named

Then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort also attended, according to the statement from Donald Trump Jr.

He described it as a "short introductory meeting" during which the three discussed a disbanded program that used to allow US citizens to adopt Russian children. Russia ended the adoptions in response to American sanctions brought against the nation following the 2009 death of an imprisoned lawyer who spoke about a corruption scandal.

Trump Jr. said he invited the other two Americans, was asked to attend by an acquaintance not named

It was a short introductory meeting during which the three discussed a disbanded program that used to allow US citizens to adopt Russian children

in the statement, and was not told beforehand with whom he would meet.

"It was not a campaign issue at that time and there was no follow up," he said.

Kushner lawyer Jamie Gorelick said her client already disclosed the meeting in a revised filing of a form that requires him to list meetings with foreign agents.

"Mr Kushner has submitted additional updates and included out of an abundance of caution, this meeting with a Russian person, which he briefly attended at the request of his brother-in-law, Donald

Trump Jr. As Mr Kushner has consistently stated, he is eager to cooperate and share what he knows," she said.

Later yesterday, a spokesman for the President's outside legal team contended that participants in the June meeting "misrepresented who they were and who they worked for."

However, the spokesman, Mark Corallo, would not say specifically who misrepresented themselves or how they did so. Unlike Kushner, Trump Jr. does not serve in the administration and is not required to disclose his foreign contacts. — AP

Pak summons India's envoy for second day

ISLAMABAD, July 9: Pakistan today summoned India's deputy high commissioner here for the second consecutive day over alleged ceasefire violations along the LoC, claiming that more civilians were killed in firing by the Indian troops.

Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh was summoned again to "condemn and lodge protest over more civilian casualties at the LoC due to unprovoked ceasefire violations by India," Pakistan Foreign Office said in a statement.

The Foreign Office spokesman alleged that three more civilians were killed in Chirukot and Satwal Sectors yesterday by the Indian troops, increasing the total civilian toll to five, including one man and four women. Director-General (South Asia and SAARC) Mohammad Faisal who summoned Singh "condemned further unprovoked ceasefire violations" by the Indian forces. He said "the deliberate targeting of civilians is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws."

During the meeting yesterday, Singh had conveyed to Faisal that the ceasefire violations were initiated by Pakistani troops in Poonch and Krishnaghati sectors and the Indian forces only responded appropriately. — PTI

200 ultras die in clashes for Afghan district's control

KABUL, July 9: At least 200 militants have been killed over the past week as Afghan forces crack down on the Taliban in Nawa district of Helmand province, the police said on Sunday.

The government forces backed by helicopter gunships have been targeting Taliban positions over the past week, Xinhua news agency quoted a senior police official as saying.

The security forces would no efforts to restore stability in the troubled district, he said.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Majahid said the militants, who are in control of Nawa district over the past year, have foiled security forces' design to recapture the isolated district.

Majahid claimed that nine security personnel were killed and the government forces offensive to recapture the district has been repulsed.

Nawa, Marja, Sangin and a few more districts of the poppy growing Helmand province have been the scene of fierce fighting over the past few years. — IANS



Josh Peck of Pueblo, Colorado wrestles a steer in the steer wrestling event during the rodeo at the Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on Saturday. — UNI

Extreme sea level rise may become yearly phenomenon by 2050

NEW YORK, July 9: Extreme sea levels, that are expected to be experienced once every 100 years on average, may become a yearly occurrence in many areas by 2050, a study warns.

Researchers including those from University of Central Florida (UCF) in the US confirmed that rising sea levels has occurred steadily during the past century and is expected to accelerate in the future.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, used newly available data and advanced models to improve global predictions when it comes to extreme sea levels.

The results suggest that extreme sea levels will likely occur more frequently than previously predicted, particularly in the west coast regions of the US and in large parts of Europe and Australia. These extreme events could occur every decade or even every year, in many places by 2050, researchers said.

"In order to understand coastal impacts under current and future climate and socio-economic conditions, we do not only need robust projections of mean sea level rise but also a profound knowledge of present-day and future extreme sea levels, because these events drive the impacts," Wahl said. — PTI



future," said Thomas Wahl, an assistant professor at UCF.

When an extreme event collides with continually rising seas, it takes less intense storm, such as a Category Hurricane, to inflict as much coastal damage as a Category II or III storm would have had when the seas were lower, they said.

Researchers used representative sample of 20 different methods for predicting extreme sea levels. They focused intensively on the measures of uncertainty that accompany any prediction, but that are particularly vexing in the analysis of extremes.

Interspersing sea level rise with the latest predictions of extreme sea level events, the team was able to illustrate the dramatic effect one has on the other and pinpoint regions of the world that are especially threatened.

"Storm surges globally lead to dangerous loss of life and billions of dollars of damages each year, and yet we still have a limited understanding of the likelihood and associated uncertainties of these extreme events both today and in the

France marks 70 years since 'Exodus' voyage to Israel

SETE (France), July 9: Seventy years ago, some 4,500 Jews gathered on board a small old steamer in the French Mediterranean port of Sete, destined for the journey to a new home in Palestine that would help spur the creation of an independent Jewish State.

Todays the city marked the audacious attempt to reach what was then British-controlled Palestine in the presence of a few of the remaining survivors of the voyage alongside France's Grand Rabbin of Paris.

"It's the last time that we have survivors; in 10 years they'll be gone," said Freddy Dran, co-president of the "Exodus Committee" and a representative of the Jewish community in Sete, near Montpellier. "We've found that in Sete and the region, half the population has no knowledge of this event, which had a profound impact on 20th-century history," he said, calling the commemoration "an educational project for younger generations."

The plight of those onboard was memorably dramatised in the 1960 Otto Preminger film of the same name, starring Paul Newman.

"Boarding this ship was like climbing Mount Sinai," according to Israël Dran, whose father was onboard, speaking at today's ceremony.

On the night of July 10-11, 1947, a strange-looking boat overflowing with people, most of them survivors of Nazi concentration camps, began slowly making its way out of the harbour, officially destined for Colombia.

The operation was mounted by the Haganah, Jewish paramilitary organisation, which had acquired the flat-bottomed boat originally intended for only river navigation from an iron yard, before discreetly bringing it to the Mediterranean.

At the same time, the group began bringing thousands of would-be emigrants to Sete above more than 170 trucks.

"If we hadn't decided quickly to load these 4,354 people we would be having big problems," a leader of the truck convoy, one of five Sete residents at the time who attended the anniversary ceremony.

"Haganah was behind this entirely clandestine operation, very few people in Sete were aware of what was going on," said Gustave Brugdon, president of a Sete historical society.

More recently, we were on the Tour de France route as the cycling race passed through the city on July 10, and "were astounded to see all these people arriving on Mole Saint Louis dressed in winter clothes in the middle of summer," he said, referring to the port's jetty. — AFP

Ties with US will improve, says Putin after meeting Trump

HAMBURG, July 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin said after meeting his US counterpart Donald Trump, he believes an improvement in relations with Washington is in the works.

Putin also said again that Moscow never interfered in US presidential election in November 2016.

"It seems to me that if we build our relations the same way our conversation went, there's every reason to believe we're on the right path, however partially, the kind of interaction we need," Putin said on Saturday. — EFE news reported.

With regard to the US President, he said: "Trump on television is very different from the real person," and explained that "he well understands his person he's talking to, analyzes quickly, answers questions and responds to whatever comes up in the discussion". As for his personal relations with Trump, the Russian President considers them "established".

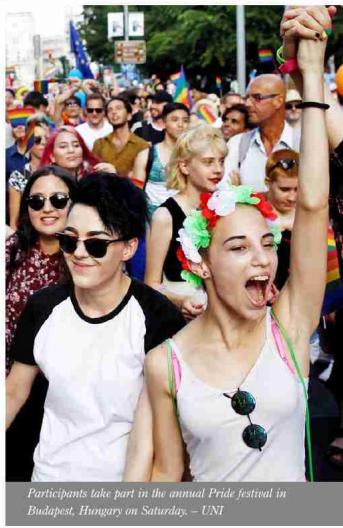
Putin also said Trump brought up, not with one question but with several, the issue of Russia's interference in US elections.

"Our position is well known. I repeat, there is no reason to think that Russia interfered in the electoral process," Putin said, adding that Trump was apparently "satisfied with the answers".

To a reporter's question about whether Moscow plans to meddle in Germany's general elections on September 24, Putin answered that, if Russia didn't do that in the US, why would they do it in Germany. Instead he said of the "good relations" with Germany, Russia's main trade partner in Europe, with which it shares big projects like the new natural gas pipeline Nord Stream II.

Moscow has no need to interfere in the elections of other countries, unlike some of the European media, which constantly talk about Russia's internal matters, he said.

Putin also referred to Trump's offer to Poland and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to supply them with liquefied gas to reduce their energy dependence on Russia, and emphasized Moscow's defense of free markets and free competition, as long as they are not politicised. — IANS



Participants take part in the annual Pride festival in Budapest, Hungary on Saturday. — UNI



Awards conferred

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: Deputy Editor of *The Assam Tribune*, Ranjan Dutta Choudhury, playwright Tarun Saikia and noted surgeon Dr Illias Ali have been chosen for the DPCR Award, 2016.

The awards would be handed over at a function at GMCH auditorium to be held on July 16, commemorating with the fifth anniversary of DPCR (Diganta's Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre).

A press release issued by Diganta Das, managing director of DPCR, stated that the award is an acknowledgement of the contributions made by the individuals in their respective fields.



Children taking part in a talent hunt summer camp at a school in Lachit Nagar in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

Forest dept recruitment test at city centre cancelled

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: The State Forest Department today cancelled the written test for the posts of Junior Assistants (directive/divisional) conducted at Veterinary Science College, Khamapara, following allegations of anomalies in the issuance of admit cards.

The written test at the centre stands cancelled due to alleged mismanagement of the centre. The fresh date for conducting the written test will be

announced soon. It will be held within a fortnight for all registered candidates," official sources said.

The officials said that the demand made by the candidates

Issue of excess admit cards

that the written test conducted throughout the State be cancelled will be placed before the appropriate authority, before which led to a shortage of question papers.

There were reports of mismanagement at other centres

or assistant posts in the department.

Sources said an excess number of candidates, including unregistered ones, had entered the examination centre,

leading to a chaotic situation. Candidates alleged that admit cards were issued in excess, which led to a shortage of question papers.

"We will order an inquiry to find out what went wrong," she said.

in the city as well. Some candidates alleged that the biometric system of attendance failed in some centres. The Forest Minister has sought a report from all centre in-charges.

Forest Minister Pramila Ran Brahma, who rushed to Guwahati from Kaziranga following the problem, said the conduct of exam was outsourced to an agency through a tender.

"We will order an inquiry to find out what went wrong," she said.

GMC, APDCL directed to tackle electrocution threat

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: In view of three tragic deaths due to electrocution in the city recently, the Kamrup Metro district administration has directed the GMC and the APDCL to conduct a joint inspection of all the streetlights on the main roads in and around Guwahati and to take necessary measures to tackle the threat of electrocution.

An order to effect has been issued by Dr M Angamuthu, Deputy Commissioner

of Kamrup Metro, who is also the chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

The Guwahati Municipal Corporation has also been directed not to allow installation of any hoardings on the main roads and to take necessary measures to remove the existing electric hoardings.

The district administration has sought a detailed action plan from GMC in this regard, which will be forwarded to the Chief Minister.

"It has been observed that several incidents of electrocution leading to loss of lives and

Media persons urged to join fight against insurgency

GUWAHATI, July 9: Senior journalist and president of the Guwahati Senior Citizens' Association, DN Chakravarty, has appealed to the media persons of Assam to join the people's movement against terrorism in the State.

Chakravarty, who was addressing a meeting of the retired public relation officers yesterday, said that militant organisations in the State, including the ULFA, had caused incalculable loss to the human lives and property during the last four decades.

Referring to the depredation caused by the ULFA to the State's economy, Chakravarty said the people of Assam had suffered loss to the tune of Rs 50,000 crore and loss of human lives, including a forester and also an internationally renowned social activist. He appealed to media persons to educate the people not to revere the ULFA brigade as freedom fighters and savours of the Assamese people. — Staff Reporter

Guwahati international film fest from Oct 28

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: The official website, logo and poster of the first Guwahati International Film Festival, to be held here from October 28 to November 2, was launched today by actor Jatin Bora at the Ruchi Barua auditorium in the Jyoti Chitrabhan (Film Studio) Society premises, stated a press release.

Bora, who is also the chairman of the Assam State Film (Finance & Development) Corporation, lauded the efforts of the State government in lending support to the festival. "We will work together to make it a success," he said.

Pabitra Margherita, chairman of the Society, said that 72 films from more than 25 countries, including India, shall be screened

in the festival, which will have various sections like Indian Panorama, World Cinema, Retrospective, Cinema of North East, Tribute, and a section on films from Assam. "There will also be a competition section among films from Assam," he said.

Films which have been certi-

fied by the Censor Board between September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017 shall qualify for the competitive section.

Also present during the ceremony were President of GIFFP and Joint Secretary, Cultural Government of Assam Monita Borgoloin, governing committee members Nayan Prasad, Anuradha Sarma Puja, Pramod Kalita, Bitapan Borbar and Utpal Dutta, the

release added.

The Festival Director stated that information regarding the festival shall be updated on the website of the festival at www.giffassam.gov.in.

Govt's zero tolerance to graft a gimmick: Cong

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: The Congress has mocked at the Bharatiya Janata Party's much trumpeted zero tolerance to corruption as nothing but a gimmick. The latest incident of appointing Tuliram Ronghang, who was accused of being the kingpin of corruption by the sifron party till the other day, as Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), has once again proved this fact.

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has said in a statement here that when Ronghang was with the Congress, the BJP used to call him the kingpin of corruption. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had even gone to the extent of saying that all incidents of corruption that took place during the rule of Tuliram Ronghang as the CEM of the KAAC while he was with the Congress

would be probed. Corruption would be rooted out from Karbi Anglong, Sonowal used to say, the APCC recalled.

But, now less than one month since its utterances, Sonowal, in a complete U-turn, has appointed Ronghang as the CEM of Karbi Anglong. This has proved that for the sake of grabbing power, Sonowal and his party can take recourse to any sort of political expediency.

Again, BJP President Ranjith Dass has said that there been any grain of truth in the allegations that Tuliram Ronghang was a corrupt politician, he would not have been able to garner such a huge number of votes in his favour. This explicitly proves the hypocrisy of the BJP, said the APCC and dared Chief Minister Sonowal to explain as to how he is going to fight corruption with people like Tuliram Ronghang as his company, said the APCC.



আৰাঙ্ক প্ৰিমল শুক্ৰবৈদেন
মাননীয় মীন মৰ্ত্তি, অসম

১০ জুলাই - মীন পালক নিজের দিন

বাস্তীয় মীনপালক দির্ষসত মীন পালক, মৎস্যজীবি আৰু মৎস্য খণ্ডৰ লগত জড়িত সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলোলৈ শুভেচ্ছা আৰু অভিনন্দন।

মীন বিভাগ, অসম আৰু অসম মীন উন্নয়ন নিগম লিমিটেডৰ দ্বোৰ উদ্বোগত বাজ্যাক ডিভিড
‘বাস্তীয় মীন পালক দিৱা’ বিস্তৃত কাৰ্যালয়ৰে অসম মীন উন্নয়ন নিগম লিমিটেডৰ চৰচৰিত মুখ্য
কাৰ্যালয় প্ৰাঙ্গণত উদ্ঘাপন কৰা হৈব। মাননীয় মীন মৰ্ত্তি শ্ৰীমত পৰিমল শুক্ৰবৈদেন মহোদয়ে
অনুষ্ঠানত মুখ্য অতিথিৰ আসন শোভা কৰিব সম্মতি প্ৰদান কৰিছো উত্ত অনুষ্ঠানত আপোনালোক
সকলোৱে উপস্থিতি সাদৰবে কৰিব। কৰা হৈল।

হাজাৰ অসম মীন উন্নয়ন নিগম লিমিটেডৰ মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয় প্ৰাপ্তব্য, চৰচৰ, গুৱাহাটী-৩৬
তাৰিখ: ১০/০৭/২০১৭ (সোমবাৰ)
সময়: দিনৰ ১১ বজাৰ পৰা

২০১৬-১৭ বৰ্ষত বাজ্যাৰ অতিলেখ সংখ্যক ৩০৭ নিযুক্ত কিলোগ্ৰাম
মৎস্য উৎপাদনৰ বাবে সমৃদ্ধ মীনপালক আৰু বাইজলৈ ধন্যবাদ জাপন কৰিলো।

মীন বিভাগ, অসম
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দ্ৰব্যাখ্য: ১০৬১-২৫৪৫০৮
১০৬১-২৫৪৫০৮

অসম মীন উন্নয়ন নিগম লিমিটেড

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দ্ৰব্যাখ্য: ১০৬১-২৫৪৫০৮

Janasanyog/4906/17

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Life presents many challenges where you have to decide which road your journey down.

— JANICE DAVIES

The Assam Tribune

Devious game

A devious game is seemingly being played out in the hill districts of West Bengal, the potential outcomes of which can be disturbing. One has to be politically naive not to discern the invisible hand behind the renewed demand by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) for a separate Gorkhaland State constituting the hilly areas and around Darjeeling. Such a demand had earlier been raised when the Leftists were in power in West Bengal, but it grew muted in the course of time. When Telangana through a similar campaign successfully wrested a separate State for itself, there was concern that it might have a snowball effect and parties like the GJM would renew their demand. Surprisingly, that didn't happen. Yet all of a sudden the GJM leader, Bimal Gurung, has not only called once more for a separate State, but also his party has for over three weeks let loose a spate of violence in the hills to back up the call. The GJM being an ally of the BJP and Gurung having publicly stated that he is in constant touch with the NDA Government, the identity of the invisible hand is gradually becoming all too visible. The politics of the tussle are also unfurling themselves — Mamata Banerjee has emerged as the most vocal leader amongst the Opposition and one of the few figures which can unite it against the NDA.

This pressure had to be brought upon and try to silence her on issues such as demonetization, beef-eating, cattle-slaughter, etc. Mamata had stood her ground in opposing the Teesta water-sharing deal with Bangladesh, and had also gone public in the nation's capital voicing her opposition to demonetization. The GJM agitation is a part of the pressure tactics being adopted against her and given the devious nature of this strategy, the Trinamool leader would do well to play her cards carefully. In fact, right at the beginning of the agitation, she had made the error of adopting a hard-line stance and sending in paramilitary forces to quell the disturbances. A more sensible course for her would have been to offer an olive branch and call for a dialogue so that the issue could be discussed and options such as greater autonomy could be put on the table. Only now seems to have realized that such an offer might take the wind out of Gurung's sail, for she has asked all the political parties in the hills backing the GJM to return to the path of peace and sit down for talks. Considering that the common people of the hills are suffering due to the prolonged agitation, tourists have stopped coming, tea gardens are losing heavily, Gurung has to respond positively to her call, for failure to do so would expose what the true objectives of this devious game are.

Flash floods

The issue of water-logging and flash floods have assumed serious proportions during recent years in Guwahati. Life for the residents of the city turns miserable every year during the monsoon season, with showers of even short durations resulting in flooding of streets and localities. Unplanned growth, expansion of population, haphazard construction activities, reduction of green cover and open spaces, encroachment of hills and water-bodies — all have contributed to the present state of affairs. Similarly, there have been no sincere efforts from successive State governments and also from the local municipal authorities to deal with the problem on a long-term basis. This year itself, already half a dozen people have lost their lives in the floods in Guwahati, either by drowning or due to electrocution when coming into contact with live wires that got snared in flooded localities. Now it is heartening to note that a number of local citizens' bodies and a group of experts and activists have taken it upon themselves to suggest some remedial measures to the Government to deal with the menace. Local residents' associations of more than 30 localities have joined hands in this regard. They have prepared an action plan after careful deliberations and study by experts and suggested a series of measures to the State Government to tackle the menace of flash floods. Among the measures suggested by the experts and local residents' associations are steps for diversion of storm water by gravity flow, diversion by storm water drainage system or vertical turbine pumping and tunnels to the Brahmaputra, digging and desilting of channels and water-bodies, conservation of soil and adoption of multi-disciplinary sheet shed approach in all the hillocks of the city, and alignment of waterways in each all the hill sides. Representatives of the local associations' have met the Chief Minister and sought his help in implementing the action plan.

The action plan has recommended urgent steps for diversion of the Bahini river to the Silsako Beel, diversion of water from the hills of Meghalaya, diversion of the Basistha river along with Mora Bhalru water to the Kulti river, digging and de-silting of all major water-bodies in and around the city to the full extent to increase the retaining capacity of storm water and for removal of huge quantity of earth and silt from them, construction of artificial hillocks, shifting of the sluice gate of Bharalumukhi beyond the railway lines and nearer to Brahmaputra, and conservation of soil and adoption of multi-disciplinary water shed approach in all the 23 hillocks located in and around the city. The Government must seriously consider the proposals and, if feasible, direct the civic authorities to take steps to implement them. The residents of Guwahati deserve better than to live in a state where every time there is rain their houses and localities come under flash flood.

G-20 and India's agenda

■ **Shibdas Bhattacharjee**

From India's perspective, the G-20 Summit 2017 that took place in the German city Hamburg on July 7-8 last was important for various reasons. The summit took place on the backdrop of various significant developments in regional and global affairs. Although, the prime agenda of G-20 comprising of 19 nations and the European Union is to find out the formula to save the world from future economic collapse, India G-20 since 1999 has evolved as a group with the agenda to deal with certain strategic and security-related issues that directly impact trade and economy. As an important component of the group, India has always been vocal regarding the issues like terrorism and climate change in the G-20 summits. In fact, apart from the economic issues, G-20 provides the countries like India a larger platform to air voice concerning the security issues of the region and beyond. Naturally, the prospect of India depends on how the Indian leadership actually uses the platform of the annual G-20 summit.

This time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to Hamburg to participate in the G-20 summit after the historic trip to Israel. Similarly, this year's G-20 summit took place under the shadow of the India-China conflict in G-20. His prime target was undoubtedly Pakistan and to expose Islamabad before the global community once again. This time he named Pakistan-based groups LeT and JeM among major terror outfits alongside the al-Qaeda and ISIS at the G-20 summit. But it was significant that Modi tried to address the issue of terrorism in a larger con-

text. This made India's position more convincing on the issue of global terrorism which got larger focus in the 10-point agenda tabled by Modi during the summit. His agenda includes banning countries supporting terrorism from entry in the G-20 group, joint actions against terrorism by G-20, simplification extradition norms, adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, proper implementations of UN Security Council resolutions, joint efforts by

engage into fresh round of bilateral talks. As per media reports, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Modi showed praise on each other at the meet. Xi took note of reforms in India and appreciated India's strong resolve against terrorist. China also wished India even greater economic success. Modi, on the other hand, said there has been positive momentum in BRICS under the chairmanship of President Xi and wished him for the upcoming BRICS Summit. This may be helpful in mending the ice and make way out for a comprehensive bilateral talks between India and China in the days ahead.

After all, in the present circumstances and considering the global and regional scenario, military aggression or full-scale war seems impossible between India and China. Trade interests of China and the growing partnership between India and other major players of global politics do not show any such apprehension.

Similarly important was Modi's meeting with the leadership of other nations. He pressed upon his British counterpart Theresa May to ensure the UK's cooperation to bring back economic offenders. The bilateral meeting between Modi and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emphasized review of the progress in bilateral relations between the two countries including the important projects, since their last meeting in Japan. Modi also met Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg, discussed bilateral matters, especially strengthening of economic relations

From Hamburg, Modi has sent a strong message against terrorism and also pitched for a ban on the entry of officials from terror-supporting countries in G-20. His prime target was undoubtedly Pakistan and to expose Islamabad before the global community once again.

G-20 countries on de-radicalization programmes, closing the funding related to terrorism through FATF and other processes, formation of a Weapon and Explosive Action Task Force (WEATF), cooperation between G-20 nations on cyber security and formation of the mechanism for National Security Advisors on Counter-terrorism in G-20.

After a week-long military stand-off between India and China and a day after either side had rejected the possibility of a pull-back, G-20 provided a much-needed opportunity to the leaderships of India and China to

National Fish Farmers' Day: an introspection

■ **Dhruba Jyoti Sharma, Sanjay Sarma**

The fisheries and aquaculture sector is gaining importance at present not only because of its significance in the food production sector, but also because of its value in export earnings and economic development of the country. At the same time, it is also instrumental in providing sources of livelihood for a large section of economically backward and resource poor population of the country. Fisheries sector contributed 0.92% in total GDP (at current price) and 5.58% in agriculture and allied activities GDP. It is reported that the country earns approximately Rs 38,446 crore by export of fish and fishery products worth 10 lakh MT during 2016-17.

Assam has an excellent sub-tropical climate for development of freshwater fish culture practices in a variety of available water bodies. The State produced 307 million kg fish from all the sources of water in 2016-17 against the nutritional demand (not market demand) of 346 million kg (12th position among the States of India) considering on the basis of minimum nutritional requirement of 11 kg per capita per annum. The fishery fish seed is the main input for fish farming practices which determine the overall production scenario of fish. The progress of inland fishery, particularly culture sector, is attributed to the success of induced breeding technique.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir — AI (artificial intelligence)

is the booming field where machines are prioritized more than human beings, their level of efficiency and speed being way higher than any human can ever reach. It is a fast emerging technology, dealing with development and study of intelligent machines and software. The field of AI requires a lot of patience, the outcomes are not instant. A lot of brain juggling will lead to an idea which has to be executed. Because feeding brain into machines isn't going to be easy. At this point of time, machines are not very empathetic to know our state of mind but it won't take much time for a human to like chatting with machines more than humans. Machines will become so smart and will be able to process such large volumes of data that in comparison we might as well not be intelligent at all. Being a

content strategist for AI, I once asked a close friend of mine who is a marketing manager. "Imagine a world where your job is done only by machines or robots, where there is no long wait to get in touch with a service provider, where there is no long wait for an online executive to answer your query." And the reply was "It would be great as those unproductive hours of the day browsing the internet or trying to get in touch with someone can be transmuted into something profitable. And the less frustrated a person is in terms of the service provided, the more he/she is interested in trying out something new. That's it all, a vigorous growth in sales." Yours etc., JURI SHARMA, Bangalore.

APSC standard

Sir — The recently concluded CCE Prelims held under the APSC was very organized and transparent. Soon after the BPP Government came into power, there has been phenomenal

availability of proper-size quality fish seeds at the right time. As a result, in recent past although a spectacular growth of carp seed industry has taken place in the private sector, but large size fish production has not increased significantly. The problems and constraints for fish seed production in Assam include a late and shorter breeding season due to temperature, poor fish seed rearing infrastructure, lack of awareness towards scientific and professional management of rearing ponds, poor quality of fish fry leading high mortality during fry to fingerling stage, poor fish seed transportation and marketing facilities leading to heavy mortality during transpiration, among others.

It is generally very difficult for fish farmers to know the quality of fish seed from the outer appearance. The seed producers take this advantage and sell poor quality fish seed to the farmers resulting in less production of table fish after farming for 8-12 months in the farmer's pond. The term quality fish seed refers to prescribed species, standard size, healthy, able to grow fast in pond environment and disease resistant. The seed producers generally use the same stock for breeding purpose year after year resulting in inbreeding and production of poor quality seed. The seed produced from collected brood stock from natural sources such as rivers, tributaries, beels, etc., has reported more than 17% growth and more than 28% survival than that of seed

produced from pond-reared fish. Most of the hatchery owners of the State have not realized the dangerous effect of hybrid fish in the culture system as their responsibility is confined to production and selling of three-day-old spawn.

To make quality fish seed available in Assam, the new concept of development of fish seed village is being adopted, wherein a group of trained fish farmers are involved in production of fish seeds of various cultivable fish species and cater to the needs of themselves, fellow farmers of the village and farmers of neighbouring villages in appropriate time and at affordable costs.

At the seed production unit of the fish seed village, the brood fish are collected from the natural water bodies which may be raised in their farm or by replenishing the old brood stock periodically as per the existing norms. The fish seed village will constantly supply quality seed to the farmers who are engaged in fish seed rearing and table fish production. The fish seed village concept will improve fish seed production system in an organized manner in a compact area, replacing poor quality seed with new high-yielding varieties, increasing the quantity of fish seed production to meet the local demand, timely supply with reasonable cost and self reliance of quality fish seed at the village. The important feature of the concept of fish seed village is that it will unite the farmers of the village for a common cause, enhance farm-

ers' confidence in marketing and understanding the concept of quality fish seed as per norms laid down under Assam Fish Seed Rule, 2010, which is the first of its kind in the country. Because of the known source of fish seeds, the producers will be able to grow big fish within a specific time period and at the same time, the consumers will be benefited. Another advantage of the fish seed village is that the programme on genetic awareness and introduction of new fish variety campaign can be launched in a massive way to educate the fish seed producers and growers on planned breeding programme on that locality.

Based on that, a fish seed marketing network can be established with proper packaging and marketing facilities. It is pertinent to mention here that the quality fish seed is the only solution for optimal fish production from the water body units where there should be some concrete guidelines for farmers who want to construct a new hatchery. The farmers must seek prior permission from the Department of Fisheries to construct any hatchery. The officials may have to justify whether there is any need of such hatchery in the locality and whether sufficient brood stock rearing tanks are available or not. Otherwise, the poor quality fish seed will jeopardize the fate of the fish farmers and the upcoming educated unemployed youths who have been initiated into fish farming for self-employment in the long run.

Al going to rule our future

content strategist for AI, I once asked a close friend of mine who is a marketing manager. "Imagine a

world where your job is done only by machines or robots, where there is no long wait to get in touch with a service provider, where there is no long wait for an online executive to answer your query."

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Yours etc., JURI SHARMA, Bangalore.

APSC standard

Sir — The erratic power supply

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by the APDCL has upset the life of

the common people. In Assam,

the BPP came to power with the

slogan of *parivartan* but during

the one-year tenure of the present

Government, no such noticeable

changes could be seen in the

power sector. There have been

frequent and long power cuts all

along, which has seriously affected

the functioning of small traders.

In our area, there is no potable

water supply from any of the nodal

Government agency, we are

dependent on commercial water

to fulfil our daily needs. Due to

frequent power cuts, we have had

a terrible time lifting commercial

water to the household water

reservoirs. Through this column,

I would like to draw the attention of

the State Power Minister to solve

this burning problem. Yours etc.,

KAMALJIT DAS, Pab Sarania,

Guwahati.

'Quiz Zone' error

Sir — This refers to the question No. 11 of the 'Quiz Zone' column in *Horizon* (AT, June 30). The question as sent by Manash Jyoti Borah from Guwahati was: When and in which country was the GST first introduced? The answer that was given was Germany in 1968. When for some reason I crosschecked it, I found the correct answer to be France that had first introduced the GST regime way back in 1954. I would request the people who provide questions for the 'Quiz Zone' to validate it before sending and not to mislead devout followers of this newspaper like me. The publishing authority must also be very careful not to publish anything and everything that comes to it without verifying its genuineness. Yours etc., TANUSHREE BARUAH, Guwahati.

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Stress on NSS role in ensuring social harmony

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, July 9: The Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University, in collaboration with UNICEF Assam, organised an orientation programme for NSS functionaries of the North East on Saturday in the conference room of the Institute of Science and Technology, Gauhati.

The objective of the programme was to bring in the NSS functionaries from across the north-eastern region and identify their work done as well as provide them with a direction towards engaging themselves in development sectors like health and hygiene, social welfare and

basics of communication.

GU Vice Chancellor in-charge Prof PJ Das, who inaugurated the session said, "The NSS has been a strength of the nation since its inception and the orientation programme will provide a roadmap for the future course of NSS activities in the North East."

The orientation programme was attended by Ranjan Kumar Kakati, Director of Students' Welfare, GU; Meenakshi Sundaram, Director of Social Welfare, Assam; Dr Siddhartha Singh, Managing Director, Swach Bharat Mission (Gramin), Assam; Dr Tushar Rane, Chief, UNICEF Assam, and Hemant Kumar Sharma, Deputy Programme

The role that the NSS can play in improving the social environment was also underlined in the orientation programme.



Models walk the ramp during an awards function of a fashion technology institute in Guwahati on Saturday evening. — UB Photos

Elaborate arrangements made for 'Bol Bom' fest

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: Keeping in mind the rush of devotees during the time of 'Bol Bom,' the Sukreswar Devalaya management committee had made elaborate preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival.

Working president of the Devalaya committee Suresh Chandra Bhattacharya said that to ensure the safety of devotees, this time, there would be restrictions on fetching water directly from the river bank for bathing the deity, which is an integral part of the Bol Bom rituals.

"We will make arrangements for pumping up the water of the Brahmaputra to a safe place, from where the devotees can fill up their utensils. This step has been taken to avoid any untoward incident and also to avoid unnecessary jostling on the Sukreswar Ghat," he added.

Banning all sorts of intoxicants and narcotic substances, the temple committee has also

appealed to the devotees to abstain from the use of plastic items on the temple premises for bringing flowers and offerings, etc.

The month-long Shrawana Mela, which witnesses a huge rush of people on every Sunday and Monday, will get under way on July 9 and culminate on August 7.

The temple, situated on the bank of the Brahmaputra, has dealt with a huge amount of non-segregated garbage after the festival is over. The use of plastic items also increases the risk of polluting the river.

A medical team will be stationed within the temple premises to extend help to needy people. The temple authorities stated that this time more than one lakh people are expected to attend the mela.

"For offering meals to the devotees (bhakthas) also, one has to inform the temple committee beforehand. Food will be offered under the supervision of the committee to assure quality and content," an office-bearer of the temple committee stated.

Contributions of past stalwarts of city locality recalled in unique way

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: A unique tribute paying programme was organised by the residents of the J Baroah Road in the Silpkuri-Chenikuthi area of the city today, recalling the contributions of all the eminent residents of the locality who had passed away during the past several decades.

The programme, according to the organisers, was planned to pay homage to the departed souls as well as to make the younger generation aware of the contributions of the older generations residing in the society.

"The social dynamics are fast changing today, where the lack of people-to-people connection is being largely felt. We have been planning this programme for long, involving the younger generation to bridge a gap as well as revive the lost links," said TB Dutta, vice president of the organising

committee.

Also setting an example of communal harmony and democratic set-up in the area, all-faith prayers were organised in the area for eternal peace of the departed souls as well as to ensure a cohesive atmosphere. The prayers started with the recitation of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Lauding the efforts of the organisers, while the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the all-faith prayers, art competition among children, naum prasanga by the women of the locality and a community feast.

During the second half of the day, a prize distribution ceremony was held, where a souvenir named 'Baijukonthagou' was released. In the evening, a cultural programme was organised with devotional renditions, borgat presentation, folk songs, zikir presentation and other items.

tions to society included Hirawati Devi of the Panchavati Ashram, Principal Jnanadabiram Barooah, an eminent legal luminary after whom the Law College has been named, engineer Golok Sarma, Khegen Hazarika associated with the State Forest Department, and Surjyanta Dutta associated with the NF Railway, among others.

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Cong wants ministers Ranjit Dutta, Pallav Lochan Das sacked

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) today demanded sackings of Irrigation Minister Ranjit Dutta and Power Minister Pallav Lochan Das, citing their alleged irresponsible behaviour and inefficiency in office.

While Dutta's resignation has been demanded for his speech in which he had allegedly stated that only Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers would be entitled to get government benefits, the Congress party sought the Power Minister's stepping down in the wake of the recent string of electrocution deaths in the state.

APCC president Ripun Bora told media persons today that both the ministers should be made to resign by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the earliest owing to moral responsibility.

Taking a dig at both the ministers, Bora said, "While Dutta's comments stand in violation of the Constitution of India which entails equal rights for every citizen, Das should own moral responsibility behind the recurring deaths by electrocution and step down."

Bora also slammed Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal for his inability to provide adequate relief to the flood-affected people.

He also questioned as to why the State Government could not convince the Centre to release the flood relief package sought by it in 2016.

Modi takes ...

(Contd from page 1)

The relief operation has also been intensified with the number of relief camps (eight districts) going up from 89 to 90, housing 17,744 inmates compared to yesterday's figure of 16,705. Further, 90 relief distribution centres are available for the flood-affected people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inquired about the measures taken by the State Government and said that the Centre is taking the problem of flood and erosion in Assam very seriously. He assured that the Union Government would extend all support to the State government for tackling the situation.

Zeliang ...

(Contd from page 1)

after attending the farewell ceremony of President Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi, on July 12. In his letter, Zeliang said the NPP-led Legislative Party (34 out of 47 MLAs) held a meeting on July 4 at his Dimapur residence in which the legislators extended support to him to continue as the leader of the NPP Legislative Party.

He said the legislators also authorised him to stake claim before the Governor to form a new NPP-led DAN government and Nagaland may lodge his/her complaint at the above address with full facts / details supported by documents, if any. Members of public can also approach the Designated Officer, Shri Azeeum Muhammed, Assistant General Manager on Telephone No. 0361-2636559 or through e-mail at ccpcguwahati@bpl.org.in

Complainants may log on to Reserve Bank of India's website at <http://www.rbi.org.in> - Consumer Education and Protection - For Common Person - Complaints - Against RBI.

Reserve Bank of India

Consumer Education and Protection Cell
3rd Floor, RBI Building, Station Road, Pan Bazar
Guwahati - 781 001

Any person who has a grievance against any Department of RBI at Guwahati or grievance about deficiency in service against the entities regulated by RBI at Guwahati in the jurisdiction of the state of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland may lodge his/her complaint at the above address with full facts / details supported by documents, if any. Members of public can also approach the Designated Officer, Shri Azeeum Muhammed, Assistant General Manager on Telephone No. 0361-2636559 or through e-mail at ccpcguwahati@bpl.org.in

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Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal distributing a free LPG connection to a beneficiary under the PM's Ujjwala Yojana at Golokganj, on Saturday.—UB Photos

Reject anti-social activities: Sonowal

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, July 9: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that Dhurbi has always been an important place in the map of Assam from pre-Independence era and the State Government is taking all steps to usher in all round development in the district. Unless and until every part of the State is developed equally, Assam can never be a developed State, Sonowal added. Stating that some anti-social elements are hell-bent to create disharmony in the society, Chief Minister warned that no such activity would be tolerated. He also said that rights of all genuine citizens of the country would be upheld at any cost and at the same time illegal immigrants would not be given shelter in the State. He also called upon the people of Dhurbi to be alert in thwarting any nefarious designs of anti-social elements and asked them not to allow Dhurbi to be used as a shelter for illegal immigrants.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of Ujjwala scheme at Golokganj in Dhurbi, Chief Minister Sonowal said that for all-round development of the rural women belonging to below poverty line, Central and State Governments have been taking several steps. The Ujjwala Scheme, one such programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has enabled many rural women to get access to free LPG

connection besides helping them to go forward in life. Launching the Ujjwala scheme at Golokganj in Dhurbi yesterday, he said that the scheme would help the poor women live a life of dignity and cook in a healthy environment.

The Chief Minister said that the womenfolk of rural underprivileged households have to invest a lot of time and energy in finding firewood for their daily cooking needs and they also have to suffer because of unhealthy environment caused by the smoke emanated from the fire. However, all this will change now better as Ujjwala will provide LPG connections to all those women.

LPG penetration which is at 28 per cent in Dhurbi will see a quantum leap to 80 per cent when the entire district is covered under Ujjwala.

Earlier, Chief Minister Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Chilarai Kalakshetra at Golokganj and said that the proposed project would give outsiders a true impression of Chilarai's value and gallantry. The complex would be built on a sprawling 60 bigha and Rs 1 crore has been sanctioned for erecting boundary walls initially.

MLA Ashwin Ray Sarkar of Golokgan, Ashok Kumar Singh of Bilasipara East, Deputy Commissioner Dhubri Dhriraj Chowdhury, DGK, IOC, LPG Sourav Chalha and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Dr Maheswar Neog's statue unveiled at Jorhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 9: As a part of the ongoing year-long centenary celebrations of the Assam Sahitya Sabha, the statue of well-known scholar Dr Maheswar Neog was unveiled here today at the Sabha's central office campus, which was followed by opening of a book stall within the campus to sale books published by the premier State literary body.

In a day-long function organised by the Sabha, which was marked by a series of activities, four famous books translated from English and published by the Sabha were released.

A lecture on Neog's life and works and laying of the foundation stone of an air-conditioned auditorium, to be part of the literary organisations headquarters, were other highlights of the function. A poem meet too was organised on the occasion.

Sabha president Dr Dhrubajyoti Bora,

inaugurated the function by unveiling the statue of Neog, which has been made by local sculptor Ranjit Baruah with fund sponsored by the Oil India Limited.

The Sabha in 2015 had renamed its academic wing - Central Institute of Academic Studies - as Prachyavardhan (scholar) Dr Maheswar Neog Institute of Assamese Studies - as a tribute to the great literary giant.

The foundation stone of the auditorium, to be constructed at the first floor of the Radha Kanta Handique Bhawan in the campus, was laid by Dr Bora and Jorhat Lok Sabha MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa jointly. The auditorium will be constructed within a period of 10 months.

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The Assistant Sabha secretary Samiran Bordoloi said that the book stall opened on the campus and to be run by Samiran Tasa, who was deeply associated with the literary organisation.

Week-long Van Mahotsav ends with mass plantation drive

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, July 9: The week-long celebration of 'Van Mahotsav-2017' in Darrang district ended on Friday with mass plantation in several parts of the district. On this concluding day, the district administration in association with the Forest Department carried out a mass plantation drive in Kunruwa Reserve Forest which has been facing threats from unabated deforestation over the last few years.

Community plantation was also conducted in Kholiohara area where environment has allegedly been polluted due to the growing number of brick kilns, Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, Ashok Kr Barman; DFO of T North Kamrup Division Banking Ch Sarma; Manali Jain, Circle Officer of Sipajhar Revenue Circle; and senior officials of the district administration and Forest Department, local citizens, and students took part in the plantation programme.

Deputy Commissioner, while ad-

dressing the public in this connection, appealed to them to make plantation a never ending process of their lives and take care of the plants just like a member of their families. He also distributed saplings among the local school students and took part in another mass plantation on historic 'Baghdara' hillocks.

Meanwhile, voluntary organisation Crystal Vision in collaboration with the district administration and other local socio-cultural organisation, including Aaideo Talkies, Darrang unit, organised the 68th Van Mahotsav with the plantation of saplings of local variety fruits such as Black Berry, Apple Berry etc., along the Hem Barua road in ward number 4 here.

Sunydeo Choudhary, DFO of Mangaldai Wild Life Division; Ashok Bharag, vice-chairman of Jyoti Chitrabhan Maj Harimon Deka, in-charge NCC of Mangaldai College; Hemanta Mun Mahanta, social activist; along with the NGO members and local people participated in the programme.

ATM card fraud victim gets his money back from bank

HARMOHAN BARMAN

BARPETA, July 9: Barpeta branch of the State Bank of India has to refund an amount of Rs 1.6 lakh which was siphoned off by miscreants from the account of a customer of the bank. According to information available, miscreants looted the amount in October 2016 last by fraudulent means.

According to the victim, identified as Guruprasad Das, a resident of Bilarbarihere, he was shocked that his account was short of Rs 1.6 lakh when he came to withdraw money on November 2 last year. He immediately informed the matter to the bank authority. But the bank authority was not ready to listen to his complaint and argued that some-

one from his family had withdrawn the money through his ATM card. Das asserted that his ATM card was not used by anybody since October 24.

Later, the victim came to know that the amount was withdrawn from ATMs at Kalathibanga, Simgur and Barpeta road Namghar. He lodged an FIR with the police on the same day stating that someone siphoned off money from his bank account on November 3, 2016. Though the police investigated the matter no fruitful result was achieved.

In the meantime, his son Pranabjyoti Das intimated the matter to the higher authorities of the State Bank of India, Reserve Bank of India and even to the Prime Minister's Office. The PMO, while acknowledging the receipt of the let-

ter, assured to take all steps to recover the money.

The investigation got intensified after the intervention of the PMO. The police identified a masked youth withdrawing money from three different accounts. The mastermind of the crime, Sharif Islam, a resident of Dabaliapara, was arrested on January 27 last from Paltanbari in Guwahati in this connection. Sharif confessed that he used to withdraw money from several parts of the State by using duplicate ATMs.

All these developments were taken seriously by the SBI higher authorities which took steps to refund the money to the customer. Finally an amount of Rs 1.6 lakh was deposited in the account of Guruprasad Das recently.

Police inaction alleged in solving murder case

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, July 9: The people of Ulubari-Habigaon area near Thelamara under Thelamara Police Station in Sonitpur district have expressed their annoyance over the alleged partiality in dealing with the murder case of a farmer of the village.

It is to be mentioned here that on June 7 last, a 48-year-old farmer of the village, Dharani Boro, went missing in the evening. He was found hanging from a tree in a nearby field next day. On receiving the information, the police rushed to the spot to recover the body that bore several cut marks.

However, the people of the area alleged that even after one month, the police couldn't get a breakthrough in the case.

Junuma Boro, a socially aware woman of the area, alleged that because of the police's lackadaisical attitude towards apprehending the culprits, the criminals are roaming free. She also alleged that the post-mortem report which is in the hand of the police is yet to be handed over to the victim family. "When we ask for the post-mortem report, instead of providing it, the police avoid us stating that it was a suicide case," she rued.

She also mentioned that recently a group of people met the Sonitpur SP PP Singh, who promised to provide justice to the victim's family by apprehending the culprits involved in the incident. "But it has proved done as nothing has been done till date," she added.

Seminar on higher education at Morigaon

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, July 9: A seminar on 'Higher education, life and livelihood after Higher Secondary Education' was held recently at Nipun Deka Smriti Sadan, Morigaon, under the auspices of Debjani Deka Educational Trust.

The seminar was conducted by Dr Phanindra Boruah where Dr Alaka Desai Sarma, Dean of the Faculty of Students' Welfare, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), was the key person.

Addressing the students and guardians, Dr Sarma said that to face the challenges of the time of globalisation, our students must be prepared in modern ways. The traditional mindset of the guardians that their wards will get good government jobs after higher education must be changed, Dr Sarma added.

Referring to the USTM's different academic programmes, Dr Sarma said that students as human resource must show their capacity and calibre in higher secondary level selecting a particular specialisation.

In the interactive programme, Dr Sarma dealt with various queries of students about life and livelihood after Higher Secondary Examination. From the audience side, Birinchi Kumar Sarma, president of Morigaon District Journalists' Association extended thanks and gratitude to Debjani Deka Educational Trust for organising the seminar.

Speaking on the occasion, Mileswar Patra, former president of Morigaon Zila Sahitya Sabha, said that sincerity and perseverance are the ways to get success in life.

Ashok Deka, secretary of the Trust extended thanks to all the participants, including students, teachers of different schools and colleges of Morigaon town. The book released by senior journalist Pratap Hazarika — a book written by senior journalist Pratap Hazarika — was formally released at the meeting held here at Pobitora.

Inaugurating the book, Harendra Bora, president of Morigaon Zila Sahitya Sabha, said that writer Hazarika in his book included 17 articles which depicted the picture of society and its different problems.

Speaking on the occasion, Hemen Das, Deputy Commissioner of Morigaon, thanked Hazarika for his laudable initiative.

The open meeting held on the occasion was inaugurated by Balladeva Sarma, secretary of Sadou Asom Gramya Pathibhara Sangha.

The meeting was presided over by Mileswar Patra, former president of Morigaon Zila Sahitya Sabha.

Speaking on the occasion, Narendra Nath Keot, former principal of Morigaon College, said that book reading is the only way out which will protect our new generation from immoral aggression.

Death anniversary: The 9th death anniversary of veteran communist leader, Monoj Deka, was observed here at Morigaon under the auspices of Morigaon district unit of Communist Party of India (CPI) recently.

The programme started with the *smriti tarpan* offered by Dipali Devi Deka, wife of Late Monoj Deka. Senior CPI leaders namely Munin Mahanta, Bhadra Bordoloi and Prasamsa Deka paid floral tributes to the departed leader.

A commemorative meeting was held under the presidency of Prassanna Deka, veteran CPI leader. Speaking on the occasion, former MLA of Morigaon, Munin Mahanta, dwelt at length about the contribution of Late Deka in the Left democratic movement in Assam. Mahanta said that selfless communist leader Monoj Deka had to lose his life on July 4, 2009 following brutal torture of police at Morigaon town.

Deka as a Left student leader visited several communist countries like Russia and Cuba and participated in International Communist Youth Festival in 1973 in Moscow, Mahanta said. As a communist leader, he did a lot for the poor and downtrodden people of the State, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Prassanna Deka said that Late Deka was a brilliant student and he was the first Magazine Secretary of Morigaon College and edited many other magazines too. Deka added.

Sec 144 imposed in Bongaigaon

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, July 9: Additional District Magistrate of Bongaigaon District has enforced Section 144 CrPC yesterday in the district to maintain law and order ahead of the Independence Day.

Pillion riding, rally, demonstration, blockade of roads, assembly of five or more persons in a public places, shouting slogans against any religion and wearing army fatigues have been prohibited in the district.

Persons aged over 60 years, children, differently abled individuals and women have been exempted from riding.

DU degree results today

BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, July 9: Results of the second, fourth and sixth semesters of BA, BSC and BCom examinations, 2017, under the Dibrugarh University will be declared on Monday, July 11, according to a press note issued by the university.

The examinations were held in May this year. The results will be available at designated colleges as well as on the university website.

OBITUARY

Dr Ruben Choudhury

GUAWAHI, July 9: Dr Ruben Choudhury, 53, Consultant Neurosurgeon, resident of Lachitnagar, Guwahati, passed away on July 6. He was

He leaves behind his father, Dr SN Choudhury; mother and two sisters. Dr Choudhury was a widely-respected doctor, with an avid interest in quizzing. His death has cast a pall of gloom among his innumerable friends and well-wishers.



Artists busy in making sculptures at the Mangaldoi Fine Arts Complex, at Mangaldoi on Saturday.—UB Photos

Doctors' Day celebrated

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, July 9: The Doomdooma branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) celebrated Doctors' Day at the Planters Club situated at Samdang Tea Estate here.

In India, Doctors' Day is generally celebrated on the first day of July every year in honour of the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

On this occasion, a meeting was held in which the IMA Doomdooma branch felicitated veteran physician, Colonel Dr Ratan Pathawali and emerging singer Bhaskar Saikia.

In this meeting, a new executive body of the IMA, Doomdooma Branch was constituted with Dr Prashanti Kumar Sharma as president and Dr Pranabjyoti Deka as secretary. A good number of doctors from Doomdooma circle attended the programme.

Restrictions imposed on ferry boat services in Mankachar

ANN Service

HATSINGIMARI, July 9: The Mankachar district administration has imposed Section 144 CrPC on the movement of boat and ferry services during the night time in the Brahmaputra in the wake of devastating floods. A senior officer of the district administration while talking to ANN Service informed that all the ferry and boat services have been restricted from 5 pm to 5 am for the safety of the passengers. They have also been told to keep ready life-saving equipment

ty of the situation. Moreover, they have been told to keep ready life-saving equipment while plying their boats during the day time. All these steps have been taken to prevent any untoward incidents," he said, adding that the restriction would continue till further orders. Meanwhile, the overall flood situation in the district has slightly improved as the water-level of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries have started receding. However, people are still taking shelter in the schools and safer places. The district administration has intensified its rescue operations in the flood-hit areas.

He pulled the chain after he could not find her on the train. Choudhury said his wife was found in a pool of blood near the tracks with serious injuries. She was admitted to a private nursing home in Jorhat, but due to severe multiple injuries on the body, the doctors have referred her to Guwahati for advanced treatment.

Woman thrown out of train by goons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 9: A woman, along with her family members travelling on the Brahmaputra Mail from the State on the Delhi-bound train, Dipak, told newsmen here that most of the passengers were snatched her handbag.

Anjali Choudhury, wife of Dipak Choudhury along with her three kids were on way to Lumding in the wee hours of Saturday after she tried to chase the miscreants who

Torrential rain hits life in Dhemaji, Jonai

ANN Service

JONAI July 9: Incessant rains for the last three days have paralysed life in Dhemaji district, especially in places like Gogamukh, Dhemaji, Sitalparah and Jonai besides large part of Sangma valley in Arunachal Pradesh. The second wave of monsoon, which has turned torrential in the region, has also created

flood havoc in all four circles under Dhemaji district.

Heavy downpour in the upper reaches of the hills in Arunachal Pradesh is also leading to rise in the water levels of Jiyadhal, Kumatia and Moridihal rivers and inundated extensive area of Dhemaji and Bordoloni circles. As such, overflowing water of Ganadi flooded lower parts of Sisbori-

gan circle under the district. In Jonai, overflowing water of Lali river connected to Brahmaputra entered in human habitations and paddy field and flooded 43 villages at Borong, Messaki and Moonmara chapori under Jonai circle.

Jonai Circle Officer Maramurang Payeng informed that about 30,000 people of 4,452 families have been affected in the first wave of flood in the circle. The administration so far has distributed 209 quintal of rice, 39 quintal dal, 11 quintal salt and 200 tarpaulins among the affected families.

According to report, as many as 92 villages in the district are affected by the flash flood. However, no loss of human life has been reported by the district administration.

OBITUARY

Parul Baruah

GUWAHATI, July 9: Parul Baruah, a resident of RG Baruah Road died on Saturday following brief illness. She was 84.

Baruah who had earlier been in Shillong for a considerable period of time was actively associated with Satya Sai Baba organisation and other philanthropic activities.

She is survived by her husband Dr Someswar Baruah, three sons and two daughters.

Majuli villages still under water

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULLI, July 9: There has been no let up in the flood situation at Majuli as around ten villages continued to reel under flood waters in the riverine island.

Sources said

Malapindia, Maharichuk, Eri Chapari, Major Chapari, Barun Chitadhar-chuk areas continued to be affected by floods.

The number of animals af-

fected in the current wave of floods is 17,014, officials said.

Surface communication has broken down in many areas, causing severe hardships to the settlers of the island.

Scores of villages have been under waters for nearly a week now.

There is a severe crisis of

drinking water besides short-

age of food stuff in many areas.

This is the first wave of floods in Majuli this year. The island witnesses two to three waves of floods every year, which causes heavy destruction.

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NORTH LAKHIMPUR, July 9: The dam induced flood has worsened the flood situation in Lakhimpur district as the release of access water from 405 MW Ranganandi Hydro-Electrical Power plant by State owned North East National Electrical Power Corporation (NEEPCO) at Zirai inside Arunachal Pradesh has inundated wider areas here.

According to the District Disaster Management Authority, NEEPCO released 3500 mm of water through its Gate No. 1, 5000 mm wa-

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NORTH EAST

Landslide havoc: 200 trucks stranded in Manipur

SOBHAPATI SAMOM



IMPHAL, July 9: Movement of goods and passenger buses particularly heavy vehicles have been severely affected due to landslides and sinking of highways connecting Manipur's State capital Imphal with rest of the country on Sunday.

The sinking of a 60 feet section in Imphal-Jiribam sector of National Highway 37 between Siman and Lajing villages took place this morning. A heavy landslide also took place at Lamati sector of National Highway 2 near Kohima, reports said.

Nearly 200 trucks, mostly rice-laden trucks were stranded along NH 37. Further, more than 50 Manipuri bound oil tankers are stranded at Khatkhatti in Assam following the landslide at Lamati area, reports added.

The State authority has restricted movement of vehicles along NH 37 in order to speed up road repair works. Clearing of the landslide area are also on

Lamati area in Nagaland. Earlier, movement of heavy vehicles at Mao sector of National Highway 2 was banned for two days on July 4 and 5 following a landslide there.

Manipur has been suffering from floods, landslides and storms for the last two months due to rain accompanied by strong wind. Manipur Government has declared the disaster as 'State Calamity'.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh accompanied by Parlia-

mentary Secretaries Sushindro (Home), Dr Ranjan (Tourism) and Indraji (MAHUD) on Sunday inspected the flood-affected areas in Imphal East district where more than 14,000 hectares of paddy fields are under water.

Speaking to media, the Chief Minister said the government is yet to figure out the exact number of houses and villages that have been affected by flood as more and

more areas have been inundated in the last few days.

According to official reports, about 40,000 hectares of agricultural land which is about 20 per cent of Manipur's total agricultural area have been affected by floods.

On Saturday too, the CM and Works Minister Th Biswajit inspected the flood-affected homesteads and agricultural areas of Imphal East and Thoubal districts.

Rajnath assures Sikkim CM of security of NH 10

NEW DELHI, July 9: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today assured the Sikkim Government that the Centre will ensure the security of National Highway 10, the lifeline of the landlocked State, which is facing crisis of essential commodities and counter-protests over the demand of the people of Sikkim and counter-protests over the demand of the people of Sikkim and Gangtok in neighbouring West Bengal.

Reports said traffic between Siliguri and Gangtok was affected as drivers of West Bengal-registered vehicles stopped plying to Sikkim.

There have been several incidents reported in the past week when Sikkim-registered trucks were vandalised and looted by unidentified miscreants in Siliguri. There have also been reports of Sikkim-bound taxis, buses and private vehicles being targeted by anti-social elements in Siliguri.

The incidents of violence started after the Sikkim Chief Minister supported the demand of Gorkhaland and also wrote to the Home Minister saying it was a justified and long pending demand of the people of Darjeeling hills.

Chamling had said Sikkim

has been suffering "untold loss owing to the recurring blockade of its own and only lifeline NH-10, during the last 30 years of Gorkhaland agitation".

Sikkim transporters are on an indefinite strike demanding the immediate arrest of the miscreants who carried out attacks against Sikkim vehicles at Siliguri. They are also demanding that West Bengal give assurance of providing safety to Sikkim-registered vehicles.

Expressing concern over vandalism of Sikkim-registered vehicles in West Bengal, Chamling had said he is planning to move the Supreme Court in this regard.

"In am in touch with the Union Government on the issue and thinking of approaching the Supreme Court to settle the issue at the earliest," he told a meeting in Chisopani in South Sikkim district on Wednesday. — PTI

Floor test in Mizoram's Chakma ADC on Monday

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, July 9: The chairman of Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) has summoned a one-day session of the Council on Monday to enable a floor test against the Chief Executive Member (CEM).

The CADC chairman through a notification summoned the session in pursuance of the notification issued by Mizoram Government on July 4 that entrusted him as caretaker of the Council, as per Rule 33 of CADC (Constitution and

Conduct of Business) Rules, 2002. He summoned the session after telephonic approval from the Lawngtlai district deputy commissioner.

The July 4 notification placed

the CADC under Governor's Rule and also appointed the DC of Lawngtlai district to administer the Council on Governor's behalf. This order came after six of the eight executive members of the Council resigned and 12 of the 20 Council members proposed a no-confidence motion against the CEM

Kali Kumar Tongchongya. The Governor also instructed CADC chairman to convene a sitting of the Council and conduct floor test within a week.

However, the Mizoram unit of CADC has opposed a no-confidence motion and has submitted a memorandum to the Governor to order mid-term elections to the Council. The BJP insisted that a rebellion by 12 Congress members in the Council meant a constitutional breakdown where fresh elections are required.

Of the 20 members in the Council, 17 are Congress.

Tailin to depose before Meghalaya women panel

SHILLONG, July 9: Tailin Lyngdoh, the Khasi woman who was forced out of a posh Delhi club because of her traditional attire last month, will depose before Meghalaya State Women Commission tomorrow.

"We will depose before the State Women Commission at Shillong tomorrow," Tailin's employer Dr Nivedita Barthakur said.

She said the Commission sought their deposition as both Lyngdoh and Barthakur have lodged a complaint with it. "I have met Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma days after the incident and as per his advice we lodged a complaint with the police said today."

"Security was enhanced on the National Highway and Tripura State Rifles (TSR) was engaged in patrolling to ensure peace and calm so that no untoward incident can take place during the proposed agitation," SP Police Control, Dilip Roy told reporters.

National Highway 8 runs from Karimganj in Assam to Khayarpur in Tripura.

The IPFT has demanded that a separate State be carved out for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD) areas, which constitutes two third of the State territory and is the home to the tribals, who form one third of the population.

The State Government in a press statement had yesterday appealed to IPFT to withdraw the agitation as the people were safer due to the blockade on the National Highway.

The ruling CPI-M has opposed the blockade call and said the demand for separate State is "divisive and aimed at disrupting communal harmony and peace in the State."

BJP Tripura unit president Biplob Deb told reporters that "The demand for separate State is improbable and it is not physically possible. The BJP opposes the demand," he said. — PTI

A prominent businessman said there is confusion within the small and medium business community as there are a lot of issues unexplained and have to be addressed, although lauding the new tax regime.

He said that GST has made it necessary for small businesses to hire professionals for their book keeping, which has to be done online.

The pharmacies are also concerned and several have said that so far it is not clear about the different slabs the various drugs would fall under. They have also complained that the Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) code, which is mandatory, is yet to be received.

search and recognise the top student with the best Information and Communication Technology skills.

Josuto was felicitated in New Delhi on June 28

jointly by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and ICDL India for topping the country in the prestigious Asia Digital Challenge-2017 conducted across the country.

The felicitation ceremony was graced by Dr Ajay Kumar Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology along with other eminent academicians, top industry leaders and a host of dignitaries from the country and abroad.

Prince Sumberia, of Computer Science & Engineering of Model Institute of Engineering and Technology, Jammu & Kashmir, stood second in the competition and will also participate in the Asia Digital Challenge at Singapore.

The cost of Josuto's travel to Singapore will be sponsored by ICDL India, New Delhi.

Manipur undertakes extensive plantation programme

CORRESPONDENT

Chingtha under his Andro constituency in Imphal East district.

The State faces flood-like situation as the rainfall has led to silting of river beds brought about by various reasons including deforestation, he added.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and head of Forest Force and PCCF K Angmo, IGF Project Elephant, Government of India RKS Srivastava, Additional PCCF, Baito, officials of Forest department, residents and volunteers attended the programme.

Later, Shyamkumar, along with Forest officials, also planted saplings at the historic Kheba Ching at Khongom in Thoubal district.

There are also reports of observance of Vanamahotsava through plantation of 10,000 trees at places like Chandel, Churachandpur, Bishnupur, Jiribam, Kangpokpi, Senapati, Tamenglong and Utkhril in association with more than 150 local clubs, organisations, institutions and village people.

The Forest department also distributed around 2,000 saplings in and around Imphal. Students, housewives and others thronged the venue to collect the saplings.

The Forest department is planning to plant 9.95 lakh saplings this season across the State to increase the green cover and also help in mitigating climate change and flood.

Security beefed up in Tripura in view of IPFT blockade call

AGARTALA, July 9: Security was beefed up in Tripura in view of the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) call for a floor test against the Chief Executive Member (CEM).

The CADC chairman through a notification summons the session in pursuance of the notification issued by Mizoram Government on July 4 that entrusted him as caretaker of the Council, as per Rule 33 of CADC (Constitution and

functions of the host State will go a long way in blending themselves with the people of other parts of the country, thereby reinforcing the spirit of unity in diversity," the Governor said.

He urged the youth of the region to learn about other people and at the same time showcase their rich cultural heritage in order to create strong bonds and unity.

Acharya also called upon them to preserve nature. "Concerted efforts are required to maintain and improve the existing natural resources. It will contribute at individual and community levels.

"Non-dependence on the government is the need of the hour to address the issues of preservation of our environment as enshrined in the fundamental duties of the citizens," he said. — PTI

Arunachal, Nagaland students join plantation drive in Mumbai

ITANAGAR, July 9: Students from Arunachal Pradesh and neighbouring Nagaland on Friday joined the Van Mahotsava programme organised by Maharashtra Government at the initiative of Governor PB Acharya.

Acharya holds dual charge of the two Northeastern States and is on official tour in Maharashtra. Maharashtra Government has undertaken a plantation drive in the State.

Such involvement of the people of North East in government initiatives and pro-

grammes of the host State will go a long way in blending themselves with the people of other parts of the country, thereby reinforcing the spirit of unity in diversity," the Governor said.

Acharya initiated the plantation programme to strengthen emotional and national integration amongst the people of North East and Maharashtra.

"Such involvement of the people of North East in government initiatives and pro-



Flood devastation causing road blockades in Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday. — UB Photos

GST Council meets shifted to Saturdays on Meghalaya's plea

RAJU DAS

SHILLONG, July 9: The Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council meeting would be held on first Saturday of each month and Meghalaya was pivotal in fixing this day.

It was earlier decided that the Council meeting would be held on the first Sunday of every month. However, Meghalaya took a stand against the day and it was changed to Saturday.

Taxation Minister Zenith Sangma told The Assam Tribune that after Sunday was tentatively fixed as the day for the Council meetings, he argued that since Meghalaya is a Chris-

tian majority State, attending meetings on Sundays would not be appropriate. Christians reserve Sundays as a day of prayer.

Not just Meghalaya, Sangma also pointed out that Christian majority States like Nagaland, Mizoram and others would also find it difficult to attend the meeting.

"Ultimately it was agreed to change the day and then it was decided that on first Saturday of the month the GST council meeting would be held," Sangma said.

Therefore, the first meeting after the implementation of the GST would be held on August 5, the first

Saturday of the month. Sangma said issues such as revision of taxes on items if need be and ways for smoother implementation of the Act would be discussed.

Sangma, who has been enthusiastic about the GST and its implementation, has said on several occasions that the new tax regime would help consumer States like Meghalaya.

Meanwhile, businesses in the State Capital have welcomed the new tax structure with cautious optimism.

Several are still confused how the GST would take shape, although several awareness programmes were held in the State.

Naga youth to represent India in ICDL Asia Digital Challenge

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, July 9: Josuto Rudrope, a fourth semester student of Computer Science & Engineering at Regional Institute of Science & Technology (RIST), Meghalaya will represent India in the grand finale of the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Asia Digital Challenge-2017 to be held in Singapore on July 19. He hails from Chozuba village under Phiek district of Nagaland.

After qualifying in the first round, Josuto scored 100 per cent in the second round of online examination and came out as the topper in the whole country which has made the entire North Eastern region proud, reports said.

ICDL is the world's leading computer skills certification which had recently conducted the online competitions in numerous institutions all over India, among the tertiary and university students in the age group 18-25 years with an aim to

CAPSULE**E-commerce rule**

NEW DELHI, July 9: To protect online consumers, the government has made it mandatory for e-commerce companies from January 2018 to print not only the MRP on goods, but also information like expiry date and customer care details. An amendment in this regard has been made to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 by the Consumer Affairs Ministry last month. A six-month deadline has been given to the companies to comply with the new rule. - PTI

Bajaj Electricals

NEW DELHI, July 9: Bajaj Electricals sees immense opportunity in the connected devices space and is making significant investments to T-internet (of Things) based products. "We have embarked on a new journey in digitisation with our Integrated Building Management System (IBMS) and our technologically advanced LED lighting solutions which help customers upgrade to next level of lighting," the company said. - PTI

Mahindra Holidays

NEW DELHI, July 9: Mahindra Holidays and Resorts India Ltd (MHLR) is looking to add another 500 rooms to its inventory in the next two to three years as part of its expansion plans going forward. The company had a total inventory of 3,152 rooms across 49 resorts by the end of 2016-17, the Mahindra Group said in an annual report 2016-17. - PTI

Start-up facility

NEW DELHI, July 9: State-of-the-art innovation centres, modern incubation set-up, training labs and co-working space for start-ups are being planned on the west coast in Karmanghat. This is the first project of its kind which is being part-funded by MP Local Area Development Scheme. Using her MPLADS fund, Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, has announced the project, which would provide a complete ecosystem for start-ups. - PTI

Lenskart plans

NEW DELHI, July 9: On the back of its success in Lenskart plans to launch its initial public offer within next three years to create value and provide exit option to existing shareholders. "As the company grows, we see this IPO will create more value for everybody... this IPO will chart out our growth path," Lenskart Founder and CEO Peeyush Bansal said. - PTI

Developers need to invest in project management: Experts

MUMBAI, July 9: With the advent of GST and RERA, developers would now have to adopt higher standards of performance, which requires them to invest in project management, say experts.

The government enacted the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act 2016 and all the sections of the Act have come into force with effect from May 1 this year, while the goods and services tax came into effect from July 1.

The GST and the RERA are touted as game changers, converting unorganised real estate into an organised sector.

"While the advent of RERA is being heralded as a game-

G20 to fight protectionism, money laundering

HAMBURG, July 9: Rejecting emerging protectionist trends, the G20 countries, including India, on Saturday agreed to keep the markets open and fight protectionism, including all unfair trade practices and hinted at advancing the implementation of international standards on transparency to fight corruption, tax evasion, money laundering and terrorist financing.

In a major step against black money generation, the Hamburg Action Plan adopted at the end of the two-day summit of developed countries and emerging economies called on all relevant jurists to begin the process of automatic exchange of financial account information under the common reporting standards by September next year.

They pledged to implement the implementation of Base Erosion and Profit Sharing (BEPS) package to check tax avoidance by entities which actually shift profits to low or no-tax locations.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech at the Summit, said the rise in protectionism threatens gains from globalisation. "G20 must speak in one voice to support and sustain a regime of openness and transparency," he said.

"International trade and investment are important engines of growth, productivity, innovation, job creation and development."

"We will keep markets open noting the importance of reciprocal and mutually advantageous

trade and investment frameworks on the principle of non-discrimination and continue to fight protectionism, including all unfair trade practices and recognise the role of legitimate trade defence instruments in this regard," the 12-page statement released by host German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

The countries, including the US, France, Japan and Russia, declared they will strive to enhance a level playing field, in particular by promoting a favourable environment for trade and investment in this regard.

"We underline the crucial role of the rules-based international trading system. We note the importance of bilateral, regional and plurilateral agreements being open, transparent, inclusive and WTO-

consistent and commit to working to ensure they complement the multilateral trade agreements," it stated.

On international tax cooperation and financial transparency, the Group of 20 nations said they will continue their work for a globally fair and modern international tax system and welcome international cooperation on pro-growth tax policies.

The leaders noted that international investment can play an important role in promoting inclusive economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development which requires an open, transparent and conducive global policy environment. "We will seek to identify strategies to facilitate and retain foreign direct investment," the declaration said. - IANS



Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Ind Charge) Dharmendra Pradhan unveiling the plaque to mark laying of foundation stone for Dhamra LNG Terminal in Odisha on Saturday. Senior officials of IOC and GAIL are also seen. - PIB

E-way bill system under GST likely to start from Oct

NEW DELHI, July 9: The GST provision, requiring any good more than Rs 50,000 in value to be pre-registered online before it can be moved, is likely to kick in from October after a centralised software platform is ready, a top official said.

The provision, called the e-way bill, will be implemented after infrastructure for smooth generation of registration and its verification through hand-held devices with tax-offices is ready.

The information technology platform for the e-way bill system is being developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) along with GST network - the company which has developed the IT backbone for the new indirect tax regime.

The Centre has also decided to relax the timeline of provision under which the e-way bill is generated by GSTN for 20 days for goods travelling more than 1,000 km. Earlier, this was 15 days.

As per the provision, GSTN will generate e-way bills that will be valid for 10-20 days, depending on the distance to be travelled - 100 to less than 300 km), 5 days (300 to less than 500 km) and 10 days (500 to less than 1,000 km).

The GST Commissioner may extend the validity period of e-way bill for certain categories of goods.

"We hope the e-way bill can be implemented in three months' time as by then, we hope to develop the infrastructure for consolidated e-way bill," a top official said.

Although the goods and services tax (GST) was rolled out from July 1, a centralised e-way bill could not be implemented as the rules and forms were not ready.

"The e-way bill rules may be taken up in the next meeting of the GST Council on August 5. After the rules are in place, the NIC and GSTN would develop an-all-India platform for a consolidated system," another official said.

Since States like West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh already had a robust e-way bill system, the GST Council in its meeting last month has allowed the States having e-way bill rules to continue with the existing form till a central format is built. - PTI

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Main accused 'confessed' to crime, says police

FARIDABAD (Haryana), July 9: The prime accused in the killing of 17-year-old Junaid Khan on a train here last month has "confessed" to having stabbed Junaid and attacking his brothers, Superintendent of Police (Railways) Kamaldeep Goyal said addressing a press conference here.

The accused, who works as a security guard in a Delhi firm, was arrested from Dholi district of Maharashtra yesterday, about a fortnight after the June 22 incident which had triggered a nationwide outrage as it was reportedly linked to the beef issue.

The 30-year-old main accused, a resident of Palwal in Haryana who was identified by his lawyer as Naresh Kumar, was today produced before a court which sent him to a two-day police remand.

Duty magistrate Sandeep Kumar recorded his statement during his production today.

"During his questioning so far, the main accused has confessed to having stabbed Junaid and attacking his brothers," Superintendent of Police (Railways) Kamaldeep Goyal said addressing a press conference here.

Junaid lynching

On claims that Junaid and his brothers were attacked over the issue of beef, Goyal said, "No such thing has come to the fore during the main accused's questioning so far."

The SP added that even the complainant had not mentioned beef being the reason for the fight on board the train in which Junaid was killed.

He said the accused had boarded the Mathura-bound train from Shivajirao station in Delhi.

The fight between the victim and his brothers and the accused in the train started

ed at Okhla railway station in Delhi while the stabbing took place at a station Ballabgarh onwards, the SP said.

Replying to a question, Goyal said the main fight had started between the victim and another man Rameshwar, who was arrested earlier in the case.

The SP said the main accused joined the fight later even though he did not know Rameshwar.

The knife used for killing Junaid has not been recovered so far, he said, adding the accused had told the police that it was in his possession.

"His consent will be sought for Test Identification Parade before court," Goyal said.

"It is an open investigation and only after thorough interrogation of the accused will the complete sequence of events in the case come to fore," the SP said, replying to a question about sequence of events which led to Junaid's killing. — PTI

Dalit leader denied permission for Freedom March'

AHMEDABAD, July 9: The Mehsana district authorities have cancelled the permission granted earlier to Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani for taking out a march on July 12 to mark a year of the Una Dalit thrashing incident.

Meveni, however, said the 'Azadi Kochi' (Freedom March) would go ahead as planned, from Mehsana town to Dhamera in Banaskantha district.

The permission granted on June 27 for the rally was revoked yesterday by the executive magistrate of Mehsana who cited a fresh advisory issued by the local police about the law and order situation.

"Looking at the present law and order situation, the police has submitted a fresh report with us and claimed that the rally may cause breach of peace and public order. Thus, we hereby cancel the permission granted on June 27 to hold the rally on July 12," said the written order. — PTI

Prez launches three digital initiatives in education sector

NEW DELHI, July 9: President Pranab Mukherjee today launched two programmes to take education to the remotest corners of the country with the help of technology.

Mukherjee also launched a 'National Academic Depository' where verified educational records would be digitally stored by universities or a board to counter forgery.

The programmes Swayam and Swayam Prabha — for making education more accessible — and the depository were conceived and executed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Under Swayam, courses would be offered through digital classrooms with online study material available free of cost in videos.

Students who want certification will have to be registered and then offered a certificate on

the completion of the course for a nominal fee, the Swayam website states.

They would have the opportunity to raise queries which would be answered in real time, Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar said.

Students would be assessed through proctored examination and the marks/grades secured in the exam would be transferred to their academic record, according to the website.

Swayam Prabha would tap into the potential of Direct to Home Service wherein a person can install a dish antenna for about Rs 1,500 and have access to 32 digital educational channels run by the HRD Ministry.

Every day, there would be new content for at least four hours which would be repeated five times in a day, allowing students to choose the time of

teaching and learning.

The president also said there were huge differences in the quality of education in urban and rural areas, between the states and in educational institutions within a state. — PTI

Pak violates ceasefire yet again

JAMMU, July 9: The Pakistani Army today targeted villages and forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district by resorting to heavy mortar shelling and firing antitank weapons in yet another ceasefire violation.

According to a police officer, the areas of Khadi Karma and Diwgar were targeted. The Pakistan Army resorted to indiscriminate firing from small arms, automatic weapons and mortar bombs from 5.55 pm today on villages and Indian Army posts along the LoC in Poonch district, the police officer said.

He said more physical expansion might provide access but without physical infrastructure and quality teachers, "the talent which is hidden in the young minds would not get the opportunity to blossom".

The president also said there were huge differences in the quality of education in urban and rural areas, between the states and in educational institutions within a state. — PTI

Emerging from the shadows, transgenders search for home

NEW DELHI, July 9: Till two years ago, Urmil Jadhav lived in a flat in Mumbai, paid rent on time and even had a legal rent agreement in her name issued after police verification. It lasted only till her landlord realised that Jadhav, dressed like a woman, but was not one.

Part of the transgender community forced to live in the shadows by a society that shuns those who fall outside the male-female binary, Jadhav moved back to a nearby slum where she continues to live in unhygienic and insecure conditions.

The research assistant with Hasmusaar Trust, which describes itself as the oldest LGBTQ organisation in India, said mainstream society is unable to break free from stereotypes associated with transgenders, making it difficult for them to

get a roof above their heads. As if to echo her feelings, eight of the 23 transgenders who had joined Kochi Metro in a much-lauded move quit the company barely a week after the Metro became operational. The reason — their inability to get accommodation in the city.

Most had to travel long distance or rent rooms in nearby hotels. With their expenses soaring income, the big city job in Kochi ironically became a financially unviable option.

Lack of accommodation affects employment opportunities for many in the transgender community, forcing many of them back into sex work and begging.

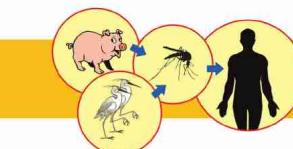
"People refuse accommodation to us by simply saying, 'hum hijron ko ghar nahi dete (We don't rent houses to hijras)." Jadhav told this news agency. — PTI

JULY IS THE HIGH TRANSMISSION TIME OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

Be alert, take precaution

Any type of fever might turn out to be Japanese Encephalitis. Immediate medical treatment can save life and prevent complication of Japanese Encephalitis.

Japanese Encephalitis is a disease spread by mosquito



Symptoms of this disease

Acute fever, headache, mental irritability, vomiting tendency, convulsion and loss of consciousness

To prevent this disease

- Always wear fully covered clothes
- Keep pigs and piggeries away from your house
- Always use mosquito net (LLIN) while sleeping

- Fog your house in the evening
- Keep the doors and windows open for half an hour during fogging operation conducted by Government

If any of the symptoms is observed, contact health workers and rush the patient to the nearest hospital

For any help, dial 104

Progressive & healthy nation is our mission



A two-day national convention on the Bhagavad Gita titled 'Gita Preaches Non-violence, Not War' organised by the Brahma Kumaris, in Gurgaon on Sunday. — UNI



পেট্ৰলিয়াম আৰু প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস মন্ত্রণালয়, ভাৰত চৰকাৰ

শ্ৰীমতি বৰীনন্দ সোণোৱাল
মাননীয় মূল্যবানী, অসম
মুখ্য অতি�ি
আৰু

শ্ৰীমতি বিজোৱা চৰকাৰী
মাননীয়া সামৰণ, গুৱাহাটী লোকসভা সমষ্টি
বিলিং অতি�ি

প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী উজ্জলা মোজনাৰ

জিলা পথৰাবৰ শৰ্কুৰক্ষণ আৰু পৰিয়াল পথৰাবৰ সমষ্টিৰ অনুষ্ঠানলৈ
কাৰ্যকৰ মহানগৰ জিলা প্ৰশাসন আৰু পৰিয়াল পথৰাবৰ সমষ্টিৰ
কেল উদ্বোগে আপোনাক সাধনৰে আমৰণ জনাইছে।

স্থান : পশ্চিম মহাবিদ্যালয় ফেণপুৰী, খানাপারা, গুৱাহাটী
১১ জুনীই ২০৭৭ | সিলে ১১:০০ বজা

ড়. বিমল দিৰাৰ্পা মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী	প্ৰক্ৰিয়া মন্ত্ৰী মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী	শ্ৰীমতি বিমলাৰ মোজনাৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী
বাস্তু আৰু পৰিয়াল কাৰ্যালয়, মিডিয়া, বিত্ত, পৰ্যটন অন্যান্য অসম চৰকাৰ	খৰচ, অসমৰিক বোৰ্ড, অসম গৱাক্ষ পথৰাবৰ আৰু মুদ্ৰণ কাৰিগৰী অসম চৰকাৰ	শ্ৰীমতি বিমলাৰ মোজনাৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী
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Janatamang 7/27/17



No kid's stuff!

Counselling of participants is a must on a children's show, says Bollywood singer Shaan in an interview to **Natalia Ningthoujam**

Popular singer Shaan, who has served as a host and judge on children's reality TV shows, feels that counselling participants and their parents was very important to retain their innocence.

Earlier this week, filmmaker Shoojit Sircar urged authorities via a tweet to "urgently ban all reality shows involving children" as he feels they are "destroying them emotionally and their purity."

About it, Shaan, who hosted 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs' in 2006 and returned to the singing-based show in 2014 as a judge, told IANS: "I am on the same page with Shoojit Sircar. I didn't involve myself in children's reality shows for a few years because during ... 'Eii Champs' in 2006, I noticed the amount of pressure on the kids. It was tremendous."

"Maybe someone said this just to convince me... and I got convinced... that 'If you are not going to be there, nothing is going to change. People are still going to put up these shows. But if you are sensitive to the kids and you have a way to approach these things, you can stay real with the kids,'" he said.

Counselling is one of the most important of things, he says.

"Counselling is a must on a children's show. There should be a counsellor for kids and parents. And the show should not be extended just because they are doing well. Children shouldn't be kept away from their regular life for a long period," said the *Bum bum bole* hitmaker.

He says the longer they stay on the show, the more pressure they feel to maintain the same image.

"Some of them even continue to play that same image which got formed during the show. At that age, it is not easy to switch on and off. They start talking and behaving in the same way, and that doesn't allow them to grow."

"I won't mention the name, but there was a reality show winner. She kept that image... That big round pink blouse on cheeks. You know how children get made-up ideas. I asked 'You are 19, so why would you still do that?' She said, 'People like it.'

He is clearly not okay with it.

Back home, Shaan's sons, Soham and Shubh, are also budding musicians. Don't they feel the pressure?

"I don't think they do. I haven't pushed them into it. They are evolving and growing at their own pace. I don't want to pressurise them. They are learning piano and more. In terms of advice, I am always there for them. They are passionate about music. You can't keep them away from that."

"My father and grandfather have all done music," said the singer, whose project – a mashup of *Gazab ka hai din* and *Bawara Mann* for T-Series' *Mixtape* – released on Thursday.

Talking about it, he said: "One is a recreation of the hit 1980s song and the other is as fresh as 2017. They are sung by different singers, but I approached the project as a new song that I've been called to sing. Both have blended so well." – IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! for Monday, July 10, 2017:

This year you feel the pull and push of power in a power boss could become controlling to the extent that you might have trouble dealing with him or her. Consider not reacting, if possible. If the situation is beyond your control, then you need to be a bit more assertive. If you are attached to a partner or friend, you often find that you need to back off and stop arguing with your sweetie about who's right. Once you accept and respect your differences, the romance between you will heat up. AQUARIUS can be a warm, caring friend who presents a different view.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Bad

Aries (March 21-April 19) *** An act on an inclination to express more nurturing toward a family member or dear friend. You provide a great example of what time do and how it can change a person's attitude. Focus on a meeting you have in a while. These extra duties have been delegated to you in return of your ability to integrate new ideas. Tonight: Invite a special friend alone.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) *** You have the ability to impress those who count, particularly a parent or boss. You will be accepting more responsibility than you have in a while. These extra duties have been delegated to you in return of your ability to integrate new ideas. Tonight: A formal dress with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 22) *** Reach out to a loved one at a distance. There is an unusual amount of activity going on around you. Recognize how much growth you need to cover as you could have several projects to complete. Don't be afraid to call someone at a distance. Tonight: Break past the obvious.

CANCER (June 23-July 22) *** You prefer to relate on a one-on-one level. A partner has a desire to be more involved; however, you will note that his or her approach and views seem to be transforming. Be gracious, and make no assumptions. Tonight: Confirm plans rather than show up at the wrong place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Detach to someone whom you care a lot about; you will want some feedback about a prevalent issue. Ask key questions in order to relate to the situation. You might feel uncertain than it actually is. Know that everything will be OK. Tonight: Accept an offer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Throw yourself into a creative project that appeals to you. You never know what is going on within a group of friends. Your creativity surges when dealing with people that you are passionate about. Fatigue could come into play if you become anxious. Tonight: Take a walk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** You might want to have an important discussion. Listen to what others have to say, and then let them see the light that keeps escalating, as it is likely to increase your anxiety. Tonight: Highly head and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** You can run into a friend or sibling whom you adore. As a result, you might decide to change your schedule. Honor a fast decision that you have made on a new project. Consider yourself before responding, and you'll avoid a knee-jerk reaction. Tonight: Consider a trip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Be more sensitive to others, and recognize what they have to say. You might have a long-overdue discussion about the long term and where you are headed. Financials could come into play as a major concern in your decision-making process. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Others seem to be rather chatty, and so could you? You will enjoy a sense of connection with the people around you. Caring emotions will be the driving force in a new venture. Consider your options more carefully. Tonight: Get into a moment of excitement.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** You'll be more in tune with your inner voice than you normally are. Watch out as you have a tendency to be overly sensitive until someone or something makes you out of it. Investigate an offer involving your family life. Tonight: Home is where your heart is.

Thought to the day

The state is an instrument in the hands of the ruling class, used to break the resistance of the adversaries of that class.

- JOSEPH STALIN

Kids

CN

13:00 Roll No. 21
14:00 Roll No. 21
15:00 Roll No. 21
17:00 Witches Bears
17:30 Teen Titans Go
18:30 Henry
18:30 Roll No. 21
21:00 Dragon Thunder Go
21:30 Dragon Ball Z
23:30 Telephoong

13:00 The Tom And Jerry Show
13:30 Chhota Bheem
14:30 Mighty Rajput
17:00 Mighty Rajput
17:30 Chhota Bheem
18:00 Mighty Rajput
18:30 Tu Sora Man Saanphy
19:00 Mighty Rajput
19:30 Chhota Bheem
20:00 Mighty Rajput
20:30 Chhota Bheem
21:00 The Tom And Jerry Show
21:30 Chhota Bheem
22:00 Chhota Bheem
22:30 Chhota Bheem
23:00 M.A.D.
23:30 Telephoong

13:00 Tu Sora Man Saanphy
14:00 EK Asaha Aise Brie
14:30 Dhriti Ke Pram
15:00 Iss Pyar Ke Kya Naam...
15:30 Nisha Ke Kya Karib
16:00 Men Dungri
16:30 Yu Ha Mohabat
17:00 Yu Ha Mohabat
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18:00 Men Arge Meli
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19:30 Yu Ha Mohabat
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20:30 Yu Ha Mohabat

13:00 Tu Sora Man Saanphy
14:00 Iss Pyar Ke Kya Naam...
15:00 Nisha Ke Kya Karib
16:00 Men Dungri
16:30 Yu Ha Mohabat
17:00 Yu Ha Mohabat
17:30 Yu Ha Mohabat
18:00 Men Arge Meli
18:30 Yu Ha Mohabat
19:00 Sasi Nisha Naamphy
19:30 Yu Ha Mohabat
20:00 Sasi Nisha Naamphy
20:30 Yu Ha Mohabat

13:00 Star Plus

13:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsaas

14:00 Dil Se Dil Tak

14:30 Bhag Baoak Bhag

15:00 Bhag Baoak Bhag

15:30 Bhag Baoak Bhag

16:00 Saver Devi College and...

16:30 Deewar

17:00 Sauru Smar Ka

18:00 Saver Devi College and...

18:30 Deewar

19:00 Puri Deewar

19:30 Puri Deewar

20:00 Saver Devi College and...

20:30 Puri Deewar

21:00 Kumkum Bringga

21:30 Ek Tha Raja E Tha Rani

22:00 Dil Se Dil Tak

22:30 Deewar

23:00 Bhag Baoak Bhag

23:30 Bhag Baoak Bhag

24:00 Saver Devi College and...

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Federer, Djokovic wonder if Wimbledon courts can improve

LONDON, July 9: With a week still to go, Wimbledon's grass courts already are not the lush lawns players and TV viewers – are accustomed to seeing in the tournament.

Novak Djokovic noticed the ball bouncing differently in some patches.

Roger Federer and his opponent slipped during their third-round match.

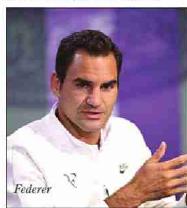
The two past champions are wondering what sort of work can be done on the middle Sunday, when there is no competition, so the court conditions improve when action resumes with all 16 fourth-round singles matches scheduled.

"The first two matches I didn't see any significant difference. But I was hearing a lot of comments from the other players. They were complaining. Especially on the outside courts," Djokovic said after beating Ernesto Gulbis in straight sets at Centre Court yesterday.

"Today, I could see there is a difference in grass, in the turf itself. It was a bit softer, I would say, especially around a couple of feet inside and outside, around the baseline area," said Djokovic, a three-time champion at the All England Club. "I haven't had that kind of experience before in Wimble-

don, to be honest. I mean, the courts are always perfect here."

Federer followed Djokovic on Centre Court and described it as "a tad slippery" after losing his footing during one point in a victory over Mischa Zverev, who also took a tumble.



"But I didn't feel like it was unsafe," said Federer, who has won seven of his record 18 major titles at Wimbledon. "Maybe you don't want players to feel that way, because the moment you become scared of moving properly, it's really difficult to play, I must admit. The last thing we want to see is horrible injuries."

Some players voiced concerns about

the court conditions over the opening week, including Kristina Mladenovic of France and Alison Riske of the United States, who each fell early during their second-round match on Court 18 on Thursday.

Riske, who won the match, said af-

terward that the dirt "is like ice." Measurements taken throughout Wimbledon's first week show the grass courts are as healthy as they have been in recent years, according to Neil Stubley, the head of courts and horticulture at the All England Club.

"We looked at the baselines and the

areas that they thought there was an issue," Stubley said. "We didn't feel there was. The Grand Slam supervisor and assistant referee didn't believe that there was either. When you look at the comparisons of other courts ... They were in or around the same condition as the other courts."

Very little rain has fallen over the first six days of the tournament, which Stubley said led to more wear on the courts.

Still, although he acknowledged the courts are under stress, he said there's "not a doubt" they will hold up through

Wimbledon's second week.

"Because we have daily monitoring, we can keep a very tight rein everything," he said. "It never gets to the point where it's ever going to get away from us because we're top of every single day."

Still Djokovic was sure that something wasn't quite the same as in the past.

"I'm sure they know what they're doing. They know their job the best in the world. But you can see that there is a slight difference in the quality of the grass," he said. "This year seems like it's a bit softer."

Noted Federer: "They have time to figure out how they're going to prep (the courts) for Monday." – AP

Rooney seals emotional return to Everton

LONDON, July 9: Wayne Rooney has rejoined Everton after leaving Manchester United on a free transfer, the Merseyside club confirmed on Sunday.

The 31-year-old has completed an emotional return to Goodison Park, 13 years after leaving

United in a £26.5million deal.

Everton confirmed the two-year deal with a short teaser video entitled "welcome home Wayne".

According to reports, Rooney has agreed to a salary reduction of around 20 per cent as part of the deal taking him back to his boyhood club.

United have agreed to pay a portion of their departing captain's wages, which amount to upwards of £200,000 a week, to facilitate the transfer.

His wages back on Merseyside are still expected to total around the £150,000 a week mark, which would make him potentially the highest earner at Everton. Rooney left Everton for United as an 18-year-old in the summer of 2004 after progressing through the Toofees' youth system.

He departs as the Red Devils' sixth major signing of the window following Michael Keane, Jordan Pickford, Sandro Ramirez, Davy Klaassen and Henry Onyekuru.

"Excited to be back at @Everton. Can't wait to meet up with @RonaldKoeman and the lads! #EFC," he said on Twitter where he was pictured wearing an Everton shirt.

"I really feel now the club is moving in the right direction, bringing the right calibre of players in. I want to be part of it and hopefully part of a successful Everton team."

It's a great feeling to be back. I'm excited, I cannot wait to meet the lads, get on the training pitch and then get on the pitch to play. I'm ecstatic – I just cannot wait to get back playing."

Everton manager Ronald Koeman said he believes Rooney can make a real contribution to the Merseyside club next season.

"He loves Everton and he was desperate to come back," said the Dutchman. "He is still only 31 and I don't have any doubts about his qualities. It's fantastic he's here." – Agencies

Manchester United agree on fee for Lukaku

LONDON, July 9: Belgian international striker Romelu Lukaku is set to join Manchester United for a reported £70million (USD 97.855 million euros), a record fee between British clubs, after the buying club announced they had reached the agreement with Everton.

The 24-year-old's signing rep-



resents a coup for United and their manager Jose Mourinho as the latter's former club champions Chelsea had earmarked him as their top striking target for the close season.

Going in the opposite direction could well mean United and England record goalscorer Wayne Rooney, who according to press reports is willing to take a cut in his £13.8million a year wages to return to his first club, but with the promise of more first team football than at United last year. It brings Mourinho and Lukaku back together again as the Portuguese manager in his second spell as Chelsea manager had sold him to Everton in 2014 for £25million.

United said in a statement on its website it was "delighted to announce a fee has been agreed with Everton for the transfer of Romelu Lukaku, subject to a medical and personal terms."

"A further announcement will be made in due course," added

midfielder Paul Pogba, who he is on holiday with in Los Angeles.

United are due in Los Angeles this weekend for a pre-season tour.

According to British media reports the decisive factor in Lukaku's head being turned to United and his return to the club he was raised as a schoolboy, Chelsea vice-Pogba and their agent Mino Raiola.

Raiola did extremely well out of United last year making an estimated £40m from Pogba's transfer from Juventus along while stalemates Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Zlatan Ibrahimovic also joined the 'Red Devils'.

Chelsea, according to the British media, balked at paying Rao-

la's fee for Lukaku's transfer.

Ibrahimovic's long-term injury suffered in a Europa League match last season and the fading powers of Rooney have made the capture of a top striker imperative for Mourinho. – AFP

Sania advances in women, mixed events

LONDON, July 9: Capping of a great day for India, Sania Mirza advanced to the third round of both the women's and mixed doubles events, while Rohan Bopanna and Purav Raja also won their respective mixed doubles matches at the Wimbledon here.

Mirza and Croatia's Ivan Dodig, who are seeded fourth, needed an hour and 18 minutes to see off the Japanese duo of Yuji Watanuki and Makoto Ninomiya 7-6(5), 6-2 to enter the mixed doubles third round.

The Indo-Croatian duo finished its second round match with six aces and four double faults.

They next face the defending champions Henri Kontinen and Heather Watson for a spot in the quarterfinals.

In the women's doubles final, Sania and her Belgian partner Kirsten Flipkens beat the British pair of Naomi Broady and Heather Watson in a hard-fought encounter to enter the third round.



Mirza and Flipkens scripted a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory in one hour and 45 minutes.

England, Mexico impressed with Salt Lake facilities

KOLKATA, July 9: The coaches of England, Mexico and Chile were mighty impressed with the facilities at the Salt Lake Stadium, which is all set to host their Group F matches of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup.

Representatives of the Group F teams, including Iraq, today inspected the ground, hotel and training facilities, city ahead of the October 6-28 tournament.

Eated for their matches in Kolkata, England head coach Steve Cooper said they are looking forward to check-in earlier than the FIFA schedule in October first week.

"First impression is very good. It's fantastic, we are absolutely delighted to get our draw here in Kolkata. We have no complaints. There's such a good enthusiasm for football here," Cooper said. – PTI

FIH 'regrets' India's decision to pull out of Pro League



LAUSANNE, July 9: The International Hockey Federation has confirmed India's withdrawal from its ambitious Pro League, one of FIH's flagship tournaments offering Olympic qualifying hopes of the men's and women's teams as the Pro League is one of FIH's main qualifying tournaments for the Tokyo Games.

The top nine men's and women's international teams will play each other on a home-and-away basis every weekend for six months from January to June. The top four teams at the end of the league will be awarded Olympic berths.

FIH said it has "received confirmation from Hockey India" that the country has pulled out of the tournament which is scheduled for launch in January 2019 with matches between the world's best sides being conducted over the weekends for six months every year.

"Whilst we regret Hockey India's decision not to be involved in this exciting new global League, we have replacement teams available following an application process which was oversubscribed," the FIH, headed by former Hockey India boss Narendra Batra, said in a statement.

His decision can have an impact on the Olympic qualifying hopes of the men's and women's teams as the Pro League is one of FIH's main qualifying tournaments for the Tokyo Games.

The top nine men's and women's international teams will play each other on a home-and-away basis every weekend for six months from January to June. The top four teams at the end of the league will be awarded Olympic berths.

As per media reports, India has cited the inferior ranking of the women's team as the reason to withdraw and since there was no option to pull out just one team, India was left with no option to withdraw from the men's event as well.

India has better chances of qualifying for the Olympics via the World League.

It is being speculated in certain circles that the pull out was to do with India captain Sardar Singh being called for questioning by the police in connection with a year-old sexual assault case, during the Hockey World League Semi-Final in London.

It may also be noted that last week Hockey India had written to the FIH, raising concerns of match-fixing attempts during the recently held tournament in London.

Meanwhile, on the Pro League, the FIH further said, "Our Event Portfolio Implementation Panel will convene a meeting to discuss the practical implications of a team withdrawal including formally inviting replacement teams." – PTI

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Steve Smith says no backing down on pay

Sydney, July 9: Australian captain Steve Smith said today that players would not back down in their bitter pay dispute with Cricket Australia.

Days after the players boycotted an Australia A tour to South Africa, Smith said the nation's cricketers were resolute in wanting to keep the longstanding revenue-sharing pay deal, linked to the game's overall financial fortunes.

"I'll say what we as players have been saying for some time now: we are not giving up the revenue-sharing model for all players," Smith said in an Instagram post.

"But, through the ACA (Australian Cricketers' Association) we are willing to make important changes to modernise the existing model for the good of the game."

"We are and have always been willing to make those changes."

"Changes for how the model can be adapted for the even greater benefit of grassroots cricket, which is after all where we all started."

After months of negotiations, the players and CA failed to reach agreement on a new pay deal, leaving 230 cricketers unemployed since the end of June when their contracts expired.

In an escalation of the protracted pay dispute, the players, through their union the ACA, last Thursday decided to boycott the Australia A tour of South Africa, which was due to start on July 12.

There are fears now that the pay row could scupper next month's Test tour to Bangladesh, the One-Day International series in India in September and even the Ashes against England.

The Ashes are due to begin with the first of five Tests in Brisbane in late November.



Smith said players were resisting CA attempts to adopt changes to the revenue-sharing model which was introduced 20 years ago.

"We are determined to keep revenue sharing for all because we must take care of domestic players in Australia," Smith said.

"As leaders that's what David Warner, Meg Lanning, Alex Blackwell and I have been fighting for: a fair share for state players who are also partners in cricket."

"I know from my career that when I was dropped in 2011 if I didn't have a strong domestic competition to go back to, I certainly wouldn't be in the position that I'm in today." – AFP

REMEMBRANCE



Late Kedar Nath Mour
(Ex-FIFA Referee, Ex-Secretary Assam Football Association, Ex-Secretary All India Football Federation)
15th June 1940 - 10th July 2006

"A man you could always trust
 A man with knowledge and trust.
 A man who respected values, culture and education
 His endeavour was to bring competence and professionalism in Sports
 He never compromised with people's welfare and emotionalism
 His dreams are to be realised by one and all
 With hard work and sincerity to grow and not fall."

Fondly remembered by
Mrs. Krishna Mour (Wife) and entire Family, Sport Lovers, Friends & Relatives

Founder of :

- Mayor Hotel, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati
- Mayor Assam Hotel, New Delhi
- Mayor Residency Hotel, Kolkata
- Mayor Krishna Cinema, Fatasil
- Mayor Krishna Bazar, Fancy Bazar
- Paankhuri Restaurant, Fancy Bazar

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. The numbers used within the grid in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

10	9	1	1	1	1	7	7	8	10	9	4
6	8	7	4	10	2	3	12	9	5	15	1
9	10	6	11	7	13	1	4	6	2	8	3
2	1	3	10	5	14	9	11	12	1	7	15
1	2	8	3	19	6	5	7	11	10	13	14
17	6	10	11	12	13	8	9	5	19	1	16
3	11	12	13	14	15	2	1	9	10	16	17
4	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	10
5	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	10	11	12

Prannoy remains hopeful of big win

NEW DELHI, July 9: A fair amount of his time has been lost due to injuries but an unruled Indian shuttler Prannoy says he knows how to bounce back and can already sense that something big is around the corner for him.

Ever since bursting on to the scene with a silver medal at the 2010 Youth Olympics, Prannoy has been often left on the sidelines due to injuries, affecting his training and thereby his progress.

He suffered a knee injury in 2011 just before the nationals, then again in 2012 which was followed by a back injury in 2012 which took more than half a year to heal. He reached the finals at the Tata Open the next year.

A series of semifinals Bitburger Syed Modi International, Macau and a final at Vietnam was followed by a maiden Grand Prix Gold win at Indonesia in 2014.

Another injury-marred year followed but he still managed to reach a career-best world ranking of 12. He recovered to win the 2016 Swiss Open but again sustained a toe injury at the Singapore Open and subsequently missed the Thomas Cup.

He was in rampaging form at the Premier Badminton League this year but injuried went on to say that "he will never be able to play singles as he was slow and he should shift to doubles".

"People may criticise saying that I have such a good game but I've not been able to be consistent. I feel they need to understand that there are so many injuries that we suffer which they don't know about and each time to come back, train and reach top 20 is not easy," he said.

"Sometimes, you get demotivated as to why so many injuries are happening but that is how it is, some have a lot of injuries and some have less. Look at Sameer, he too had a lot of injuries and he would have been a much better player. Injuries take away a lot of time," he added. – PTI



Officials of FIFA and participating teams visiting the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on inspection ahead of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup in Guwahati, on Sunday. - UB Photos

Double crown for Kritika, Agniv, Trisha

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: Kritika Upadhyaya, Agniv Bhaskar Gohain and Trisha Gogoi clinched double crown in the 8th RG Baruah All Assam Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament which concluded at the Deshabhakta Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium here today.

Kritika of Guwahati went to the lift the girls youth title, defeating Gargee Goswami of Guwahati 4-1 while she claimed the women's title by getting the better of Adrijna Sarmah of OIL 4-2.

Dibrugarh's Agniv Bhaskar Gohain annexed the sub-junior boys title defeating Zubayr Arshad Barua of Guwahati 3-2 while in the junior boys final he got the better of Arko Kumar Gogoi of Guwahati 4-1.

Trisha Gogoi of Guwahati bagged the sub-junior girls title defeating Kashyap Dutta of Guwahati 3-0 while she annexed the junior girls title defeating Gargee Goswami of Guwahati 4-2.

In the prize distribution ceremony, MLA Rakibul Hussain who is also the president of the Assam Table Tennis Association (ATTA) lauded the efforts of the officials to encourage the youngsters by organising several State level tournaments. He also

praised the State TT body for sending players to the United States for higher training.

Tridib Dwarath, secretary, ATTA while offering vote of thanks congratulated the winners and runner-up along with the other participants who put up a spirited show during the tournament.

He also hoped that Assam will be able to produce international level players in the near future.

Final results: (Cadet Girls) Bidusuri Kashyap (Ghy) 3-2, (Cadet Boys) Shreyas Das (Ghy) bt Hridoy Sarma (Ghy) 3-0, (Sub Junior Girls) Trisha Gogoi bt Kashyap Dutta 3-0, (Sub Junior Boys) Agniv Bhaskar Gohain bt Zubayr Arshad Barua 3-2, (Junior Girls) Trisha Gogoi bt Gargee Goswami 4-2, (Junior Boys) Agniv Bhaskar Gohain 4-1, (Youth Girls) Kritika Upadhyaya bt Gargee Goswami 4-1, (Youth Boys) Shankab Gautam Baruah (OIL) bt Alecko Sugilo Hazarika (Ghy) 4-2, (Women's singles) Kritika Upadhyaya bt Adrijna Sarmaha 4-2, (Men's singles) Anol Kashyap (OIL) bt Agniv Bhaskar Gohain 4-0, **Best Promising Players:** Mayukh Baruah (Ghy) and Richa Sarma (NFR).



Medal winners of the 8th RG Baruah All Assam Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament pose for a photograph along with Assam Table Tennis Association president Rakibul Hussain and secretary Tridib Dwarath at the Deshabhakta Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium in Guwahati, on Sunday. - UB Photos

Rohit replaces Karun in Indian Test squad

NEW DELHI, July 9: Senior batsman Rohit Sharma today made a comeback in the Indian Test squad replacing an out-of-form Karun Nair for the three-Test series against Sri Lanka starting July 26.

Opener Lokesh Rahul has also recovered from his shoulder surgery and has retained his place in the side as the selectors showed consistency, which has been the hallmark of this committee over the past one year.

The three-member selection committee decided on a 16-member squad via tele-conference with 15 members, who were a part of India's fourth Test against Australia in Dharamsala, being retained.

That Rohit will make a comeback was indicated by skipper Kohli in England and that was precisely the reason why he was rested for the limited overs series against West Indies.

Before his injury, Rohit had scored a hat-trick of half-centuries against New Zealand and the policy of the committee has



been to retain a player, who had to forego his place due to injury.

Rohit had gone off the boil after his triple century against England and could not even score a single half-century with scores of 26, 23 and 5 against Australia.

The national selection committee has named Karun the captain of the India A 'Test' side to South Africa, where he is expected to play both formats.

Archana (co-captain), Monali Sujata, Lokesh Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Saha (with the ball), Umesh Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, M Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Abhinav Mukund – PTI

Archana, Barman bag gold medals for India

BHUBANESHWAR, July 9: Unheralded Archana Aditya gave India a surprise gold in 800m while heptathlete Swapna Barman added another yellow metal as India continued their dominance on the fourth and final day at the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships here today.

Jinson Johnson and Purmina Bhambhani also won a bronze each in the men's 800m race and women's heptathlon to swell India's medal tally.

Pune girl Archana, who will turn 22 on July 14, bagged the gold in the half-mile distance in her personal best time of 2 minutes and 2 seconds as she came from behind to finish first in front of a packed crowd at the Kalinga Stadium.

In the process, she ended the domination of compatriot and defending champion Tintu Luka in this distance.

With the win, Archana also qualified for the World Championships to be held in London next month.

"I will give my best at the World Championships," – PTI

did not finish the race as she pulled out in the second lap. Her coach PT Usha said that Luka had fever and back pain but still ran the race.

Sri Lankans Nimali Waliwatura Konda (2:05:23) and third-placed Gayathri Thushari (2:05:27) took the silver and bronze respectively.

Till recently Archana was competing at the junior level and she had won a bronze in 800m in Asian Junior Championship in 2014 and she also used to run in 4x400m relay race.

"I am happy to win this gold and I beat Tintu Luka. I was not sure whether I would win a gold today but I was prepared to be able to compete at this level. This is my first gold at the senior," she said after her win.

Asked what strategy she had planned before the race, Archana said, "My coach told me I should preserve my energy so that I can pull it off towards the end," she said.

"I will give my best at the World Championships," – PTI

National record holder Luka

MUMBAI, July 9: Former team director Ravi Shastri will be the front-runner when the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) meets here tomorrow to scrutinise candidates for the high-profile job of Indian men's cricket team coach.

For the record, BCCI received 10 CVs – Shastri, Virender Sehwag, Tom Moody, Richard Pybus, Dodd Ganesh, Lalchand Rajput, Lance Klusener, Rakesh Sharma (Oman national team coach), Phil Simmons and Upendranath Brambhatt (engineer with no cricketing background).

It is learnt that the CAC will interview six of the 10 candidates.

As per sources, the six likely candidates are Shastri, Sehwag, Moody, Simmons, Pybus and Rajput.

Klusener, as of now, may be kept on stand-by but has very little or no

chance of getting the job.

The position had fallen vacant after former head coach and legendary spinner Anil Kumble resigned from the post before the West Indies series due to differences with skipper Virat Kohli.

After the Kumble-Kohli saga, the CAC will have to prudent in its choice as the new coach will be given a two-year contract.

Shastri had initially not applied for the post but when the BCCI extended the deadline for acceptance of applications till July 9 (today), the former skipper jumped into the fray and suddenly became the hot favourite.

Given his cordial equation with Virat, Shastri, who had a successful

tenure as team director with India reaching the 50 over World Cup semifinal, is the favourite.

However, it is still not clear what

guy wasn't present when he was being interviewed via Skype. Ganuly had responded that had Shastri been serious, he should have appeared in person for the interview.

The other notable candidate is flamboyant opener Sehwag. Sehwag was a genius in his own rights, but his coaching credentials are yet to be proved.

A two-year stint as Kings XI Punjab mentor has not yielded the desired results.

Moody can't be totally ruled out because of his rich credentials as an international and franchise coach. He had coached Sri Lanka to the 2011 World Cup final and guided Sunrisers Hyderabad to an IPL triumph.

Moody had also appeared last year for an interview but lost out to Kumble, who was too big a name to be ignored.

What works for Moody is his calm demeanour and ability to work from behind the scenes.

In case Moody comes in, McDermott could be a good choice as bowling coach, though both are from the same country.

If Shastri is picked, then Bharat Arun will be back as bowling coach of the team.

Klusener has also applied for the post with some experience of coaching provincial sides in domestic leagues in South Africa.

Simmons has been a good coach for smaller teams like Afghanistan and Ireland. He had a stormy stint with the West Indies team as he had issues with regards to team selection. – PTI

India U-23 beat Singapore 1-0 in int'l friendly

SINGAPORE, July 9: A dominant India U-23 beat Singapore 1-0 in the first of the two International Friendlies with Germany pre-Singh scoring in the 80th minute.

The goal had a stamp of class written all over it. Germano (sub) Juniors) Trisha Gogoi bt Kashyap Dutta 3-0, (Sub Junior Boys) Agniv Bhaskar Gohain bt Zubayr Arshad Barua 3-2, (Junior Girls) Trisha Gogoi bt Gargee Goswami 4-2, (Junior Boys) Agniv Bhaskar Gohain 4-1, (Youth Girls) Kritika Upadhyaya bt Gargee Goswami 4-1, (Youth Boys) Shankab Gautam Baruah (OIL) bt Alecko Sugilo Hazarika (Ghy) 4-2, (Women's singles) Kritika Upadhyaya bt Adrijna Sarmaha 4-2, (Men's singles) Anol Kashyap (OIL) bt Agniv Bhaskar Gohain 4-0,

Best Promising Players: Mayukh Baruah (Ghy) and Richa Sarma (NFR).

Indian women's hockey team hold South Africa 0-0

JOHANNESBURG, July 9: Brilliant goalkeeping by Savita saw India hold hosts South Africa 0-0 in their first match of the Women's Hockey World League Semi-Final here.

India made a strong start with a structured game, a better ball possession in the first 15 minutes.

There were also crucial circle penetrations made in the first quarter that fetched them a PC in the 12th minute of the match. However, a fiercely struck flick by India's dragflick Gurjit Kaur was well-defended by South Africa's first runner to deny India an early lead.

With the second quarter starting with the score reading 0-0, South Africa bounced back into the game with an improvised attack. They made two brilliant attempts on goal.

First it was Taryn Glasby who beat India's defenders in the circle to take a shot on goal, but an alert Savita was brilliant in her effort to keep South Africa away from scoring.

Sulette Damons' shot on goal was perhaps the best chance

South Africa had to score but her powerfully struck shot was slightly off the mark even as Savita made a diving effort to defend. Both teams went into half-time in a stalemate.

There was plenty of action in the third quarter with hosts South Africa, backed by a roaring home crowd, and the support paid off when the home team scored through a field goal by

Stephanie Baxter.

However, a clever call for an off-referral by India denied South Africa the goal as it came off the back of the stick.

India continued to keep the

pressure on the hosts with a strong defence which denied them from making successful forays into the striking circle.

The final quarter witnessed both teams building up frantic pace, as both India and South Africa pushed for a goal. India won their second PC in the 47th minute but striker Rani's attempt at scoring a PC was denied by South Africa's first runner who deflected the ball rather perfectly.

The following minutes saw South African forwards keep India's Savita busy at the post as they made tactical variations to take shot on goal. But Savita was exceptional to deny them a goal.

South Africa made eight unsuccessful attempts on goal with 34 circle penetrations while India had 15 circle penetrations and three shots on goal. Though South Africa won their only PC of the game in the flying minutes, Taryn Glasby was kept away from converting the goal. India did well to hold the hosts to a 0-0 draw and share the points.

India will take on USA tomorrow. – PTI



India and South Africa players in action during the Women's Hockey World League Semi-Final match at Johannesburg, on Saturday.

Morkel sparks England collapse in first Test

LONDON, July 9: Morne Morkel led South Africa's fightback with the ball as England collapsed on the fourth morning of the first Test at Lord's today.

The fast bowler struck twice as England lost seven wickets for 43 runs in 9 balls to be 182 for eight in their second innings at lunch.

Jonny Bairstow, dropped on seven, was 28 not out and Mark Wood unbeaten on eight.

One consolation for England, who now had a lead of 279 runs, was that history was in their favour.

Only three sides have made more than 200 to win in the four tests of Lord's Test.

West Indies, on the back of Gordon Greenidge's brilliant unbeaten double century, made 344 for one to defeat England in 1984 while England themselves posted scores of 282 for three

and 218 for three in wins over New Zealand in 2004 and 1965 respectively.

Former England captain Alastair Cook was 59 not out overnight and Gary Ballance made 34 on 34.

The pair found it hard to come by against a South Africa attack now back to full strength with Vernon Philander returning after being unable bowl on Saturday having been hit on the hand while battling against James Anderson.

Cook, in his first Test since regaining the captaincy had added 100 runs to his score when he drove uppishly at Morkel and was well caught in the covers by Temba Bavuma.

His exit ended a grinding stand of 59 in 53 balls but concerns that England were scoring too slowly to allow new captain Joe Root to declare late on the fourth day were soon overtaken by a clatter of wickets.

The one disappointment for South

Africa in the session was when Bairstow lofted Morkel to long-off, where Philander dropped a seemingly simple catch under grey skies.

The ball also crossed the boundary rope – one of four in five balls that Bairstow struck off Morkel.

But Morkel bowled left-hander Moeen Ali (seven) with a delivery for Liam Dawson and Stuart Broad both fell for ducks.

SCORECARD (at lunch)

England 1st innings 458
South Africa 1st innings 361

England 2nd innings (overnight 119-1) 5-Cook 100, Morkel 33, G Ballance c/o Kallis b Morkel 34, J Root 2, Morkel 5, J Bairstow not out 28, B Stokes b/w Rabada 1, M Ali b Morkel 7, L Johnson b/b 1, L Johnson b/b 1, D Malan 1, D Malan 0, M Wood not out 0. Extras: (LB-4, NB-1, Total 180). Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-139, 3-142, 4-146, 5-147, 6-161, 7-171, 8-181, 9-188, 10-196, 11-203, 12-210, 13-217, 14-224, 15-231, 16-238, 17-245, 18-252, 19-259, 20-266, 21-273, 22-280, 23-287, 24-294, 25-297, 26-304, 27-311, 28-318, 29-325, 30-332, 31-339, 32-346, 33-353, 34-360, 35-367, 36-374, 37-381, 38-388, 39-395, 40-402, 41-409, 42-416, 43-423, 44-430, 45-437, 46-444, 47-451, 48-458, 49-465, 50-472, 51-479, 52-486, 53-493, 54-500, 55-507, 56-514, 57-521, 58-528, 59-535, 60-542, 61-549, 62-556, 63-563, 64-570, 65-577, 66-584, 67-591, 68-598, 69-605, 70-612, 71-619, 72-626, 73-633, 74-640, 75-647, 76-654, 77-661, 78-668, 79-675, 80-682, 81-689, 82-696, 83-703, 84-710, 85-717, 86-724, 87-731, 88-738, 89-745, 90-752, 91-759, 92-766, 93-773, 94-780, 95-787, 96-794, 97-801, 98-808, 99-815, 100-822, 101-829, 102-836, 103-843, 104-850, 105-857, 106-864, 107-871, 108-878, 109-885, 110-892, 111-899, 112-906, 113-913, 114-920, 115-927, 116-934, 117-941, 118-948, 119-955, 120-962, 121-969, 122-976, 123-983, 124-990, 125-997, 126-1004, 127-1011, 128-1018, 129-1025, 130-1032, 131-1039, 132-1046, 133-1053, 134-1060, 135-1067, 136-1074, 137-1081, 138-1088, 139-1095, 140-1102, 141-1109, 142-1116, 143-1123, 144-1130, 145-1137, 146-1144, 147-1151, 148-1158, 149-1165, 150-1172, 151-1179, 152-1186, 153-1193, 154-1200, 155-1207, 156-1214, 157-1221, 158-1228, 159-1235, 160-1242, 161-1249, 162-1256, 163-1263, 164-1270, 165-1277, 166-1284, 167-1291, 168-1298, 169-1305, 170-1312, 171-1319, 172-1326, 173-1333, 174-1340, 175-1347, 176-1354, 177-1361, 178-1368, 179-1375, 180-1382, 181-1389, 182-1396, 183-1403, 184-1410, 185-1417, 186-1424, 187-1431, 188-1438, 189-1445, 190-1452, 191-1459, 192-1466, 193-1473, 194-1480, 195-1487, 196-1494, 197-1501, 198-1508, 199-1515, 200-1522, 201-1529, 202-1536, 203-1543, 204-1550, 205-1557, 206-1564, 207-1571, 208-1578, 209-1585, 210-1592, 211-1599, 212-1606, 213-1613, 214-1620, 215-1627, 216-1634, 217-1641, 218-1648, 219-1655, 220-1662, 221-1669, 222-1676, 223-1683, 224-1690, 225-1697, 226-1704, 227-1711, 228-1718, 229-1725, 230-1732, 231-1739, 232-1746, 233-1753, 234-1760, 235-1767, 236-1774, 237-1781, 238-1788, 239-1795, 240-1802, 241-1809, 242-1816, 243-1823, 244-1830, 245-1837, 246-1844, 247-1851, 248-1858, 249-1865, 250-1872, 251-1879, 252-1886, 253-1893, 254-1900, 255-1907, 256-1914, 257-1921, 258-1928, 259-1935, 260-1942, 261-1949, 262-1956, 263-1963, 264-1970, 265-1977, 266-1984, 267-1991, 268-1998, 269-2005, 270-2012, 271-2019, 272-2026, 273-2033, 274-2040, 275-2047, 276-2054, 277-2061, 278-2068, 279-2075, 280-2082, 281-2089, 282-2096, 283-2103, 284-2110, 285-2117, 286-2124, 287-2131, 288-2138, 289-2145, 290-2152, 291-2159, 292-2166, 293-2173, 294-2180, 295-2187, 296-2194, 297-2201, 298-2208, 299-2215, 300-2222, 301-2229, 302-2236, 303-2243, 304-2250, 305-2257, 306-2264, 307-2271, 308-2278, 309-2285, 310-2292, 311-2299, 312-2306, 313-2313, 314-2320, 315-2327, 316-2334, 317-2341, 318-2348, 319-2355, 320-2362, 321-2369, 322-2376, 323-2383, 324-2390, 325-2397, 326-2404, 327-2411, 328-2418, 329-2425, 330-2432, 331-2439, 332-2446, 333-2453, 334-2460, 335-2467, 336-2474, 337-2481, 338-2488, 339-2495, 340-2502, 341-2509, 342-2516, 343-2523, 344-2530, 345-2537, 346-2544, 347-2551, 348-2558, 349-2565, 350-2572, 351-2579, 352-2586, 353-2593, 354-2600, 355-2607, 356-2614, 357-2621, 358-2628, 359-2635, 360-2642, 361-2649, 362-2656, 363-2663, 364-2670, 365-2677, 366-2684, 367-2691, 368-2698, 369-2705, 370-2712, 371-2719, 372-2726, 373-2733, 374-2740, 375-2747, 376-2754, 377-2761, 378-2768, 379-2775, 380-2782, 381-2789, 382-2796, 383-2803, 384-2810, 385-2817, 386-2824, 387-2831, 388-2838, 389-2845, 390-2852, 391-2859, 392-2866, 393-2873,