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GUWAHATI, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020

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p5 Compassion from different quarters assuages the needy

p11 Lockdown hits tourism sector in Kaziranga

NEWS Capsule

Insurance for journalists

GUWAHATI, April 27: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today announced a life insurance scheme of Rs 50 lakh for journalists in view of the services offered by the fraternity during the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19. – Staff Reporter

Boris at work

LONDON, April 27: Prime Minister Boris Johnson today warned against relaxing the coronavirus restrictions too soon as the country was still facing a moment of "maximum risk", in his first remarks since returning to work after contracting the disease that has killed over 20,000 in the UK. – PTI

Mid-day meal

NEW DELHI, April 27: Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has called a video conference with state education ministers at 2 pm on Tuesday to discuss issues related to COVID-19 and mid-day meal programme, officials said here on Monday. – PTI

Airline refund

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and DGCA on a plea seeking directions to airlines to refund full amount collected for tickets due to cancellation of flights in the wake of the lockdown over COVID-19. – PTI

IAF support

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Indian Air Force has transported approximately 600 tonnes of medical equipment and other essential supplies till date since the beginning of the coronavirus lockdown, the Defence Ministry said today. – PTI

Questioning

MUMBAI, April 27: Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami was questioned by police here on Monday in a case against him for allegedly making defamatory statements against Congress president Sonia Gandhi in news shows on the recent mob lynching incident in Palghar district. – PTI

JOCOSERIOUS



If your colleagues can get prominence in the media, why not you?

Standalone rural shops in non-red zone to open today

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: The State government today decided to allow opening of shops in rural areas from tomorrow, barring haats and marketplaces. However, this will not be applicable in the five red zone districts, where the lockdown will continue to be enforced strictly.

"In the red zone districts, the lockdown will continue and it will be enforced strictly," official sources said disclosing the decisions taken by the council of ministers which met after a video conference the Prime Minister held with all chief ministers.

"Only standalone shops in rural areas in green and orange zones (except containment zones) will open. No

bazaar or haat will be allowed. For urban areas, the situation will be reviewed on May 3," Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna said.

Also, no rural shops will be allowed within 5 km from the boundary of red zone districts. The red zone districts are Dhubri, Nalbari, Morigaon, Golaghat and Goalpara.

"The lockdown will be strict up to 5 km from the boundary of the red zone district, even if the adjacent district is a green zone," Industries Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said.

The council of ministers decided that inter-district movement of people will continue till May 2. Around 17,000 people availed ASTC bus service on April 25, 26 and 27.

SEE PAGE 6



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attending the Prime Minister's video conference with Chief Ministers, in Guwahati on Monday. – UB Photos

Need to focus on economy while fighting COVID-19: PM

Modi interacts with CMs

NEW DELHI, April 27: As India entered the last week of the 40-day nationwide lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told chief ministers that the country will have to give importance to economy as well as continue the fight against coronavirus, in a clear indication that strict restrictions could be limited to COVID-19 hotspots while curbs can be eased gradually in areas not affected by the virus.

In a video conference with the chief ministers, fourth such interaction since March 22 when he first spoke to them about the pandemic, Modi stressed on the need for the states to strictly enforce lockdown guidelines in the coronavirus hotspots zones, and strongly pitched

for the mantra of *do gaz doori* (a distance of two yards) to protect people from the infection, according to a government statement.

During the meeting, a majority of the chief ministers wanted the lockdown to continue after May 3 and told the Prime Minister that some economic activity should be started slowly. Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy told reporters.

Asserting that "the lockdown has yielded positive results as the country has managed to save thousands

of lives in the past one and a half months", Modi, however, forewarned that "the danger of the virus is far from over and constant vigilance is of paramount importance".

He also asked the states to focus on "rapid response" in dealing with the pandemic, adding wearing masks and face covers would become part of people's lives for times to come.

India is under a 40-day nationwide lockdown since March 25.

SEE PAGE 6

Maintain DISTANCE Save SOCIETY

Governor's Rule imposed in BTC

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: Governor's Rule has been imposed in the Bodoland Territorial Council. Principal Secretary to the State Government Rajesh Prasad was appointed as Administrator of BTC.

The term of the general council of BTC expired today and elections to the council, which were scheduled for April 4, had earlier been deferred on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"... whereas the election in BTC was deferred indefinitely... and whereas the Governor of Assam is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the administration of the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Now, therefore, the Governor of Assam, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-paragraph (2)

of paragraph 16 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, is pleased to assume to himself, with immediate effect, the administration of the said districts and all functions and powers vested in or exercisable by the BTC," stated a notification issued by the Governor this evening. It added the order shall take immediate effect "and shall, unless terminated earlier or extended further, remain in force for a period of six months."

In another notification, it was announced that the Governor "may appoint a person or authority to discharge the functions and powers of the BTC, including the functions and power exercised by the Executive Committee, Chief Executive Member, Deputy Chief Executive member, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Executive Members."

The term of the general council of BTC expired on April 27

SEE PAGE 6

Stop using Chinese test kits: ICMR

NEW DELHI, April 27: The country's apex health research body ICMR on Monday asked states to stop using the COVID-19 rapid antibody test kits procured from two Chinese companies and return them to be sent back to the suppliers.

In an advisory sent to chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said it "evaluated the kits of Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech and Zhuhai Livson Diagnostics in field condi-

tions. The results have shown wide variation in their sensitivity, despite early promise of good performance for surveillance purpose".

"In view of this, states are advised to stop using these kits, procured from the above mentioned companies and return them to be sent back to the suppliers," it said.

The health ministry on its part issued a statement saying that after receipt of some supplies, ICMR has conducted quality checks on these kits in field conditions. – PTI

COVID-19 STATUS	
WORLD	
Confirmed cases	2,995,456
Cured/Discharged	876,531
Death	207,583
INDIA	
Confirmed cases	28,380
Cured/Discharged	6,361
Death	886
ASSAM	
Confirmed cases	35
Cured/Discharged	27
Death	1

Data as on Sunday

NRL resumes works at major projects

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, April 27: Observing all health protocols, Numaligarh Refinery Limited has resumed work at its capital projects in Assam worth over Rs 2,000 crore which had come to a standstill due to the lockdown.

Work has resumed in the three major projects – the biorefinery project at Numaligarh, work on the office building, etc., in Guwahati and the Indo-Bangla pipeline project at Siliguri.

Presently around 350-400 workmen have been engaged for the biorefinery's 2G ethanol plant, which will further increase as the project picks up.

SEE PAGE 6

SC notice over layoffs in media organisations

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre in a petition against all media organisations that have terminated employees in the wake of the nationwide lockdown over COVID-19 pandemic.

Admitting a petition against media organisations submitted by media bodies, a bench of Justices NV Ramana, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and BR Gavai expressed concern over termination of employees amid the lockdown, saying that the matter required consideration.

The court also issued notices to Indian Newspaper Society and News Broadcasters

SEE PAGE 6

Lockdown: Fishery sector suffers Rs 160-cr loss

MANASH PRATIM DUTTA

GUWAHATI, April 27: Around 2,43,000 people connected with the fishery sector of Assam have been affected during the ongoing lockdown in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, with the sector suffering a loss of around Rs 160 crore so far.

Official sources at the fishery department informed that due to the present medical emergency, 1,361 wholesalers, 16,748 retailers, 12,923 vendors, 1,15,677 fishers and fish workers, 408 fish seed hatchery owners and 4,799 fish seed growers got affected across the State.



Thanks to the lockdown, not only the entire fish marketing channel got dislocated but the inter-district and inter-state import-export activities of fish marketing also got disrupted.

The fishery department has formulated a plan for sup-

ply of fresh fish to the common masses during the lockdown period by involving the Directorate of Fisheries, Fishfed, district fisheries and local district administrations in compliance with COVID-19 protocol. Official sources said the plan has been show-

ing good result and has come as a great relief for everyone.

Under the plan, till date, more than 170 tonnes of fish were sold through doorstep delivery in the State with a total value of over Rs 8 crore which was received by about 7,000 local fish farmers with

a very small margin of share by some 50 wholesalers.

"It is a matter of great appreciation that due to such a bold and timely initiative of the fishery department, more than 1,85,000 families were able to receive fresh fish during the lockdown period. At the same time, about 1,000 hawkers also benefited," an official said.

The department also took the initiative to stop the flow of fish from red zone corona hotspot areas to other areas inside the State. It may be noted that due to the lockdown, there has been a complete halt to import of fish from outside the State.

আপুনি বাকু জানেনে যে আপোনাৰ কাপোৰে বেমাৰ বিয়পাব পাৰে?

আজি ময়লা কেৱল সেয়া নহয় যাক দেখা পোৱা যায়। কবনোৱাৰকৈ বহুতো ভাইবাচ আপোনাৰ কাপোৰত লাগি কিবা ডাঙৰ বেমাৰৰ কাৰণ হব পাৰে। সেই কাৰনে আপোনাৰ কাপোৰ সদায় ধোৱা। লগতে এই সাৱধানতা অৱলম্বন কৰিব।

ঘৰৰ বাহিৰলৈ নোলাব
বাৰে বাৰে হাত ধোৱক
মাস্ক ব্যৱহাৰ কৰক

সুৰক্ষিত থাকক, স্বাস্থ্যবান থাকক।

ঘড়ী
টিসেল

Compassion from various quarters assuages the needy

STAFF REPORTER/
CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, April 27: NDRF rescuers today distributed food to more than 420 poor people at Bazarpapa and brick kilns at Palasbari.

The 1st Battalion of the force also distributed food to more than 275 needy people at Katamura, Changsari. NDRF rescuers distributed food to these people today in collaboration with Amrit Bhog Bhandara, Guwahati.

NDRF rescuers also carried out a sanitization drive at NF Railways Headquarters, Maligaon today by spraying disinfectant.

"Being a humanitarian force of the country, NDRF endeavours to mitigate the suffering of the community during any calamity. As movement of people is restricted now, we are reaching out to the maximum possible number of needy people," NDRF sources stated.

The operations were carried out under the supervision of Randhir Singh Gill,

Commandant of the 1st Battalion of NDRF. During the entire exercise, NDRF rescuers laid emphasis on social distancing, hand washing, use of sanitizer and also on following lockdown norms to contain the spread of novel coronavirus.

The Dakshinpat Satra Shanti Ashram here on Sunday provided free ration to 200 needy families of Geetanagar area. The distributed packets contained rice, pulses, oil, potatoes and onions.

The ashram's Hiranya Saikia said that the initiative has been taken after a direction from the *satradhikar* of Dakshinpat Satra Nanigopal Deva Goswami to help the poor in the present crisis situation.

"During this pandemic, the daily wagers are the worst affected people. This small initiative is only to help them in the present time of crisis," he said.

Along with Saikia, Jayanta Barua, Sanjib Narayan, Atul Lahkar, Shasankar Deka and Amar Bezbaruah of the ashram, Secretary Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Sudarshan Thakur, president of Guwahati Press Club Manoj Kumar Nath and Su-

perintendent Excise Chiranjib Das were also present during the distribution.

Helping Hearts, a Guwahati-based NGO along with the Assam Police Commando Battalion, distributed packets of dry ration amongst the villagers in the vicinity of the Mandakata Commando Battalion Camp on April 25, said a press release here today.

The distribution took place under the personal supervision of the Commandant of the Commando Battalion Ranjan Bhuyan and core committee members of Helping Hearts Pankaj Surana, Mukesh Achantani, Ashish Jalan and Pankaj Bansal.

A total of 425 packets, each containing rice, pulses, salt, mustard oil, turmeric, onion, potato and a bath soap, were distributed in the villages near the camp, namely Bata, Fuloon, Manikpur Bagan and Mandakata.

Helping Hearts is feeding an average of 2,000 people with nutritious cooked food on a daily basis since the lockdown began and plans to continue with the initiative till the lockdown gets over.



BAD TIMES: Anxious workers sit in front of their restaurant closed indefinitely due to the lockdown, at Paltan Bazar in Guwahati on Monday. — AT photo

Tribune digital concert receives overwhelming response on Facebook



Sunita Khaund Bhuyan and Ronojit Bhuyan during the Facebook live concert.

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: *Songs of Spring* – a folk fusion duet presented by violinist Sunita Khaund Bhuyan and pianist Ronojit Bhuyan – has received an overwhelming response on Facebook after it was beamed live on the official Facebook page of *The Assam Tribune* on Sunday evening, in which the artists performed from their Mumbai residence.

It was the inaugural concert of the digital music se-

ries 'Heal the World' launched by *The Assam Tribune* on its Facebook page.

At the beginning of the concert, Sunita Khaund Bhuyan expressed her gratitude to all the frontline warriors of the fight against coronavirus and also thanked the Tribune Group for organising the concert.

The video of the concert, which is over one hour in duration, received more than 400 likes and 269 comments. Around 46 people shared it on the social media platform.

"Amazing!" exclaimed one viewer, namely Roopa Sharma from Chicago, in her comment on Facebook. "Really, music can and will 'Heal the World'. Thank you Assam Tribune family for the initiative... O' mur apunar dex! Goosebumps! Missing my beautiful Assam..." she said.

"Thanks to both the artists and Assam Tribune for the lovely evening. Also thanks to all the persons who worked behind the scene," commented one Shyamal Choudhury.

"You two are making us forget the difficult times we are in, especially in USA," one Ruma Barua commented.

The music series is an initiative by *The Assam Tribune* to spread some good cheer during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to give the readers an opportunity to experience the best of Indian music from the comfort of their living rooms.



WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST:
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 35°C & 22°C respectively on Tuesday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 33.0°C
Min 21.8°C

JCB crushes man to death

GUWAHATI, April 27: A 55-year-old man got crushed under the wheels of a JCB machine at Nepali Chowk, Noonmati here today. He has not been identified as yet, a source at Noonmati PS said.

"It appears that the man who came to the nearby market slipped and came under the wheels of the JCB being used at the site since this morning," the source added. — City Correspondent

Fire at Adabari

GUWAHATI, April 27: A massive fire broke out at Dilip Automobiles, Adabari Tinali here around 4.30 pm due to an electrical short-circuit, a Fire and Emergency Services personnel said.

"The fire spread to three nearby shops, including a Yamaha showroom and a hardware shop. Property worth Rs 14 lakh was damaged. Four fire-tenders were pressed into service to douse the fire," he added. — City Correspondent

Students from Kota reach Assam

GUWAHATI, April 27: As many as 391 students studying in Rajasthan's Kota returned here by 17 buses today. The boys will be lodged at the Sarasajai quarantine centre. The girls will stay at hotels nearby. Corona tests will be conducted on them after five days and doctors will decide when they can go home. — Staff Reporter



Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his ministerial colleague Pijush Hazarika receiving the students who returned from Kota in Rajasthan, at the Sarasajai quarantine facility in Guwahati early Monday morning. — UB Photos

108 Mrityunjay Service attends to over 31,000 non-corona cases

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: During the ongoing lockdown, the 108 Mrityunjay Ambulance Service has served more than 31,000 non-corona cases across the State so far.

According to official statistics, among the cases attended, 16,114 were related to pregnancy, 6,199 were related to abdominal pain, 3,286 to trauma, 1,910 to breathing problems, 1,839 to high fever and 1,705 cases were related to cardiac disease.

An official statement said that the 108 Ambulance Service has a current fleet of 696 surface ambulances in Assam, out of which 85 dedicated ambulances have been designated across the State to cater to COVID-19 patients only.

"Our data indicates that out of the 2,332 suspected COVID-19 cases trans-

ported by ambulances designated for the pandemic, the highest number of 332 cases transported were from Cachar district, 253 cases were transported from Kamrup (M) district, 178 from Nalbari district and the lowest number of four cases were transported from Chirang district. Among those cases, 77 per cent

Service across State during lockdown

were male and 23 per cent were female. The highest number of 210 suspected cases were transported on April 1," the statement said.

Again, 99 per cent of the cases transported had been shifted to designated government hospitals or quarantine facilities, 1,750 (76 per cent) cases had been shifted to medical colleges or district hospitals, 184 (8 per cent) to PHCs

and 380 (16 per cent) to CHCs.

The emergency service has been working round the clock with added manpower support to attend the extra call flow and also cancelled non-essential leave for the ERC staff with exception for critical illnesses or pregnancy-related issues. It has also increased its manpower by 20 per cent at the response centres to cater to the huge volume of calls.

"The administration and authorities have also played a major part in the smooth operations of the 108 Service where they have provided PPE kits to the ambulances whenever a COVID-19 suspect is to be transported. The district authorities have also played a crucial role by successfully imparting training to our EMTs and pilots across all districts for handling COVID-19 cases and wholeheartedly supported us by all means possible," the statement added.

Move on health insurance for scribes hailed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: The Guwahati Press Club (GPC) has hailed the decision of the State government to provide health insurance coverage to journalists working in a high risk environment in view of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In a statement today, GPC president Manoj Kumar Nath and general secretary Sanjoy Ray expressed gratitude to CM Sarbananda Sonowal for taking the timely step.

The Journalists Association of Assam (JAA) and the National Union of Journalists India (NUJI) have also hailed the decision of the State government. In a joint statement NUJI and JAA expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Finance Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma for the decision. The Journalist Association For Assam (JAFA) and the Dispur Press Club have also welcomed the decision.

PPE kits, masks donated

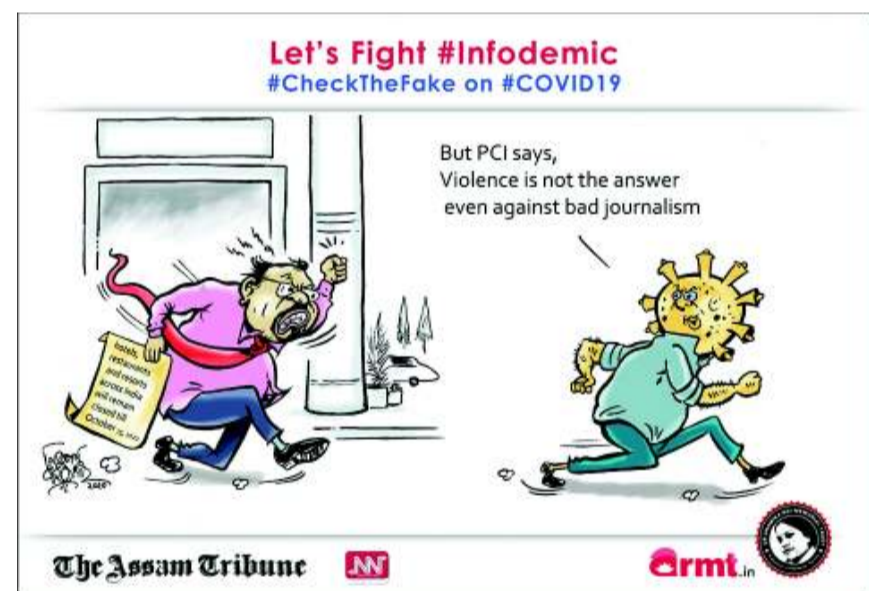
GUWAHATI, April 27: Maharashtra-based Bajaj Healthcare Social Foundation donated 100 PPE kits and 3,000 three-layered masks to Marwari Hospitals here today. General secretary of Marwari Hospitals RS Joshi received the items from the representative of Bajaj Healthcare Social Foundation.

Satyam MicroCapital Limited has donated 10,000 surgical gloves and 10,000 three-layered masks to the workers at the Sarasajai quarantine facility, besides other districts of Assam, stated a press note. The organisation has already extended Rs 21 lakh to the PM CARES Fund.

The masks were handed over to Kamrup (M) Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu by the entity's State officials Babul Hoque and Arghya Pratim Nandy recently. — City Correspondent

Donated

GUWAHATI, April 27: The Union Bank of India Retired Officers' Association of NE donated Rs 30,000 to the Assam Arogya Nidhi fund a few days back. They contributed another Rs 30,000 to the PM CARES Fund through their central federation, a press release said.



Pabhoi AASU president succumbs to injuries

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: Abhijit Saikia, president of the Pabhoi regional wing of the AASU, who had met with an accident during a relief distribution drive in Biswanath district on April 23, breathed his last at GNRC Hospital here today.

Abhijit was leading a drive for distribution of essential materials, medicines, etc., among the needy people in his area with permission from the district authorities and following social distancing norm.

The 21-year-old was an undergraduate student at

Biswanath College.

Abhijit leaves behind his father, mother, sister and a host of relatives and admirers. Mourning the untimely

Abhijit Saikia had met with an accident during relief distribution in Biswanath dist

demise, AASU president Dipanka Kumar Nath, general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi and chief adviser Dr Samujjal Bhattacharya conveyed their sympathies to the bereaved family.

"We are deeply hurt. We lost a versatile, relentless member of the AASU family and a promising student leader of Assam," AASU leaders said in their condolence message.

Samujjal Bhattacharya, AASU vice president Bipul Rabha, assistant general secretaries Duldul Borkataki and Prakash Chandra Das, State executive members Tapan Kalita, Azmat Shiekh, Sunil Tanti, among others went to the hospital to pay their last respects of the deceased. His mortal remains will be taken to his hometown after an autopsy at the GMCH tomorrow.

Bar Council aid to advocates who are not salaried

GUWAHATI, April 27: The Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim has decided to provide financial aid, under its COVID-19 Financial Assistance Scheme, to the advocates of these states who are not salaried employees.

The Bar Council, in a statement, today said that since most of these advocates are financially not very sound, as they earn their livelihood on a daily basis, the ongoing lockdown has rendered most of them out of work due to the restricted functioning of the courts. This has made most of them face extreme hardship.

Therefore, in a recent meeting the Bar Council decided to extend financial help to

the affected advocates and formulated the COVID-19 Financial Assistance Scheme.

Under this scheme, any lawyer, who is in active legal practice and is really in need of financial assistance due to the ongoing lockdown, is entitled to apply for financial assistance in the prescribed format available on the Council website — www.barcouncilassametc.org.

The applicant, however, must not have a monetary deposit of over Rs 30,000 as on March 15, 2020. He or she should either email the application to the chairman of the Council at barcouncilofnecovid19aid@gmail.com, or send it by speed post/registered post/courier or hand it over in person. The application should reach the Council on or before May 7, 2020.

CAPSULE

Aadhaar update

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Unique Identification Authority of India has permitted around 20,000 common service centres that are serving as banking correspondents to update Aadhaar details of people. The UIDAI on April 24 granted conditional approval to the CSCs that are doing banking correspondent activity. - PTI

IndusInd Bank PAT

MUMBAI, April 27: Private sector lender IndusInd Bank today reported a 12.31 per cent dip in its consolidated profit after tax at Rs 315.25 crore for the quarter ended March 2020 due to an increase in loan loss provisions, and also guided towards difficulties on asset quality because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On a standalone basis, the net profit fell 16.17 per cent to Rs 301.84 crore during the January-March quarter as against Rs 360.10 crore in the year-ago period. - PTI

IOB loans for SHGs

MUMBAI, April 27: State-run India Overseas Bank (IOB) today said it is offering special loans of up to Rs 1 lakh to self-help groups (SHGs) borrowers to help them meet their liquidity requirements amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The loan will be given for three years, which includes the initial six months as moratorium, the bank said in a statement. - PTI

SAIL contribution

NEW DELHI, April 27: State-owned SAIL today said it has made an additional contribution of Rs 4 crore to support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has contributed Rs 1 crore each to the CM Relief Funds of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. - PTI

Central bank to conduct repo operations of 90-day tenor at fixed repo rate under SLF-MF

RBI announces Rs 50,000-cr spl liquidity facility for MFs

MUMBAI, April 27: The Reserve Bank of India today provided a Rs 50,000-crore shot in the arm to stressed mutual funds by unveiling a special liquidity facility for the sector, days after Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund decided to close six debt schemes.

In a statement, the central bank said heightened volatility in capital markets in reaction to COVID-19 has imposed liquidity strains on mutual funds (MFs), which have intensified in the wake of redemption pressures related to closure of some debt MFs and potential contagious effects therefrom.

The stress is, however, confined to the high-risk debt MF segment at this stage; the larger industry remains liquid, it said.

“With a view to easing liquidity pressures on MFs, it has been decided to open a special liquidity facility for mutual funds of Rs 50,000 crore,” it said. The RBI also stressed it remains vigilant and will take whatever steps are necessary to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 and preserve financial stability.

Last time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had opened a special borrowing window of Rs 25,000 crore for banks to help

meet the cash requirements of mutual funds in July 2013.

Following the collapse of Lehman Brothers, RBI in October 2008 had provided a similar additional liquidity support exclusively for mutual fund industry.

Under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF), the RBI will conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.

“The SLF-MF is on-tap and open-ended, and banks can submit their bids to avail funding on any day from Monday to Friday, the central bank said. The scheme will be avail-

able from today itself till May 11, 2020, or up to utilisation of the allocated amount, whichever is earlier. The Reserve Bank also said it will review the timeline and amount, depending upon market conditions.

The announcement comes days after Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund, which has been operating in India for 25 years, decided to shut down six debt schemes.

The RBI further said funds availed under the SLF-MF should be used by banks exclusively for meeting the liquidity requirements of MFs by extending loans, and under-

taking outright purchase of and/or repos against the collateral of investment grade corporate bonds, commercial papers, debentures and certificates of deposit held by MFs.

In case of oversubscription of the notified amount on any given day, the central bank said the allotment will be done on pro-rata basis.

“RBI will, however, reserve the right to inject marginally higher amount than the notified amount due to rounding effects,” it said.

The minimum bid amount would be Rs 1 crore and multiples thereof. - PTI

Draft electricity Bill Power Ministry extends deadline for feedback till June 5

NEW DELHI, April 27: The Power Ministry today extended the deadline for submission of stakeholders’ comments on the draft Electricity Amendment Bill by four weeks till June 5.

The ministry had circulated the draft Bill on April 17, 2020 with a deadline to submit comments in three weeks till May 8.

“This ministry has received requests from various stakeholders for extension of time for submission of comments on the draft amendments. Accordingly, it has been decided to extend the time period for submission of comments/observations/suggestions on the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 to this ministry till June 5, 2020,” a ministry order said.

Earlier last month, the All India Power Engineers’ Federation (AIPEF) had shot off a letter to Power Minister RK Singh demanding that the proposed date of receipt of comments on the draft Bill should be extended to September 30 as no discussion can take place due to the lockdown.

Last month, the ministry had come out with fourth draft of the

Electricity (Amendment) Bill since 2014, which seeks to set up an Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority (ECEA) having power of a civil court to settle disputes related to power purchase agreement between discoms and gencos.

The draft provides that the ECEA will have sole authority to adjudicate matters related to specific performance of contracts related to purchase or sale of power, between power generation companies (gencos) and distribution companies (discoms).

The decision of the ECEA can be challenged at the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) and, subsequently, at the Supreme Court.

Currently, State electricity regulatory commissions and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission settle State-level and inter-State PPA disputes, respectively.

The AIPEF had strongly condemned the timings of the Power Ministry’s move to bring back the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020 when the whole country is fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. - PTI

Auto-makers wait for restart of supply chain to resume production

NEW DELHI, April 27: A week after the Centre announced allowing of partial resumption of production by industries, automobile companies including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Toyota, Tata Motors and Ford India are yet to resume production stating supply chain, not just component suppliers but also dealers, needs to start operating to restart production.

The companies said in most parts of the country most of the auto dealers and suppliers continue to be in a lockdown condition. When contacted, a Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) official said the company is yet to resume production.

Last week, the Haryana government had granted permission to the company to restart its Manesar-based manufacturing facility but company Chairman RC Bhargava had said MSI would start operations whenever it can maintain continuous

production and sell vehicles, “which is not possible at this point of time”.

Similarly, a Hyundai Motor India official said the company hasn’t started production yet as Tamil Nadu continues to be under a strict lockdown.

When reached out for comments, a Ford India spokesperson said, “At this point the plant is shut till May 3. So decision on the resumption will be taken around the end of the month. Scale and intensity will be decided at that time.”

Earlier in the day, a Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) spokesperson said, “For the auto sector to start production it is necessary that our supply chain starts operating which means not only the suppliers but also the dealers. Currently, because of lockdown in many parts of the country, most of the auto dealers and suppliers continue to be in a lockdown condition.” - PTI



Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (i/c), Prime Minister’s Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, etc., Dr Jitendra Singh holding a review meeting with the senior officers from North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong as well representatives of different government bodies and PSUs, on COVID-19 through video-conferencing, in New Delhi on Monday. - PIB (Report on Page 7)

Banks have done nothing to help retailers: Industry body

NEW DELHI, April 27: Banks have done “sweet nothing” to provide financing to retailers to tide over the lockdown crisis, and the government intervention is needed to avoid mass unemployment in the sector, according to RAI.

The retail industry body claimed that despite the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circulars to banks to lend support to businesses, on the ground retailers are finding it difficult to access funds from banks for various reasons.

“The banks are not giving any kind of finance to retailers although RBI has stepped in. It is not happening on the ground. Banks

have done sweet nothing in this whole situation to help retailers in this country,” Retailers Association of India (RAI) CEO Kumar Rajagopalan told PTI.

He claimed that the RBI circulars have been “set aside for want of various things, including new business plans” and as a result of that retailers are unable to get financing from banks which would have been otherwise used for “paying salaries” and other fixed costs as they have zero income at present.

Seeking the Centre’s intervention, Rajagopalan said, “We want clarifications from the government on this because

there is this serious issue of shops shutting down and a big amount of unemployment happening. There is zero income for retailers.”

Stressing that all industries are dependent on retail for sales, he said, “If retail does not work, production is of no use. We want that clarification to come. We want the Centre to support us on that part.”

When asked about job losses in the retail sector, Rajagopalan said, “Retailers themselves have become unemployed, and now they cannot be paying any salaries. They don’t have any money.” - PTI

LIC’s new premium business jumps 25.2%

MUMBAI, April 27: Despite losing the most productive fortnight of the year to COVID-induced lockdowns, national insurer LIC achieved a 25.2 per cent growth in the first-year new business premium in 2019-20, while private players collectively recorded just 11.64 per cent.

This has the Corporation increasing its market share as well. The Corporation’s composite market share in terms of number of policies and first-year premium stood at 75.90 per

cent and 68.74 per cent respectively, recording a respective increase of 1.19 per cent and 2.50 per cent, LIC said.

In terms of new policies, LIC has recorded the best sales in the past six years, selling 2.19 crore new policies in FY2020 while its first-year premium income rose to Rs 51,227 crore. Individual new business performance has shown impressive figures of 2.19 crore in number of policies and the first-year premium income rose to Rs 51,227

crore, the insurer said. LIC said this was achieved in spite of the truncation of the most productive fortnight of the year.

The Corporation has collected single premium of Rs 21,967 crore and non-single premium of Rs 29,260 crore in the year, with their respective ratio being 42.88 for single premium and 57.12 for non-single premium.

Pension and group schemes vertical created a new record by clocking over Rs 1-lakh crore in premium income in FY20.

The Corporation has collected Rs 1,26,749 crore in group schemes new business premium income as against Rs 91,179 crore in FY2019, recording a growth of 39.01 per cent and a market share of 80.54 per cent, up from 77.94 per cent in FY19. “Overall, we have achieved an impressive growth rate of 25.17 per cent in first-year new business premium compared to private players who have achieved a premium growth rate of 11.64 per cent,” LIC said. - PTI

Auto companies take online sales route amid coronavirus pandemic

NEW DELHI, April 27: Auto-makers Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes and Honda Cars India today said they have introduced online sales initiatives in India in order to help customers book vehicles from the safety of their homes amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Volkswagen said it is digitising its sales and service portfolio, enabling customers with the flexibility to choose their preferred model at their comfort and convenience. The online retail process is simple, hassle-free and provides an end-to-end contactless experience, the company said in a statement.

Volkswagen has integrated its 137 sales and 116 service touchpoints, enabling customers to choose their preferred dealership while booking online.

Luxury car-maker BMW also said it has rolled out a unique contactless experience for its customers in India.

The ‘BMW Contactless Experience’ enables customers to explore and buy new and pre-owned BMW cars, book vehicle service, and make payments online.

“Amidst the current pandemic situation, we have successfully transformed our business processes and put in place various measures to effectively and efficiently serve our existing customers and prospects by leveraging new-age digital technologies,” BMW Group India Acting President Arlindo Teixeira said.

Similarly, Mercedes-Benz India said it has further developed its online sales platform and announced a host of new customer initiatives under the campaign ‘Merc from

Home’. The initiative focuses on the ease of purchasing a vehicle using digital tools to facilitate the entire process, including online payment of products and services.

“The customers now can not only explore, select and make online payment for our products and services from the comfort of their homes, but can also get their ‘Three Pointed Star’ delivered right at their doorsteps, as per their convenience,” Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Martin Schwenk said.

Honda Cars India today said it has launched an online sales platform to help customers manage their purchases without visiting a dealership. The company’s ‘Honda from Home’ initiative allows customers to browse through the product options, select their preferred dealership and proceed to book their car online. - PTI

No. SBM(U)218/2020/5
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
The Short Tender Notice published for “Supply and Delivery of Cloth Masks, Hand Gloves, Manual Spraying Machines and Water proof Full Jackets with Trousers & Caps” vide reference no SBM(U)200/2015/Part-I/59 Dated 25th April, 2020 hereby stands cancelled due to Administrative reason.
Sd/- Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (U), Assam Dispur, Guwahati
Janasanyog/CF/34/20

No. SBM(U)218/2020/7
SHORT-TENDER NOTICE
Mission Directorate of Swachh Bharat Mission (U), Assam invites sealed quotations from eligible companies/firms/distributors for supply and delivery of following items at Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Assam.

Sl. No.	Items
1	Washable/ Re-usable Cloth Mask
2	Re-usable Rubber Hand Gloves
3	Manual Spraying Machines (16 liters capacity)
4	Water proof men/women full Jackets with caps

Detail of Tender document may be seen in the Assam Govt. e-procurement portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in>.
Sd/- Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (U), Assam Dispur, Guwahati - 6
Janasanyog/CF/37/20

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT :: 4TH ASSAM POLICE BATTALION KAHILIPARA:: GUWAHATI-19 ORDER
Ref. this office Memo No. (1) Bn4/ Q/ Prop/ 2019-20/ 1643-48 Dtd. 31.03.2020 (2) Bn4/ Q/ Prop/ 2019-20/ 1637-42 Dtd. 31.03.2020 (3) Bn4/Q/ Prop/ 2019-20/ 1625-30 Dtd. 31.03.2020 (4) Bn4/Q/Prop/2019-20/ 1631-36 Dtd. 31.03.2020 (5) Bn4/ Q/ Prop/ 2019-20/ 1619-24 Dtd. 31.03.2020 regarding tender for (a) Construction of Goat proof wire fencing in the side of Children Park, Control room and Temple side (Est-II) (b) Construction of Goat proof wire fencing in the side of Swahid bedi and Botanical Garden (Est-I) (c) Repairing/ Renovation of Garage for light vehicles (Capacity- 7 Nos) (d) Renovation of Garage for Big vehicles (Capacity- 4 Nos) (e) Renovation of Assam type Building (Saloon) at 4th AP Bn, Kahilipara, Guwahati -19. The last date for receipt of tender is hereby extended to 04.05.2020, in view of the ongoing CORONA (COVID-19) Pandemic.
Sd/- Commandant, 4th APBN, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/C/83/20

No. RDC/MDS/03/2017/
ADMISSION NOTICE
Counselling for Admission into Post Graduate in MDS Courses in the Regional Dental College, Guwahati for the Session 2020
On Suppression of the earlier office order vide No.RDC/ MDS/03/2017/298-01 dated 24th April/ 2020 the 1st round of counselling for admission into 50% Post Graduate seats in Regional Dental College, Guwahati under Assam Quota (Domicile of Assam) for the Session 2020 going to be held on 30th April/2020 at 11:00 a.m.. Candidates who appeared in NEET-PG-2020 conducted by the National Testing Agency may participate in the online counselling provided they fulfill all the eligibility criteria.
Candidates are directed to submit the following documents through e-mail rdchguwahati@gmail.com on or before 30th April/2020

- Admit Card issued by NBE :
- Rank Letter issued by NBE :
- 12th Marks sheet :
- Marks sheets of BDS 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Final Professional Examination :
- BDS degree certificate/Provisional degree certificate :
- Permanent/Provisional Registration Certificate issued by the DCI/State Dental Council of India:
- Date of Birth Certificate :
- Internship Completion Certificate :
- Two pass port size photograph :

Sd/- Principal i/c Regional Dental College, Guwahati-32
Janasanyog/D/310/20

NO: BWRD/GEN-25/P1-1/2014/182
Reminder Notice
Though the earlier news published on Assam Tribune, Niomia Barta and Dainik Asom on dated 14.03.2020, but the following contractors of the scheme “Immediate measures to protect Bahari Satra, Fulbari, Bhogepar and its adjoining area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra for 2007-08 under CRF.” Estimated Amount: 7.03 (L) had not attended the office of the undersigned till date. So, they are once again requested to attend the office of the Executive Engineer, Barpeta W.R. Division, Barpeta within 10.05.2020 with details of their following documents:
A. Bank pass book or Cancel Cheque
B. PAN card
C. Address proof
D. GST Registration certificate.

Sl.No.	Name of contractor	Work Order No
1	M.Halim Khan	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/P1/11 dt.06.02.2009
2	M/S New Krishnav	SE(NAC)/199/BAR/P1/173 dt.29.01.08
3	Safiqar Rahman	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/70(A) dt.12.05.2008
4	Sahidul Islam	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/P1/18 dt.06.02.2009
5	Samsul Haque	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/P1/48(A) dt.12.06.2008
6	Satyendra Sarma	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/39(A) dt.05.02.2008
7	Semen Deka	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/P1/25(A) dt.04.06.2008

Sd/- Executive Engineer Barpeta W.R. Division, Barpeta
Janasanyog/C/88/20





Ayurveda vs COVID-19

Ayurveda can be a quiet yet powerful force against coronavirus, says an expert

As the field of alternative medicine gains popularity in the wake of COVID-19, the ancient practice of Ayurveda with India as its land of origin can don the role of quiet yet powerful armed forces in the fight against the coronavirus, according to a seasoned Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

include Ayurveda solutions in the district level contingency plans being drawn up to contain COVID-19 in all districts across the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent address to the nation advised everyone in his 7-point appeal to follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of AYUSH to help build immunity against the coronavirus pandemic.

Weill Cornell Medicine is the biomedical research unit and medical school of Cornell University, a private Ivy League university, and according to Dr Bhaswati Bhattacharya, practicing Ayurveda is like approaching the disease from the perspective of air, water, land and time. "This is elaborated in a chapter on epidemics known as janapada-uddhvana in ancient classic medical texts. The daily lifestyle of a survivor includes cleaning the air, using clean water properly, cleansing the land, and becoming aware of time," Bhattacharya said.

Bhattacharya said that cleansing the air includes fumigation, the use of flames in homam, daily diyas, and any burning of herbs, especially those with anti-viral or poisonous properties.

"Burned ajwain is used in eye remedies and can be used in a dhoopana, along with neem, haldi, garlic and onion peels, and coconut husk. Opening doors and windows in the morning after rising brings in fresh air allows concentrated particles to leave," she said.

Known in vernacular languages as jutha, etho, ushta, enjalu, eccam, aintha and engili, among others, many Indians know rules of washing hands, feet and face at certain times of day and around certain activities.

Alongside this pillar of lifestyle guidelines are a pillar of wisdom for food and a pillar of medicines for epidemics.

Gradually shifting toward eating vegetables, whole grains and pulses, and using less ingredients is advised. Adding raisins (draksha), coriander (dhanya) leaves, prunes, spinaches (saag), palak and dark green leafy vegetables to the diet helps the bowel push contents down and out, said Bhattacharya, who has a PhD in Ayurveda from Banaras Hindu University and has been affiliated with Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

According to Bhattacharya, who is Fulbright Specialist in Public Health-Integrative Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, Ayurveda does not focus on the virus. "It focuses on the person, the host. Every seed that can grow will not grow in every soil. Ayurvedic wisdom says to empower the soil of the body so that the virus cannot take hold. This is pure personalised medicine at its best," she emphasised.

The Ministry of AYUSH in India has proposed to

(Source: IANS)

Kids
CN
 12:00 Teleshopping
 13:00 Johnny Bravo
 14:30 Haddi Mera Buddy
 15:00 Dexter's Laboratory
 17:30 Teleshopping
 19:00 Lamput

BEN 10
 19:30 Ben 10
 20:00 Ogy And The ...
 23:30 The Tom & Jerry Show

H99
 12:00 Chhota Bheem
 12:30 Grizzy And The ...
 13:30 Chhota Bheem
 14:30 Grizzy And The ...
 15:30 Chhota Bheem
 16:00 Chhota Bheem Chatpat
 16:30 Grizzy And The ...
 17:30 Chhota Bheem
 18:30 Chhota Bheem -Dholak-pur to Kathmandu
 20:00 Chhota Bheem
 21:00 Grizzy And The ...
 22:00 Mr. Bean: The Animated M.A.D.
 23:30 Teleshopping

Entertainment
SONY
 12:00 Best Of Crime Patrol
 13:00 Mere Sai - Shradha Aur ..
 19:30 Vighnaharta Ganesh
 20:00 Isharon Isharon Mein
 20:30 Patala Babes
 21:00 Beyhadh 2
 21:30 Tara From Satara
 22:00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
 22:30 Crime Patrol Satark
 23:30 Best Of Crime Patrol

Colors
 12:00 Guddan Tumse Na ...
 12:30 Kumkum Bhagya
 13:00 Kundali Bhagya
 13:30 Tujhse Hai Raabta
 14:00 Guddan Tumse Na ...
 14:30 Dil Ye Ziddi Hai
 15:00 Choti Bahu
 16:00 Pavitra Rishta
 17:00 Kumkum Bhagya
 17:30 Kundali Bhagya

StarPlus
 12:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
 13:00 Yehh Jade Hai Jimn Kal
 13:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
 14:00 Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum
 14:30 Dadi Amma... Dadi Amma ...
 15:00 Diya Aur Baati Hum
 16:00 Saath Nibhaana Saathiya
 17:00 Sasural Genda Phool
 18:00 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
 18:30 Sanjvani
 19:00 Kullfi Kunnarr Bajawala
 19:30 Dadi Amma... Dadi ...
 20:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
 20:30 Yehh Jade Hai Jimn Kal
 21:00 Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum
 21:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
 22:00 Yeh Rishtay Hai Pyaar Ke
 22:30 Yeh Hai Chahain

Entertainment
9tv
 12:00 Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan
 13:30 Santoshi Maa Sunaye...
 14:00 Ek Mahanayak Dr. B. R.
 14:30 Gudiyi Hamari Sabhi ...
 15:00 Laal Ishq
 19:00 Santoshi Maa Sunaye...
 19:30 Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan
 20:00 Gudiyi Hamari Sabhi ...
 20:30 Ek Mahanayak Dr. B. R.
 21:00 Santoshi Maa Sunaye...
 21:30 Kahat Hanuman Hai ...
 22:00 Hattu Ki Ultan Paltan
 22:30 Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain!

Colors
 12:30 Naati Pinky Ki Lambi ...
 13:00 Choti Saradaami
 13:30 Vidya
 14:00 Bigg Boss - Weekend ...
 16:00 Choti Saradaami

StarPlus
 12:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
 13:00 Yehh Jade Hai Jimn Kal
 13:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
 14:00 Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum
 14:30 Dadi Amma... Dadi Amma ...
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 21:00 Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum
 21:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
 22:00 Yeh Rishtay Hai Pyaar Ke
 22:30 Yeh Hai Chahain

Entertainment
UTV MOVIES
 13:00 MS Dhoni: The Untold Story
 16:50 Bol Bachchan
 19:50 Vijaypath Tezaab
 22:20

10:15 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
 12:20 Lake Placid: The Final Chapter
 14:00 Masterpiece
 17:00 12 Disaster
 18:45 Doctor Strange Samay Ka Khel
 20:50 Rise of the Apes
 Vanaash Ka Aarambh
 22:50 Kal Ke Baad

12:10 The Meg
 13:55 Mission: Impossible -- Fallout
 15:10 Kung Fu Panda 2
 17:45 Entourage
 19:35 Rush Hour 3
 21:00 Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald
 23:15 The Terminal

11:15 Rise of the Planet of the Apes
 13:00 Toy Story 3
 14:40 Pretty Woman
 16:45 Avatar
 19:35 The Jungle Book
 21:15 IP Man 2
 23:15 Unstoppable

HBO
 23:15 The Terminal

11:15 No. 1 Dilwala
 13:55 Sony Ke Titu Ki Sweets
 16:40 Lakshmi Bomb
 18:20 Remo
 20:55 Tarzan The Heman
 23:30 Double Taddkaa

11:45 De Dana Dan
 15:10 The Jungle Book
 17:30 Bade Mian Chote Mian
 19:55 Avengers: Infinity War
 23:10 Tezz

12:10 Himmatwar
 15:00 Prem Rog
 18:30 Shiva The Super Hero 3
 20:30 Kesari
 23:30 Shiva The Super Hero

23:30 Best of UEFA Champs
 11:30 Men in Blue Victorious
 16:30 Arena-E Sports
 17:00 Tuff Wars
 19:30 Masters of Oz
 19:30 Men in Blue Victorious
 19:30 Memorable Masterstrokes
 20:00 Nail-Biting Finishes
 20:30 BBL Rewind
 21:00 Best of Abu Dhabi T10 Hls
 21:30 Olympic on the Record
 22:00 Men in Blue Victorious
 23:00 Memorable Masterstrokes
 23:30 The Immortals

Infotainment
NAT GEO WILD
 12:00 Deadly Game
 13:00 Wild Families
 14:00 World's Deadliest
 15:00 Survival Of The Fittest
 16:00 Dangerous Encounters
 17:00 Wild Families

HISTORY TV
 12:00 Forged In Fire
 12:30 Pawn Stars
 13:30 Storage Wars
 14:00 Food Tech
 15:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India
 16:00 Forged In Fire
 17:00 Storage Wars
 17:30 Shipping Wars
 18:00 Modern Marvels
 19:00 Car Jackers
 19:30 Pawn Stars
 20:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India
 21:00 Forged In Fire
 22:00 Pawn Stars
 23:00 Storage Wars
 23:30 Forged In Fire

18:00 Wild Hunters
 19:00 India's Lost Worlds
 20:00 Survival Of The Fittest
 21:00 Africa's Deadliest
 22:00 Wild Amazon
 23:00 Dangerous Encounters

12:00 Investigates: Lost Treasures Of The Maya
 13:00 Adventure: Primal ...
 14:00 Adventure: Snakes in ...
 15:00 Science: Street Genius
 16:00 Adventure: Primal ...
 17:00 Investigates: Airport Security Madrid
 18:00 Science: Brain Games
 18:30 Science: Science of ...
 19:00 Science: Street Genius
 19:30 Science: Science of ...
 20:00 Wildlife: Animals Gone ...
 20:30 Wildlife: Animal Fight Club
 21:00 Adventure: Primal ...
 22:00 Adventure: Running Wild With Bear Grylls
 23:00 Investigates: Banged up Abroad

12:30 Jewels Of The Natural ...
 13:00 Animal Planet Exclusives
 13:30 Living With Manateers
 15:00 Fierce Fighters
 16:00 The Beauty Of Snakes

17:00 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
 18:00 Into The Wild India
 19:00 Animal Planet Exclusives
 20:00 Fierce Fighters
 21:00 The Lion Kingdom
 21:30 Jewels Of The Natural ...
 22:00 Wildest Survival
 23:00 Expedition Mungo

17:00 Xopun
 17:30 Barala Kai
 18:30 Xopunor Aasutia Rang
 2000 Jonaki Kareng
 2030 Xopun
 2100 Oi Khapsi
 2130 Bah Amarawati Bah
 2200 Borla Kai

07:00 Breakfast Live
 08:00 Live at 8
 09:00 Good morning Assam
 10:00 Assamese news
 11:30 Kotha Bara (R)
 12:00 Mid Day Live
 13:00 Assamese Telefilm
 14:30 Afternoon Prime
 17:30 Guwahati Biseesh
 18:00 Guwahati Live
 18:30 Breaking @ 6:30
 19:00 Assamese Prime Time
 20:00 Discussion Show
 21:00 Super Prime Time
 22:00 Live at 10
 22:30 Noixo Guwahati
 23:00 Noixo Batori

07:45 Pratham Xongbad
 14:00 Biyoril Headline
 16:00 Abelil Khabar
 16:30 Superfast Prime Time 100
 17:00 City 18
 18:00 Prime Time 18
 19:00 Dintar Shironam
 20:00 Ponyobekhyon
 21:30 Aparadh Nama
 22:00 North East Scan
 22:30 Noixo Xironam

08:30 Devotional Music
 08:45 Swachh Bharat Batori
 08:50 Batori
 15:00 Vigyan Prasara
 15:30 Classical Music
 16:00 Abelil Batori
 16:05 Akhonor Juti
 16:30 Chiphung
 17:00 Nimishote Batori
 17:02 DD Kisan TV Serial in Hindi
 17:30 Krishi Darshan
 18:00 Dharababik
 18:30 Batori
 18:45 NE News

17:00 Xopun
 17:30 Barala Kai
 18:30 Xopunor Aasutia Rang
 2000 Jonaki Kareng
 2030 Xopun
 2100 Oi Khapsi
 2130 Bah Amarawati Bah
 2200 Borla Kai

11:00 ICC Cricket World Cup
 18:30 IPL Hls
 19:00 Journey of Vivo IPL
 20:00 IPL Hls
 21:00 Journey of Vivo IPL
 22:00 Football United Special
 22:30 IPL Hls
 23:00 Ind vs Aus
 23:30 Hero ISL Hls

11:00 ICC Cricket World Cup
 18:30 IPL Hls

Regional
NEWS LIVE
 07:00 Breakfast Live
 08:00 Live at 8
 09:00 Good morning Assam
 10:00 Assamese news
 11:30 Kotha Bara (R)
 12:00 Mid Day Live
 13:00 Assamese Telefilm
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 16:30 Chiphung
 17:00 Nimishote Batori
 17:02 DD Kisan TV Serial in Hindi
 17:30 Krishi Darshan
 18:00 Dharababik
 18:30 Batori
 18:45 NE News

Sports
STAR TEN 2
 12:00 Immortal
 12:30 Football Greatest
 13:00 NBA Hls
 14:00 UCL
 14:30 Best of UCL
 15:00 Impact Wrestling
 17:00 Best of UCL
 17:30 Football Greatest
 18:00 NBA Hls
 19:00 UFC 200
 20:00 March of the Champions
 20:30 Football Greatest
 21:00 City's March...

STAR TEN 1
 12:00 The Olympics
 12:30 WWE BlockBusters
 15:30 The Olympics
 16:00 WWE Smack Down
 19:00 WWE BlockBusters
 19:00 Best of Serie A
 20:00 WWE BlockBusters
 23:00 Best of Serie A

11:00 ICC Cricket World Cup
 18:30 IPL Hls
 19:00 Journey of Vivo IPL
 20:00 IPL Hls
 21:00 Journey of Vivo IPL
 22:00 Football United Special
 22:30 IPL Hls
 23:00 Ind vs Aus
 23:30 Hero ISL Hls

STAR GOLD
 23:10 Tezz

11:45 De Dana Dan
 15:10 The Jungle Book
 17:30 Bade Mian Chote Mian
 19:55 Avengers: Infinity War
 23:10 Tezz

12:10 Himmatwar
 15:00 Prem Rog
 18:30 Shiva The Super Hero 3
 20:30 Kesari
 23:30 Shiva The Super Hero

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 28, 2020:

You are determined to make this year a success and to help others through this pandemic. You do both. Unusually, you get inspiration from spiritual leaders. Purchase only what you can honestly afford, and all will be well. If single, your steadfastness will win you a relationship if you want one. If attached, your dependability gives your partner peace of mind. You are both as happy as clams. LIBRA needs more romantic gestures.

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

- ARIES** (March 21-April 19)
 ★★ Family life and your home assume a subtle glamor today. You will be fascinated by secrets about your heritage and will discover new qualities in loved ones. A relative who has been out of touch might suddenly reappear. Tonight: Dinner with family.
- TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Travel plans become important but are subject to change. Do background research if making an unusual or unfamiliar journey. You can learn a great deal at this time. Old concepts are changing. Memories of a grandparent or childhood companion are vivid and meaningful. Tonight: Relax.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You might enjoy earning income today. Business and pleasure combine harmoniously. Plan a party online on the job or surprise a co-worker with a small gift. Happiness you generate in others will be returned to you threefold. Tonight: Feeling proud.
- CANCER** (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ A different job, relationship or home might be in the stars soon. Do not resist the new order coming into your life. The long-term picture will be brighter than it might seem at first glance. More happiness is coming, guaranteed. Tonight: Celebrate yourself.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your nature has been challenged by scandals and inconsistencies in the professional world in past years. That trend is being replaced with new excitement, even glamor, in your social life. You encounter people who have a hint of the legendary in their lives. Tonight: Ooh-la-la!
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your social circle widens today. Effort expended in relationships will be met with a friendly response. A new friend offers valuable suggestions and ideas. A new opportunity for a child makes you happy. You will feel more optimistic. Tonight: Network with others online.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★ Today finds you awash with ambitions and longings. Enjoy what you have. Do not let yourself be tormented by thoughts of greener pastures. Make a list of your many accomplishments and love yourself for each one of them. Tonight: A soothing hot bath.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ Opportunities arise that might open doors to a better life. Pursue them. Identifying real values can be something of a challenge. Be receptive to the inevitable change in the air and all will be well. Tonight: Play the night away.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Childhood memories as well as past life issues can affect the present. Honor the past and learn from it, but do not let it haunt you. A progressive, energetic aspect begins today as you shed the old and bring in the new. Tonight: Celebrate.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You might be blessed with a new love connection or a strengthening of an existing bond today. Be careful of involvement in love triangles or associations with those who have addictive tendencies. An elderly relative needs help. Tonight: Date night.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★ Temperature extremes, especially the cold, affect you profoundly. Massage of the lower legs, and protective boots or stockings are a must. Your ankle area is especially vulnerable. A new program of care and fitness might emerge. Tonight: At home. Make it easy.
- PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ A feeling of lightness and hope is generated. Children will show talent and maturity. A new love or exciting new project is rich with promise. Be playful in its initial stages, as this will bring you more ideas. Tonight: Write out what you want.

 Thought for the day
The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places. — ERNEST HEMINGWAY

LOCKHORNS

“YOU'RE RIGHT, LEROY... I SHOULD HAVE INVITED YOU TO YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.”

Double the Fun

“IF THAT GUY IS THE 'BEST MAN'... WHY DOESN'T SHE MARRY HIM?”

THE PHANTOM

“THE COLONEL ARRIVES”

“IS THE PYTHON REALLY DOWN THERE? CAGED IN JUNGLE COVER?”

“GUARDED BY WANBESILAND'S BEST FIGHTERS?”

By Lee Falk

BLONDIE

“HUH? NO PIGSKIN TO OUR TOUCHDOWN TAGO PLATTER”

“WE ADDED THEM TO OUR TOUCHDOWN TAGO PLATTER”

“ADD HALFTIME HOT WINGS AND A FOOTBALL FUDGE CAKE THAT YOU'RE GUARANTEED NOT TO FUMBLE!”

“GIMME 2!”

“HOW DID SUPER BOWL SALES GO TODAY?”

“NEW RECORD! 29 PLATTERS AND 3 MARRIAGE PROPOSALS!”

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

“LOOK! A BAG OF MONEY!”

“WE SHOULD FIND THE OWNER!”

“YOU'RE RIGHT!”

“THEY MIGHT HAVE MORE!”

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6879

1	2	3	4	5	6
7				8	9
10	11	12		13	
14			15		16
		17	18		19
				22	
	21				25
26			27	28	
		32			33
34					35
36					

Across

- Papeete and thereabouts (6)
- Seaport on W Kyushu (8)
- Oak seeds (6)
- Escapes from danger (5)
- German count (4)
- Enemies (4)
- Scheme (4)
- Charged atom (3)
- Tofu base (4)
- Useless (4)
- Indian goddess of wisdom (9)
- A Central American people (4)
- Essential point (4)
- A doll or a kite (3)
- Block up (4)
- Misfortunes (4)
- Change from a frozen state to a liquid or soft state (4)
- Ladle (5)
- Capital of Croatia (6)
- Strong black coffee (8)
- Bony (6)
- 1 Smell (5)
- Concur or correspond (5)
- Inquires (4)
- Crown (5)
- Animal foot (4)
- Sails collectively (6)
- Auction item (3)
- Attempt (5)
- Scottish city (7)
- Monetary unit of Myanmar (3)
- Latin trio (3)
- Mountain spinach (6)
- Loft (5)
- Speak (3)
- Head covering (3)
- Ethics (6)
- Specialized U.N. agency (3)
- Identity tag (5)
- Slack (5)
- Eating utensil (5)
- Authentic (4)
- Progenitor (4)

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6879

1 Spoon, 2 Tue., 3 Sire, 4 Att., 5 21 Say, 6 22 Wigs, 7 23 Morals, 8 25 10, 18 Octane, 9 Carnage, 11 Lot, 12 Essay, 13 Glasgow, 15 15 Ppa, 16 11, 18 Octane, 19 Down: 1 Smit, 2 Agree, 3 Asks, 4 Tiera, 5 Hoot, 6 Tendon, 9 35 Espresso, 36 Ostial, 24 Dist, 26 Toy, 27 Clog, 29 Ills, 32 Thaw, 33 Scoop, 34 Zagreb, 35 Foes, 36 Plan, 17 Plan, 19 Vain, 21 Saraswat, 23 Marek, 24

Across: 4 Tahiti, 7 Nagasaki, 8 Acorns, 10 Fees, 13 Graf, 14

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Bron Smith

WHY DO I FORGET WHY I WALKED INTO ANOTHER ROOM?

THIS PHENOMENON IS CALLED AN "EVENT BOUNDARY" RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT THE BRAIN COMPARTMENTALIZES EVENTS AND TIES THEM TO A SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENT (OFTEN A ROOM). THEN FILLES THEM. WHEN YOU WALK INTO ANOTHER ROOM, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO "CHANGE FILES" AND REMEMBER WHY YOU ENTERED THE ROOM.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the givenquip.

RONDO

BAIL'S

LIGAND

REVIEW

SOLUTION

Words: Dronr, sbat, leding, iwevr.



People standing in a queue outside a book stall during the nationwide lockdown, at Tezpur on Monday. – UB Photos

Lockdown hits tourism sector severely in Kaziranga

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, April 27: The tourism sector in Kaziranga has been badly hit during the ongoing lockdown as most of the business establishments, including hotels, resorts, restaurants and market places have remained closed. The stakeholders, who either directly or indirectly remain associated with tourism sector including jungle safari operators, have been badly affected since the day COVID-19 episode started in the nation. According to Forest department sources, during 2019-2020 period at least 1,54,357 Indian tourists and 11,392 foreign tourists visited the Kaziranga National Park. So an amount of Rs 4,75,83,491 was earned as forest revenue from tourism. During 2018-19 tourism period, Kaziranga Forest depart-

ment had earned a revenue of Rs. 4,82,42,229. This is worth mentioning that revenue collection from tourism sector in Kaziranga has been further streamlined resulting in a good progress during 2019-20 tourist season in spite of many ups and down as the State had witnessed CAA protests and the lockdown. Meanwhile Kaziranga National Park will take up necessary measures as far as improvement of existing road conditions inside the park areas is concerned after the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India has accepted the proposal submitted by Rajya Sabha Member Kamakhya Prasad Tassa. A video conference meeting was held on last Friday between Union Environment and Forest Minister and Assam Forest Minister. According to a highly placed source,

the existing road inside the forest of Kaziranga will be improved with elevation of 5 feet. This work will be undertaken in Kohora central range, Bagori range and Burapahar range covering about 25 kilometres. This elevation of existing road will help the marooned wild animals of Kaziranga National Park to take shelter during high flood. Similar work will also be taken up in areas in Panpur Reserved forest and others under Kaziranga National Park cum Tiger Reserve, sources added. According to a senior Forest official of Kaziranga, Rajya Sabha Member Kamakhya Prasad Tassa has expressed his gratitude to the Union Environment and Forest Minister for accepting his proposal with regard to improvement and elevation of existing road in Kaziranga forest for the safety of wild animals during high flood.

Aid provided to veteran scribe

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, April 27: The State government extended an aid of Rs 20,000 to an ailing veteran journalist from Hailakandi district, Debbas Purkayastha, on Friday last.

The Media Adviser to Chief Minister, Hrishikesh Goswami instructed the DIPR to clear the one-time financial assistance to the senior journalist from the Journalists' Medical Welfare Scheme.

The mediapersons of Hailakandi have expressed their happiness over the granting of medical aid to Purkayastha, who has spent four decades in the local vernacular journalism. He was also felicitated by the Media Adviser at the National Press Day held centrally at Silchar last year.

Meanwhile, the district police also stepped in, as part of its mission to reach out to the elderly during the lockdown, procuring medicines from Guwahati for the veteran journalist and two other senior citizens namely former professor of SS College Bijit Kumar Bhattacharjee and retired engineer, GREF, Ranju Kumar Nath, and handed over the packets to them at their home on Friday.

ABSU hails Governor's rule in BTC

CORRESPONDENT

UDALGURI, April 27: The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) today hailed the Governor's rule in the BTAD region until the elections were held for the formation of the 4th General Council of the BTC. This was stated by Dipen Boro, president of the student organisation in this region.

Talking to this correspondent, the ABSU president said that the Governor has taken a worthy decision as per the rules after the completion of the third term of the present council in power. "We hail the Governor's rule in the region and hope that the elections would be held when the present situation arising out of COVID-19 improves in the region and people of the region get their right to elect a new council of their choice," Boro added.

Sensation over 22 people coming from Dhubri to Sonitpur district

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, April 27: At a time when Sonitpur district administration as per the government notification has been busy round-the-clock to keep the district free from COVID-19, the incident of recovering 22 people from a mosque in Godamghat area near Balipara in Sonitpur district has created sensation among the people. It is to be mentioned here that these 22 people were in Dhubri-Bilasipara area where they took part in a religious congregation (Tablighi Zamaat). However, after being stuck there following the ongoing lock-

down, they reached the mentioned mosque in Gudamghat area this morning by a hired bus. In the meantime, from every walk of life here, questions arose as to how these

Hospital were quarantined today at a centre based in Sirajuli area near Dhekiajuli town in Sonitpur district. It has been learnt that regarding the issue an inquiry is being conducted by the district administration. It needs mention here that the quarantined

Movement of people from Red to Green Zone creates tension

people could arrive this place by a hiring a bus at Rs 40,000. It was also questioned that on what ground the Dhubri district administration has given the permission to this 22-member team of Zamaatis to move from a 'Red Zone' to a 'Green Zone' area like Sonitpur district. The recovered people after the preliminary health check-up in Tezpur Kanaklata Civil

people are – Abdul Mutalib, Jamal Uddin, Akbar Ali, Sikandar Ali, Md Maijuddin, Md. Jahangeer Alam, Mujibur Rahman, Rustam Ali, Mafidul Mamin, Giasuddin, Halimuddin, Jafar Ali, Abdul Jabbar, Tahir Ali, Nur Muhammad, Abdul Jabbar, Kamaluddin Seikh, Rsidul Islam, Nabi Hussain, Mubarak Ali, Zahed Ali and Hasim Ansari.

About 500 stranded in Jorhat move to Majuli in 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, April 27: As part of the inter-district movement of people allowed by the State Government, altogether about 500 people stranded in Jorhat district went to Majuli island on Sunday and Monday through boats arranged by the Jorhat district administration from Nimatighat on the outskirts here.

A Jorhat district administration official told this newspaper that about 500 stranded people left for Majuli in the two days after the special boat service was started by Inland Water Transport wing

of the State Transport department on Sunday as part of the Government inter-district movement of people stranded due to the lockdown. The official informed that about 150 people stranded in Majuli reached Nimatighat here in the two days on boats sailing from Kamalabarighat. Several trips were carried out by boats from both Nimatighat and Kamalabarighat, with administration from both districts arranging buses free for the passengers to reach the ghats and also to return from the ghats after

reaching their destinations respectively, the official stated. Paid services transportation was also available, the official said, adding all norms of social distancing as per COVID-19 rules and health check-ups were adhered to during the inter-district movement of people. The official further stated that the boat service between mainland Jorhat and the Brahmaputra island will continue till April 30. Stranded people from other districts and from Jorhat were coming and leaving since Saturday as per instructions given by Government, the official said.

ACMS concern over fate of tea company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, April 27: In the wake of media reports about disturbing financial position of BR Shetty Group and amid growing apprehensions about closure of his business undertakings, the Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS) here has expressed concern over the likely fate of some 45,000 workers and their dependants who toil in some 14 tea estates of the world's oldest

tea company – Assam Company India Limited (ACIL), now owned by BRS Ventures Investment Limited. If the media reports of the financial crisis are to be believed, ACMS president and former Union Minister Paban Singh Ghatowar in a letter to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, has said that survival of about two lakh population of the tea company is likely to be affected in the State. "The disturbing news during the ongoing pandem-

ic, has cast a shadow of gloom over the tea workers' community. However, the Assam Company India Limited has not uttered a word on the reported crisis so far," mentioned Ghatowar. The ACMS president has urged upon the Chief Minister to ensure that livelihood of the large chunk of the tea garden workers of ACIL is not affected due to the issues in the major business undertaking of the BR Shetty Group.

Illegal logs seized at Dhemaji

ANN SERVICE

DHEMAJI, April 27: A team of Dhemaji Forest officials with the help of Dhemaji police yesterday recovered a large number of illegal logs from a household of one Mahendra Mudoi of No. 2 Gahpuria village in North Dhemaji area under Dhemaji PS, which is about 10 kilometres away from Dhemaji town.

According to official sources, a joint expedition led by Dhemaji Forest Ranger Amiya Kumar Pachani and police sub-inspector of Dhemaji Sadar PS Padmeswar Borkataky on Sunday morning last raided the house of Mahendra Mudoi of No. 2 Gahpuria village and detected a huge number of illegal valuable logs there. As reported, Mahendra Mudoi has been allegedly involved in black-marketing of logs since long back. The seized logs are said to be worth of around Rs 4 lakh. The joint raid team seized the illegal logs and brought them to the concerned Forest Range Officer's office by two trucks. The raid team, however, could not apprehend the black marketer of timber as he fled away as soon as the team reached his house.

A case has been lodged in this connection at Dhemaji Police Station.

COVID-19 warriors appreciated

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, April 27: Dhubri district Youth Congress on Monday appreciated police officials, health workers and journalists and distributed gamusa, masks etc., among them. According to Youth Congress, these are real warriors who are on the battlefield fighting against COVID-19.

Vaccination drive for pigs in Hailakandi

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, April 27: The District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary authority here is on a massive drive to vaccinate pigs against classical swine fever. District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer, RA Laskar disclosed that 167 pigs have been vaccinated to protect them from classical swine fever at places such as

Mohonpur, Katlicherra, Chondipur, Balikundi and Algapur in the past few days. Laskar said the department has set a target of vaccinating 700 pigs in the next couple of days. He said though there has been cases of death of pigs due to classical swine fever in some districts of the State, there is not a single case in the district so far. Till now, 1,964 pigs have died due to swine fever in six districts of the State. Selling of pigs and pork meat has been banned in the State with immediate effect from Saturday. Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Atul Bora said that a five-member team of veterinarians would be sent to the affected districts and proper steps would be taken to dispose of the carcass to prevent infection.



A medical official examining a youth coming from another district, at Bakaliaghata on Monday. – UB Photos

Resentment over import of vegetables from red zone

ANN SERVICE

DULIAJAN, April 27: Altogether seven student and workers' organisations have expressed dissatisfaction over the alleged import of vegetables from Red Zone areas of the State to Duliajan. The Duliajan units of All Tai Ahom Students' Union, Muttok Yuva Chatra Sammilan, Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad, Anti-Corruption Youth Power, Sonowal Kachari Students' Union, Anusuchita Jati

Yuva Chatra Sanstha and Oil Drilling and Production Union have expressed dismay over the import of vegetables from Red Zone areas. The seven organisations alleged that a middle party has played the main role in the import of vegetables from the restricted areas. The organisations also demanded a stern action against the middle party that has carried out the 'illegal business' neglecting administrative regulations about carrying of vegetables from Red Zone areas. "It is a matter of astonishment that the administrative machinery has been fooled by an opportunistic section in such an emergency situation," the organisations expressed through the release. "If the administration can't check these notorious business circles, then we have to come forward to take action ourselves," the release further stated.

Garbage heaps compound hygiene woes at Diphu

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU, April 27: At a time when the government and municipal authorities have been persistently carrying out mass cleaning drives and sanitisation to tackle COVID-19, huge piles of garbage in front of the District Transportation Officer, DC Colony and Panbari localities have made the lives of residents miserable.

While social organisations and public leaders are insisting for maintaining compulsory hygiene and sanitisation, the picture in certain areas of Diphu town only depicts negligence.

Heaps of garbage have piled on the roadside just across the office of the District Transportation Officer. The garbage heaps have remained unattended for a long time and have become a cause for concern. Following frequent rainfall these days, the scene has become increasingly grimy.

People of the town have blamed the Diphu Municipal Board for its negligence

and allowing the garbage heaps to grow. "The continuing lockdown has restricted work in maximum departments but sanitation work is totally exempted from the restriction list. Still, the garbage heaps have remained unattended in several locations of the town," said a resident. Quarantined labourers seek KAAAC assistance: A group of around 45 skilled and unskilled workers, residents of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao autonomous districts, were engaged in various private companies in Nagaland capital Kohima and are now staying at a quarantine centre in Dimapur. These workers, after imposition of the lockdown, reached Dimapur on foot last month and were rescued by Nagaland Police. They were quarantined at the Dimapur District Sports Complex last month. One migrant labourer told the media that they have completed almost 25 days of quarantine and now want to return home. These workers have requested

Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council's Chief Executive Member Tuliram Ronghang and the Karbi Anglong district administration to help them return safely to their own areas.

Malaria Day observed: World Malaria Day was observed in the middle of lockdown at an isolated village in Karbi Anglong district on Saturday. A responsiveness conference was organized in the presence of Obed Killing, Karbi Anglong's District Vector Borne Disease Consultant under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Malaria Inspector Bhokto Bannerjee and Surveillance Inspector Jiten Kro at Kania Enghi village, Manja, around 20 km from Diphu.

The Malaria department carried out DDT spraying, distributed insecticide-treated bed nets, and collected blood samples in slides. Motivational lectures were delivered through All India Radio and loudspeakers in the district to mark the day. It was also observed in all block primary health centres in the district.



Police personnel being felicitated for their exemplary duty during the ongoing lockdown period at Narayanpur police station, on Monday. – UB Photos

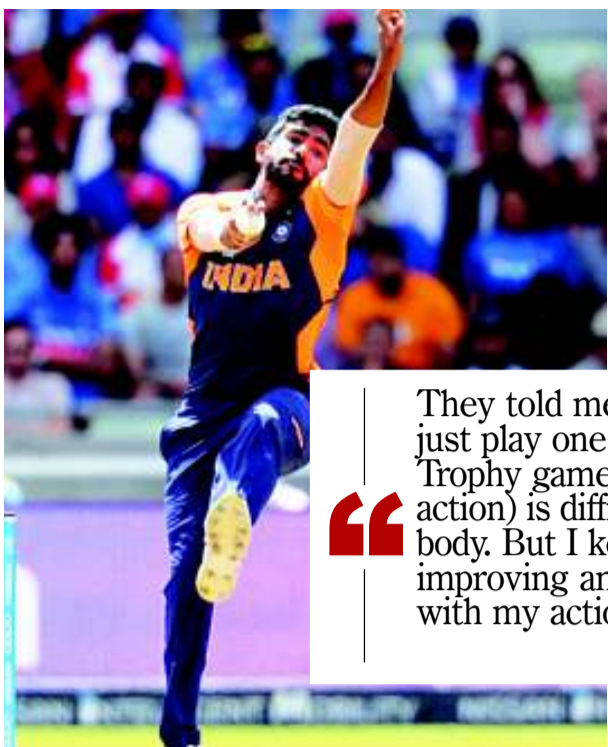
'Many thought I would be last person to play for India'

NEW DELHI, April 27: Jasprit Bumrah has risen rapidly to become one of the leading fast bowlers in the world but he says many thought that he would be the "last person to play for India" given his unusual bowling action.

The Indian pacer made this revelation during a live session on Instagram with former India batsman Yuvraj Singh.

"Many people told me that I won't play for long, there was an expectation that the last person to play for the country would be me," said Bumrah when Yuvraj asked him about his high-arm bowling action.

"They told me that I would just play one or two Ranji Trophy games, that it (the action) is difficult for the body. But I kept on improving and I persisted with my action," said the 26-year-old, who



"I have not taken special coaching and whatever I have learnt is from seeing the TV. I used to replicate the action of a tennis ball bowler."

"I don't know when this action was developed. Till Under-19, I had a different action. That used to change, but when this action got developed, then nobody allowed me to change it and I

They told me that I would just play one or two Ranji Trophy games, that it (the action) is difficult for the body. But I kept on improving and I persisted with my action.

- Jasprit Bumrah

worked on it," he said. Bumrah has gone on to play 64 ODIs, 50 T20s and 14 Tests for the country since breaking into the side. - PTI

made his India debut in January 2016 following his exploits in the IPL.

Bumrah, without taking names, also revealed the inspiration behind his action.

Holding finds no logic in legalising ball-tampering

NEW DELHI, April 27: Michael Holding feels legalising ball tampering in the post COVID-19 world is a bit "self contradictory" while Proteas great Allan Donald is completely on the opposite end of the spectrum on a subject that has divided opinions.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), during its recent CEC meeting, considered the use of artificial substances on the ball instead of saliva.

"I have read that ICC is contemplating preventing people from using saliva on the ball due to COVID-19 and allowing them to use foreign substances on the ball to keep the shine on but in front of the umpire. I don't understand the logic behind that," Holding told ESPNcricinfo.

The West Indies great also questioned the ICC for shifting its stand on the issue by allowing foreign substance

instead of saliva or sweat. "Before they got to that point they said if they restart cricket it has to be played in a bio-secure environment. "They were saying cricketers for instance would have to isolate themselves for two weeks to make sure that everything was fine for when they got to the venue before the match started. And everyone involved (with the match) will have to do the same thing," he said.

What Holding can't fathom is that if people quarantine themselves and then start playing, why saliva can't be used then. "Now, if you are saying everyone is in the bio-secure environment, you are staying in the same hotel, you are not moving for the length of time you are playing the matches, if that is the case why are you worried about someone's saliva?"



Holding

"That person according to what you are doing should be free of COVID-19. If the ICC thinks that the two-week period to prove that you are free of COVID-19 is not foolproof, then that means you are putting everyone in that environment in jeopardy?"

"Why would you want to play cricket under those circumstances? It's either safe or it's not. No guessing, please," one of the most respected voices in world

cricket said. Pakistan legend Waqar Younis made it clear that use of saliva is a must and can't be done away with when competitive cricket resumes.

"As a fast bowler, I reject this because this (using saliva and sweat) is a natural process. A ball exchanges hands all day, you run in, huffing and puffing, you sweat and using saliva is natural rather than on intent. It's a habit and you just can't control this aspect," Waqar said.

Donald, however, is open to the idea.

"I absolutely agree with legalising ball-tampering. I said so in an article sometime in the 2000s. It happens anyway, we see guys throwing the ball on the ground and umpires say to throw it up and it's pretty obvious what they are doing. It could work if it is well-monitored," Donald said. - PTI

Italy's PM delays Serie A restart decision

ROME, April 27: Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte delayed a decision on restarting Serie A football but gave the green light for top athletes to resume training in a week's time.

Conte unveiled the first details of how the country will emerge from a lockdown aimed at halting the spread of the coronavirus pandemic that has officially claimed more than 26,000 lives in Italy and 200,000 worldwide. He said individual athletes would be allowed to resume training on May 4.

Teams could start to train together again on May 18.

But Conte did not say when Serie A might resume a season interrupted on March 9 with Juventus leading Lazio by a point. - AFP

Umar Akmal handed 3-year ban

KARACHI, April 27: Temperamental Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal was on Monday banned for three years by the PCB for failing to report corrupt approaches ahead of the country's premier T20 league this year.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said the ban was imposed by its Disciplinary Panel chairman Justice (retired) Fazal-e-Miran Chauhan, who held a hearing on Monday.

"Umar Akmal handed three-year ban from all cricket by Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel Mr Justice (retired) Fazal-e-Miran Chauhan," read a tweet from the official handle of the PCB's media department.

The 29-year-old appeared before the panel at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore after not challenging a show cause notice issued to him. - PTI

Was on course for top-15 ranking: Lakshya Sen



NEW DELHI, April 27: With five titles under his belt, Lakshya Sen was racing towards the top echelons of international badminton before his stunning run was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought all competitive action to a halt across the world.

With the world in lockdown to contain the deadly disease, Lakshya too is enduring the uncertain times within the confines of his apartment, near the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) in Bengaluru.

"I was looking forward to play big tournaments, compete against better players and try to make it to top 15 this year. But then everything stopped suddenly, all tournaments suspended. Now I don't know when they will resume," Lakshya told PTI.

The 18-year-old from Uttar Pradesh was in sensational form in the senior circuit last year as he claimed as many as five titles, including two BWF World Tour Super 100 top honours - SaarLorLux Open and Dutch Open - to zoom to 32nd rank by the end of the year.

He is currently placed 27th in the world rankings.

He continued his good run early this year, claiming a big win over Asian Games gold-medallist Jonathan Christie of Indonesia at the Badminton Asia Team Championships and then putting up an impressive show against former world champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the second round of the All England Championships.

Lakshya was looking forward to the Swiss Open (March 17-22) but All England turned out to be the last tournament before the BWF suspended all action.

In fact, he was in the middle of the tournament when government's travel restrictions came into force.

"I had a match to play (second round) when the Ministry had announced travel restrictions. I didn't think much about it but by the time I had played my match, BWF had cancelled the tournaments."

"So, we booked tickets and returned. Initially our plans were to go to Swiss from there," said the soft-spoken Indian. - PTI

NY Gov wants to see sports teams return

NEW YORK, April 27: The governor of New York raised the possibility of some major-league sports teams returning to the playing field or arena - only with no fans in the stands.

Governor Andrew Cuomo said he had spoken to several sports team owners - he did not name them, but New York's teams include the iconic Yankees baseball team, as well as football, hockey and basketball clubs - and he speculated that for some it might make economic sense to play before empty stadiums.

Cuomo made the remarks during a daily briefing on the coronavirus in his state, the hardest hit in the US by the pandemic.

He also sketched plans for slowly reopening the state's economy, saying manufacturing and construction firms may resume working on May 15, but any easing would first take place in the north of the state where the virus has been less a problem.

But he noted that weeks of enforced confinement have taken a psychological toll

on New Yorkers, and said a resumption of sports competition could help.

"We want to bring sports back, so there's an activity that people can watch on TV," he told reporters.

Cuomo said that while he was no expert on sports economics, some sports might earn enough in television revenues that they could make a go of it even without ticket sales.

"What sports can you do without an audience? What sports can you make work economically that you don't have to sell a seat in the stadium or in the arena?" he asked rhetorically.

Virtually all organised sports in the country - professional and amateur - have been halted since mid-March over concerns about the risks posed when large groups of fans crowd together.

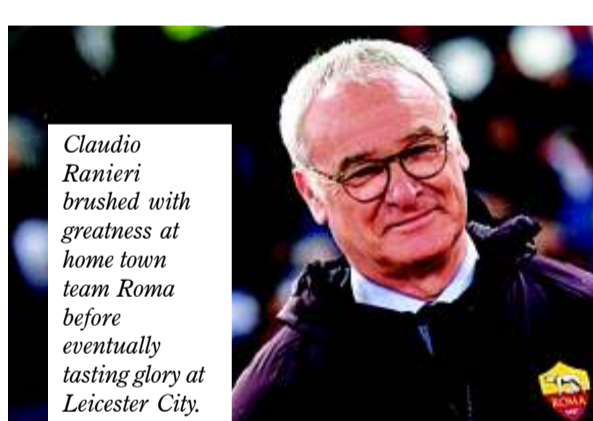
There are a few exceptions: World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) has been authorised to operate in Florida, where it is classified as an essential service. - AFP

Ranieri's brush with glory with his beloved Roma

PARIS, April 27: Claudio Ranieri won the hearts of the football world when he took Leicester City to the 2016 Premier League title, but six years earlier he came to within touching distance of an even more romantic achievement - a league title with home town team Roma.

Ranieri, born and raised in Rome and a lifelong fan of the capital club, had taken over a side with no points in the early stages of the 2009-10 season, but after a slow start led the Giallorossi to a 24-match unbeaten run that left them at the summit in Italy with four matches left.

However 10 years ago on Saturday a tidal wave of emotion came crashing down in one of the most dramatic matches in recent Serie A his-



Claudio Ranieri brushed with greatness at home town team Roma before eventually tasting glory at Leicester City.

tory, a 2-1 home defeat to Sampdoria which all but handed Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan the title and the chance to complete a now famous league, cup and Champions League treble.

The loss, and Inter's 3-1 defeat of Atalanta the previous day, put Mourinho's team two points ahead with three

games remaining, a lead that the future European champions would not relinquish.

The match was held at a balmy Stadio Olimpico in Rome and was the last real contest facing Ranieri's team, with an entertaining Samp side featuring Antonio Cassano chasing down a Champions League place. - AFP

Ashwin recalls IPL reality check

NEW DELHI, April 27: Two bad games in the IPL was all that it took for premier Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin to realise that bowling in T20s was not as easy as he assumed it to be, the reality hitting him like a "hard slap" a decade back.

During a podcast with cricketer-turned-commentator Sanjay Manjrekar for ESPNcricinfo, Ashwin spoke about how the 2010 IPL with the Chennai Super Kings affected him, the challenges of bowling in hostile conditions of Australia and England, and why spin twin Ravindra Jadeja is a "natural athlete".

Ashwin recalled the 2010 IPL when he was dropped from the CSK squad after two bad games, which was like a "hard slap", more so because he felt that coach Stephen Fleming "didn't talk to him"



People thought that I think highly of myself but flattening of the curve happened when I played in the IPL. It was like a slap in the face like 'listen boss you are not even here'.

- Ravichandran Ashwin

and he was not backed enough. "People thought that I think highly of myself but flattening of the curve happened when I played in the IPL. It was like a slap in the face like 'listen boss you are not even here'." "I thought bowling in a T20 game was much easier than bowling in a first-class game," Ashwin recalled. It was a game against Roy-

al Challengers Bangalore in Bengaluru where Robin Uthappa and Mark Boucher took him to the cleaners.

"Robin Uthappa and Mark Boucher taught me harsh lessons as I bowled 14th, 16th, 18th and 20th over at RCB. That youth in me never told me that it was a challenge. I found it as an opportunity to pick wickets."

"I didn't get wickets but went for 40 or 45 runs and put my team into a hole as the next game went into Super Over and we lost it and I was dropped from the squad. It felt like a hard slap," the Tamil Nadu tweeker said.

Those were the days when IPL franchises, during home games, would release players who are not in first 18 in order to save hotel cost. Ashwin was back home watching CSK games on TV. - PTI

Sudoku puzzle with solution grid and explanation. Original text: Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

Advertisement for 'Assam Bani' magazine. Text: ১ মে সংখ্যাৰ বিশেষ আকৰ্ষণ. জাতিৰ সেৱাত উদ্বিগ্নত ৬৫ বছৰ... অসম বাণী. পৰিয়ালৰ সকলোৰে বাবে. এই সংখ্যাট আছে - লকডাউনৰ কু-প্ৰভাৱঃ বাজাৰ কৃষকৰ পাতলি গেলিছে পথাৰত। বাজাৰখনৰ দুটা মাত্ৰ শীতলীকৰণ ঊৰালৈকে শূন্যত গঢ়া ঘূৰাই আছে বিয়াগোম কৃষি বিভাগে। - অসম বাণীৰ প্ৰতিবেদন।