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NEWS apsule

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

Boris at work

outbreak of COVID-19. -

Staff Reporter

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 todav. – 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



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

p5 Compassion from different

GUWAHATI, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020

Kim Jong Un health rumours quarters assuages the needy

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," Industry 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

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



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

>> SEE PAGE 6

Maintain DISTANCE Save SOCIETY

Governor's Rule imposed in BTC

Lockdown hits tourism

sector in Kaziranga

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 The term of Administrator of the general BTC. council of The term of the general

BTC expired council of BTC on April 27 expired today and elections to the council, which were scheduled for April 4, had ear-

lier 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 As-

sam, 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 exer-

cisable 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."

>> 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 conditions. 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

NRL resumes works at major projects

Data as on Sunday

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

Death

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.

The biorefinery is being built at a cost of Rs 1,750 crore.

1

The estimated cost for the India portion of the Indo-Bangla pipeline is Rs 61 crore.

"The projects are estimated to generate 6.8 lakh mandays and estimated monthly payment to workers is around Rs 2.5 crore," NRL MD SK Baruah said.

Official sources said work on the construction projects had come to a standstill a month back when the lockdown was announced. However, the Central government has allowed commencement of construction works since April 20.

>> 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, saving that the matter required consideration.

The court also issued notices to Indian Newspaper Society and News Broadcasters Association, besides the Union government, giving them two weeks' time to file reply.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves drew attention of the bench to the incessant termination of journalists in media organisations even as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that notices be issued and a copy be supplied to

the Centre. "Some serious issues have been raised. It requires a hearing. Other unions also saying this. The question is, if business does not start, how long will people sustain. This issue needs hearing, the bench observed.

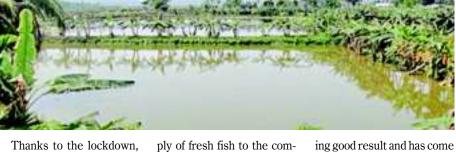
>> SEE PAGE 6

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.



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.

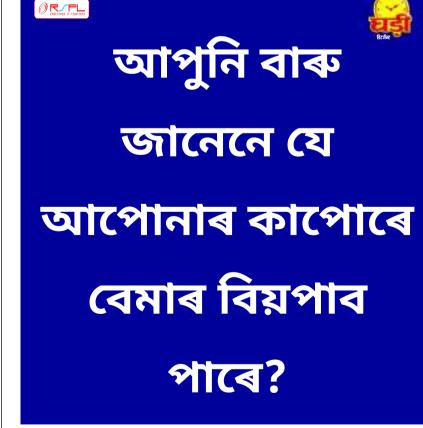
The fishery department has formulated a plan for supmon masses during the lockdown period by involving the Directorate of Fisheries, Fishfed, district fisheries and local district administrations in compliance with COVID-19 protocol. Official sources said the plan has been showas a great relief for everyone. 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 imitative 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 benefitted," 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.



আজি ময়লা কেৱল সেয়া নহয় যাক দেখা পোৱা যায়। কবনোৱাৰাকৈ বহুতো ভাইৰাচ আপোনাৰ কাপোৰত লাগি কিবা ডাঙৰ বেমাৰৰ কাৰন হব পাৰে । সেই কাৰনে আপোনাৰ কাপোৰ সদায় ধোব। লগতে এই সাৱধানতা অৱলম্বন কৰিব।









INTERNATIONAL

Nations, US states each chart their own path

LONDON, April 27: Nations and US states have begun easing coronavirus lockdowns, each pursuing their own approach but all with a common goal: restarting their economies without triggering another surge of infections.

Restrictions are being lifted piecemeal with no clear signs of coordination among countries. Some have restarted construction work, while others never shut it down in the first place. Hair salons and restaurants were reopen-Reopening economies

ing in some US states, while else-

where such steps are weeks away.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was back at work on Monday after a bout with the virus that by his own account nearly cost the 55-year-old his life.

Johnson said Britain was starting to 'turn the tide' on the outbreak but added "it is also the moment of maximum risk" because easing the lockdown that now lasts until May 7 could produce a spike in infections.

Technology is likely to play an important role in helping countries ease their restrictions. Many governments are working on mobile virus-tracking apps and other technology, keen for automated solutions to the time-consuming task of tracing an infected person's contacts.

The apps use either geo-location data or Bluetooth technology to detect when a user

comes near an infected person. But activists and researchers worry that temporary measures to increase surveillance may become permanent.

In Australia, which has had few COVID-19 deaths, Chief Health Officer Damian Murphy said on Monday he was "really excited" by the early popularity of an app designed to accelerate contact tracing.

Within 12 hours of the Australian-developed COVIDsafe app becoming available,

1.13 million of Australia's 26 million people had

downloaded it onto their smartphones, despite some privacy concerns.

Australian officials intend to outlaw using the collected data for purposes other than tracing potential COVID-19 cases. They have also promised to release the app's source code within two weeks so independent analysts can better understand how it works.

Singapore was among the first to launch its contact-tracing app. Other countries, including France, Switzerland and Britain, are also developing their own.

South Korea will be issuing special electronic wristbands to alert officials if people under quarantine try to leave their homes. Hong Kong has also been issuing quarantine wristbands to arrivals to ensure they stay indoors during their mandatory twoweek quarantine. - AP



China says it has no legal basis or utility

Calls for global probe into COVID-19 origin

BEIJING, April 27: Fighting back mounting calls for an international enquiry into the origin of the coronavirus that broke out in Wuhan, China on Monday said such a probe has no precedence or legal basis and investigations into such pandemics in the past have not provided any conclusive results.

China came with a nuanced response to calls for a neutral international probe into the origins of the virus which has wrecked havoc across the globe, as a media report quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as saying that the country must get ready for unprecedented external adversity and challenges in the long run over the COVID-19 crisis.

Xi's warning came amid China's "deepest economic contraction in nearly a century", the restructuring of global supply chains and threats to Beijing's colossal Belt and Road Initiative, (BRI), Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

Besides US President Donald Trump, who stepped up demand for an investigation into the origin of the virus and whether it escaped from Wuhan Institute of Virology, Britain, Australia and German Chancellor Angela Merkel

called for more transparency from Beijing on COVID-19 origins.

Answering a spate of questions on China's response and whether it would agree for an independent probe into the origin of the virus later when things settle down, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang played it down saying that the investigations in the past on such viruses achieved little.

"The origin of the virus is a matter of science and should be studied by scientists and professionals. Such research and conclusive answers can only be drawn after getting mutually reinforcing evidence on epidemiological study and virology studies. It is a very complicated issue often it takes a lot of time and there is a degree of uncertainty," he said."

"Throughout human history, tracing the origins of many diseases took a dozen years or decades. Some progress was made but a conclusive answer has not been reached," he said, adding that the work is still going on.

So there have been arguments and theories put forward but studies in the world have not clearly identified the origin and transmission routes of the virus. So there is no science basis to

draw a clear conclusion about the origin of the (past) viruses", he said. Geng said the aim should be "to find

out how it occurs and prevent future damages to mankind. It is not about retribution and or accountability. There is no precedence in the world for this and there is no legal basis'

The present focus of the international community should be to control the COVID-19 pandemic and save lives.

The coronavirus has infected nearly three million people and claimed over 200,000 lives worldwide.

China's overall death toll stood at 4,633 and confirmed cases reached 82,830.

"Politicising the issue of the origin of the virus goes against the spirit of science. It disrupts international cooperation and the mutual trust and will not help with global cooperation to fight the virus," he said.

Brushing aside the demand of enquiry by some US politicians, Geng said besides sharing genome sequence of coronavirus with various countries, China made an important contribution to the world by sharing its experience with various countries in the world. – PTI

South Korea maintains Kim Jong Un health rumours are untrue



SEOUL, April 27: South Korea's government has dismissed rumours that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is in fragile condition, as speculation about his health intensifies amid the North's silence on his whereabouts.

There are concerns, particularly in Seoul and Washington, about what would happen to North Korea and its nuclear programme if anything had actually happened to Kim.

For South Korea and the US, Kim's absence would mean the departure of a man they've dealt with over the past two years to try to achieve the North's denuclearisation, though talks have stalled in recent months.

Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul told a closeddoor forum in Seoul that South Korea has ?enough intelligence to confidently say that there are no unusual developments? in rival North Korea that would back up speculation about Kim's health, his ministry said on Monday.

The minister would not reveal at Sunday's forum what specific intelligence led to that conclusion, but he stressed that it was reached after a thorough analysis.

The rumours about Kim's health began to swirl after he missed the April 15 commemoration of the 108th birthday of his grandfather, North Korea founder Kim II Sung. - AP

leading Ramadan prayers executive officer of Shalikha DHAKA, April 27: A Musmaximum of 10 people can sub district, was quoted as

Bangla cleric tests positive after

lim cleric has tested positive for the deadly coronavirus after he conducted Ramadan prayers for a group of nearly two dozen people at a local mosque in southwest Bangladesh, according to a media The cleric led the prayers

at a mosque in Adadanga village in Magura district on Saturday and was found to be infected with the disease the following day, bdnews24 reported. According to the report,

authorities are making a list of around 20-25 people who attended the prayers and they will be tested for any symptom of the virus.

Tanveer Rahman, chief

OBITUARY

saying in the report that the cleric's Bagharpara Pashchima village, which is one-anda-half kilometres from the mosque, has been put under lockdown following the dis-

Bangladesh reported 5,416 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 145 deaths till Sunday.

The country had on April 6 suspended prayers for the public at mosques in a bid to stop the spread of the virus.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs issued an emergency notice restricting the congregation in mosques and urging the public to pray at home.

The notice also said that a

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Nursing/AL000001/1

attend the weekly on Friday prayers in mosques. The government also restricted visits to other places of worship.

Bangladesh has decided to extend the nationwide COV-ID-19 shutdown until May 5 amid warnings of heightening risks of coronavirus infections in the country, including among doctors and healthcare workers.

To curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, the government had initially declared a general holiday on March 26 for 10 days. Later, that was gradually extended till April 25 as the country kept seeing a rise in the number of cases and deaths from COVID-19. – PTI

Israeli strike on Syria kills 4 gunmen, 3 civilians



BEIRUT, April 27: Israeli warplanes flying over Lebanon fired missiles toward areas near Damascus on early Home Nursing care, Baby care, Monday, killing three civilians, the Syrian military and Patient care. Contact: 86388 state media said while a war monitoring group said four Iran-backed fighters were also killed.

> The military said Syrian air defences shot down some of the missiles in the attack, which happened around dawn. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights,

> a group that tracks the Syrian civil war, said the missiles hit positions belonging to Iran and its regional proxies, killing four fighters and causing damage south of Damascus. It did not give the nationalities of the dead gunmen.

> The airstrike is the fourth in Syria in less than a month, despite the coronavirus pandemic gripping the region,

> and comes amid rising tensions between Israel and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group in Syria as well as along the Lebanon-Israel border. The Syrian military statement, carried by state TV, gave no other details about the attack or what it targeted specifically. Syria's state SANA news agency said shrapnel from the Israeli missiles hit homes in the Damascus suburbs of Hajira and Adlieh, killing three people there and wounding four.

> Both areas are close to the Sayyida Zeinab suburb that is home to a holy Shiite shrine and Iran-backed fighters have a presence there, according to opposition activists.

> Israel did not comment on the Syrian report. In the past, Israel has acknowledged carrying out scores of airstrikes over the years, most aimed at alleged Iranian weapons shipments believed to be bound for Hezbollah.

> In recent months, Israeli officials have expressed concern that Hezbollah is trying to establish production facilities to make precision-guided missiles.

Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces in Syria are fighting alongside Syrian government forces. Israel frequently violates Lebanon's airspace to launch attacks on Syria, and regularly flies reconnaissance missions over the Mediterranean country. Last week, an Israeli airstrike targeted Iranian-and Iran-backed fighters in the desert near the historic central Syrian town of Palmyra. A Syrian Opposition war monitoring group said the strike killed nine fighters, including six who were not Syrians. - AP

Indian girl beats nCoV months after surviving cancer in Dubai

DUBAI, April 27: A four year-old Indian girl in Dubai, despite her low immune system, has become one of the voungest coronavirus survivors in the UAE after she recovered from the deadly disease last week, according to a media report.

Sivani, who is also a cancer survivor, was admitted on April 1 at the Al Futtaim Health Hub after she got infected with the virus passed on by her mother who is a frontline health worker, the Gulf News reported.

Both Sivani and her dad were also tested despite not having any symptoms and, unlike her father, Sivani was found to be positive, the report said.

Sivani and her mother were kept in the same facility, but extra precautions were made for the girl who had also fought off a rare type of kidney cancer last year called ganglioneuroblastoma.

Sivani was discharged from the hospital on April 20, the report said.

"Sivani had undergone chemotherapy sessions only last year and hence her immune system was still weak," said Dr Tholfkar Al Baaj, group medical director at Al Futtaim Health Hub and the consultant in family medicine who treated Sivani.

"The doctors were concerned as she was at higher risk of developing a severe form of the disease and therefore, we had put her under close monitoring. Fortunatelv. she did not develop any complications from the infection," he added. - PTI



A pigeon is backdropped by the Milan gothic cathedral, Italy on Monday. Italian factories, construction sites and wholesale supply businesses can resume activity as soon as they put safety measures into place aimed at containing contagion with COVID-19. This concession comes with partial easing of national lockdown restrictions announced on Sunday night by Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte. – AP/PTI

UN rights chief urges B'desh to accept Rohingya boats

DHAKA, April 27: A top UN official has urged Bangladesh to let two stranded boatloads of starving Rohingya Muslims land amid mounting fears Monday over the fate of the refugees.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet warned of a "human tragedy of terrible proportions" unless action is taken to help the Rohingya.

The appeal was made to the Bangladesh government after Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen said the South Asian country would not accept the boats.

His declaration last week set alarm bells ringing as it came only days after dozens of Rohingya died on a boat that waited at sea for two months before it could land.

The two new boats are believed to be in international waters hoping to get an opportunity to reach Malaysia. The Malaysian navy rebuffed one boat last week and has increased patrols as it expects increased attempts to smuggle people into the country. The one million Rohingya in camps in

Bangladesh, where they fled a military crackdown in their native Myanmar, favour going to Malaysia as it is a Muslim majority country with more work opportunities.

"In a spirit of solidarity and at the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramzan, I appeal to you in the strongest terms to open your ports and allow the boats to land," Bachelet said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained copy by AFP.

"The reportedly more than 500 men, women and children aboard these boats have been at sea for an extended period of time, and we understand that they require urgent rescue, food, medical care and other necessary humanitarian assistance." - AFP



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Corona Snippets

Akshay Kumar donates Rs 2 cr to Mumbai Police Foundation

MUMBAI, April 27: Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has donated Rs 2 crore to Mumbai Police Foundation as the country fights coronavirus pandemic.

On Monday, Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh took to his official Twitter handle to thank Akshay for his contribution.

"Mumbai Police thanks @akshaykumar for contributing Rs 2 Crore to the Mumbai Police Foundation. Your contribution will go a long way in safeguarding the lives of those who are committed to safeguarding the city – the men and women of Mumbai Police," the post read.

In response to the tweet, the 52-year-old actor paid tributes to head constables Chandrakant Pendurkar and Sandip Surve, who died of complications due to COVID-19, and urged his fans to donate to the foundation.

"I salute @MumbaiPolice headconstables Chandrakant Pendurkar & Sandip Surve, who laid their lives fighting Corona. I have done my duty, I hope you will too. Let's not forget we are safe and alive because of them," he wrote.

Akshay has previously donated Rs 25 crore to the PM-Cares fund. – PTI

Virus: 75pc clinics open, permit suspension for rest, says BMC

MUMBAI, April 27: Seventy-five per cent of nursing homes have resumed operations after they were warned against keeping shutters down in the lockdown for novel coronavirus outbreak, and the remaining 25 per cent will have their permits suspended, said Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation officials

In a press release issued on Monday, the BMC said 1,068 of the total 1,416 nursing homes in Mumbai have reopened after Municipal Commissioner Praveen Pardeshi had, last week, asked his officials to take legal action against such facilities that had downed shutters and were inconveniencing people who needed treatment for non-coronavirus ailments.

"Our review on Monday found that 75.42 per cent of private nursing homes and clinics have reopened. Out of the 99 dialysis centres, 89 reopened," an official said.

The BMC release said the municipal commissioner had directed the civic health department to cancel permits of nursing homes that are still shut and issue legal notices to those oper-

Action will also be taken against closed private dispensaries under the Epidemic Diseases Act, it said. - PTI

33 staffers at Max hospital test positive for COVID-19

NEW DELHI, April 27: As many as 33 staffers of a leading private upscale hospital in east Delhi, including two doctors, nurses and paramedic staff, have tested positive for coronavirus over the last two weeks, sources said on Monday.

Max Healthcare group had announced two weeks ago that it was going to conduct tests for COVID-19 on all its employees and patients at its facilities across the country. "Since the test started, 33 staffers, including two doctors, nurses, paramedics, and non-medical staff have tested positive for COVID-19 at Max Hospital, Patparganj, till date," a source said.

Healthcare workers from hospitals under Max Healthcare (18,000), BLK Hospital (3,000) and Nanavati Hospital, Mumbai (3,000) will be tested over the next few weeks, officials of Max Healthcare had earlier said.

The move had come in the wake of a doctor, a nurse and a non-medical staff at Max Hospital, Saket earlier testing positive for coronavirus. - PTI

Modi lauds Sikkim for preventing COVID-19 outbreak, says CM

GANGTOK, April 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded the Sikkim government for preventing an outbreak of COVID-19 in the State, according to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang.

Tamang, who attended the video conference with Modi, said in a Facebook post that the Prime Minister lauded the efforts of the State government for preventing an outbreak of coronavirus in Sikkim.

He also encouraged the State to continue with the good work and said that the inputs provided by the Sikkim government were useful to the Centre in tackling the disease in certain areas of the country, Tamang said.

Sikkim has not reported any case of COVID-19 so far. – PTI

Centre making conflicting statements: Mamata

KOLKATA, April 27: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that the Centre is making contradictory statements on enforcement of the lockdown, and wanted greater clarity on the recent Union home ministry order on reopening shops.

Claiming that many States were not allowed to speak during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video conference with Chief Ministers owing to the rotation system, Banerjee said given a chance she would have raised several questions, including the need to send Central teams to Bengal.

"The Centre is making conflicting statements on lockdown. There is no clarity. We are in favour of lockdown. But the Centre on one hand emphasises on enforcement of the lockdown, and on other hand it issues order to open shops.

"If you open shops, how would you enforce lockdown? I think the Centre should come out with a clarification," Banerjee said. – PTI

With phones banned, city hospital facilitates VDO calls for patients

KOLKATA, April 27: With mobile phones having been banned at COVID-19 wards of all hospitals, a city-based private facility has decided to allow "virtual visitations" between patients and family members.

The AMRI Hospital in Salt Lake had on Sunday facilitated video calls for 17 patients, a senior official at the facility said.

"Every day, nurses at the isolation wards will approach the patients and connect them with their families over video call. The virtual visits will take place between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm, and each patient will get around three minutes to interact with their family members," he said.

The service will soon be extended to AMRI Dhakuria and Mukundapur, too, he said, adding that "the device (tablet) is properly disinfected after every use".

At another state-run hospital in the city, arrangements have been made for landline services.

Authorities at MR Bangur Hospital said they have set up GSM-based wireless local loop (WLL) phones at the COVID-19 isolation wards to help the patients connect with their near and dear ones. - PTI

Gujarat govt to try Ayurvedic drugs on select COVID-19 patients

government will administer Ayurvedic coronavirus positive cases. medicines to 75 asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in hotspot Ahmedabad to see the "time duration of their recovery" as a part of a AYUSH treatment study, a State health department official said on Monday.

Principal Secretary (Health) Jayanti Ravi said the State AYUSH department had distributed an Ayurvedic medicine free-of-cost to over 1.26 crore people in Gujarat with an aim to boost their immunity.

"As many as 7,778 people under quarantine were given the Ayurvedic medicine, and only 21 out of them tested positive for coronavirus," the bureaucrat said.

Ahmedabad has reported a rapid spread of coronavirus and a mortality rate at 4.71 per cent which is higher than the national average, as per the State

The biggest city in Gujarat so far re-chayat offices, the official said.

AHMEDABAD, April 27: The Gujarat ported 102 deaths with the total 2,167

We have started a new initiative regarding AYUSH treatment on coronavirus positive patients. A total of 75 asymptomatic patients admitted at a COVID Care Centre in Ahmedabad have agreed for Ayurvedic treatment to see the duration of time in which they recover," Ravi said in a video message

The 75 patients will be given Ayurvedic medicines like Samshamni Vati, Dasmool Kvath, Trikatu Churna, besides tulsi, neem, turmeric, etc., and will be placed on a special diet, Ravi said.

Meanwhile, an AYUSH department official said the Ayurvedic medicine, 'Ukala Amrutpey' had been distributed to 1.26 crore people through various Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries with the hope to boost their immunity.

It was also made available through Pan-

"We have distributed Ukala Amrutpey to over 1.26 crore people using the network of 568 Ayurvedic centres and 38 hospitals. This particular medicine was suggested by a group of 22 experts, and we started its distribution as a preventive medicine on March 6 when no coronavirus case was reported in the State," said AYUSH

department Director Bhavna Patel.

Sarpanchs as well as Talathi-level officials have also been helping in the distribution of the medicine, she said.

"The 'Ukala Amrutpey' liquid is a mixture of various herbs that is to be consumed for a week without a break. It is especially effective to boost immunity to fight infections like coronavirus," Patel said.

She said while Ayurvedic tablet 'Samshamni Vati' had been distributed to more than 3.7 lakh people, the AYUSH department also gave out Homoeopathic medicine 'Arfenicum Album-30' to 85.7 lakh people in the State. - PTI

AIIMS strategy to restore health services after lockdown ends

NEW DELHI, April 27: A month after AIIMS here shut comprising 24 members down its OPD services and curtailed all elective surgeries in its effort to redirect its resources to control the COVID-19 outbreak, the premier hospital has constituted a committee to devise a strategy to restore healthcare services once the lockdown is lifted.

The committee, which met on Monday, deliberated on the restoration of the elective surgeries and OPD services, according to sources.

At present, hospital services have been curtailed as part of the government's strategy to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, an office memorandum dated April 25 said.

"In due course, the lockdown is likely to be rolled back and hospital services are needed to be restored in a phased manner with measures in place to avoid cross-infection and COVID-19 transmission," the memorandum issued to all chief of centres and heads of departments said.

The core committee, chaired by AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, will deliberate on the matter and devise strategy for AIIMS, New Delhi for patient care services after lockdown is lifted, it said.

In addition there will subcommittees at the level of main hospital and centres. These committees will monitor implementation of decision of core committee and provide the feedback to them so that necessary decisions are taken for smooth restoration of patient care services at the institute. There will be sub-committees at the level of the centres also, it said.

For the first time in its history, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here shut down OPD services, including speciality and all new and follow-up registration from March 24.

The AIIMS had also issued a circular, postponing all nonessential elective procedures and surgeries and directed for only emergency lifesaving surgeries with effect from March 21. – PTI

Mayor dons nurse's uniform to help COVID-19 patients

MUMBAI, April 27: Mumbai mayor the city at Nair Hospital," Sena deputy and Sion hospitals regarding the COV-Kishori Pednekar, a former nurse, has donned her old uniform again to serve COVID-19 patients in the city.

She will be contributing her services in the late night shift, a leader from her Shiv Sena party said.

"This is our Hon. Mayor of Mumbai, @KishoriPednekar ji. She has been working 8am-2am every single day& now has donned her nurse uniform again to serve

Light in the Night

ADKJ #DID YOU KNOW?

leader Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted.

ing disparagingly about her should take lessons. Duty before self," she added.

The mayor tweeted, "AnythingForMu-

mbai* We cant do work from home, we take care....#covid19 At Nair Hospital."

The former nurse on Monday interacted with nursing staff at the BYL Nair for the people." – PTI

ID-19 challenges. Social distancing would "Seriously those who have been tweet- be maintained during the talks."

Bharat Kumar Raut, former Sena MP, tweeted, "Kishori Pednekar, Mayor of Mumbai, has gone back to her profession as medical nurse & joined Nair hosare on the field for you, stay at your home, pital where she was working before becoming Corporator. Three kudos to her sense of loyalty to her profession & care

Jamia alumni president arrested under UAPA NEW DELHI, April 27: The messages and found more ev-

president of Jamia Millia Islamia Alumni Association has been arrested under the stringent UAPA in connection with the riots in Northeast Delhi in February, officials said on Monday.

member of Jamia
Northeast Coordination Committee, was booked Delhi riots under the Unlawful Activities arrested for alleged involve-(Prevention) Act (UAPA) for alleged involvement in the riots and was subsequently arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police on Sunday, they said.

"We had technical evidence against him which suggests that he incited mobs during the riots. He was also seen in the CCTV footage which was collected from the riot-affected areas. We have checked his call

idence which suggests his involvement in the riots," a senior police officer said. According to the police, he

which remanded him in police Shifa-Ur-Rehman, also a custody for 10 days for further interrogation in connection with the case. 10 people have been ment in the communal riots.

In the FIR, police claimed that the communal violence was a "premeditated conspiracy" which was allegedly hatched by former JNU student leader

Umar Khalid and two others. Communal violence had broken out in Northeast Delhi on February 24 after clashes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled, leaving at least 53 people dead record details and WhatsApp and around 200 injured. – PTI

Beware of cyber criminals during lockdown: Haryana Police

CHANDIGARH, April 27: Haryana Police on Monday was produced in a city court asked people to beware of cyber criminals who are trying to commit fraud during the ongoing lockdown.

It warned people that sharing personal information online or visiting pages through suspicious links could result in funds being siphoned off from their bank accounts.

ADG (Law and Order). Navdeep Singh Virk said cyber offenders are using various tactics to dupe money from the bank accounts of people by taking advantage of the lockdown.

He said people should exercise maximum caution while handling suspicious emails or links about COVID-19. - PTI

Stranded French family bonds with villagers, attends daily prayers

Florence Nightingale never visited India. But it

was her study of living conditions of soldiers in

in barracks. They were later adopted elsewhere

which led to betterment of health conditions of

Indian cities especially Kolkata (Calcutta).

India led to adoption of modern sanitary methods

a village here for over a month because of the coronavirus lockdown is getting to know the local way of life, including daily visits to the temple.

Motor mechanic Patrice Pallarez, his wife Virginie, daughters Ophelie and Lola and son Tom were on a multi-nation trip, travelling and sleeping in their camper, when they were grounded at Maharajganj's Singhorwa village on March 21.

The authorities had sealed the Nepal border even before the nationwide lockdown to fight coronavirus was declared. The five now stay in the

camper parked near the Shiv Ramjanaki temple and are regulars there, the priest said.

The family folds hands and greets others with 'Ram-Ram, Sita-Ram'. They come daily to the temple during the sunrise and sunset prayers and participate in chanting mantras and worshipping the deities," priest Udairai said.

Their dedication is surprising as they chant 'Om Namah Shivay' daily and also pray to the deities to eradicate coronavirus from the world, he said. They now mostly eat dalrice and rotis, he said.

Earlier they were not able to mix with us. But now they have developed a liking for Indian culture and have become a part of the village, he added.

MAHARAJGANJ (UP), April neighbouring village, talks to 27: A French family stranded at them in English and they say that they will continue worshipping Shiva, Parvati, Ganesh and Hanuman even after returning home, according to the priest.

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Powered by: Priya Communications

Pallarez said they have picked up Hindi. "We can now understand what the local people say," he said. The French family said it is

overwhelmed by the villagers' hospitality. "We are like their family members," he said. The travellers and the vil-

ing and wear masks when they interact, local residents said. Nautanwa sub divisional magistrate Jasveer Singh said the family from Toulouse in

France is on tour since Febru-

ary. They were about to enter

Nepal when the border was

lagers follow social distanc-

sealed. So they stayed close to the village temple, near the Laxmipur forest. The administration is providing them groceries and other essential commodities, and they were found healthy dur-

ing a medical checkup, the

SDM said Travelling on their homeon-wheels, the five entered India from Pakistan's Wagah border. They also planned to visit Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia before heading back home.

"We do not know if we can now complete our tour," Pal-Sanjay, a man from the larez said. "Let's see." – PTI Janasanyog/D/319/20



ক'ভিড-১৯ মহামাৰী প্ৰতিৰোধৰ যুঁজখনত ৰাইজৰ বিপদৰ বন্ধুৰূপে অক্লান্ত কৰ্মীৰ ভূমিকাত অবতীৰ্ণ হোৱা অসম আৰক্ষীৰ প্ৰতিগৰাকী সদস্যলৈ যাচিছোঁ আন্তৰিক কৃতজ্ঞতা আৰু শুভেচ্ছা

Ш

তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 **4** THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Ten people who speak make more noise than ten thousand who are silent.

- NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

The Assam Tribune

Cause for confusion

It has by now become apparent that if humanity is to escape from the clutches of the Covid-19 scourge, it will have to take recourse to science, and measures like lockdowns can merely slow down contagion but not eliminate it altogether. However, different comments by members within the scientific community itself are giving cause for confusion amongst ordinary people of the street, who are as it is bewildered by the myriad bits of 'knowledge' about the nature of the virus infecting social media sites! Different signals are being emitted, for instance, by experts in the US administration, one of the most direly impacted countries in the world. Some of them had placed their bets on an antimalaria drug called hydroxychloroquine and President Trump went as far as to arm-twist India to get a supply of the drug. But there is increasing doubt about its efficacy given the reality that currently almost a million people have been infected in America and over 55 thousand have died, yet there is no sign of an end to that nation's predicament. On the other hand, some US experts are predicting that like many other virus, humanity cannot completely eliminate Covid-19 and it would keep seasonally recurring even after the current phase ends. The inference clearly is that creating a vaccine that will shield an individual from this virus will be humanity's sole means of defence.

Unfortunately, here too there are divergent opinions as to when such a vaccine would be available. Just sometime back there seemed to be a light at the end of the tunnel with the announcement by scientists at the Jenner Institute of Oxford University that they will be able to come up with a vaccine, made from a weakened version of a common cold virus and designated as ChAdOx1, for the coronavirus by September this year. According to an official release by the Institute, the researchers are hoping that this vaccine would enable the body to recognize and develop an immune response to the spike protein that will help stop the Covid-19 virus from entering human cells and prevent infection. However, to throw cold water on the expectations roused by this development, no less a person than Bill Gates, whose foundation is funding a number of Covid-19 vaccine research concepts, has asserted that the Jenner vaccine is unlikely to work, and a viable vaccine is still at least 12 to 18 months away. He has deemed the current pandemic as an 'era-defining event' whose effect would last for years to come. Such a divergent view coming from an individual intimately connected with the vaccine creation effort adds to the currently prevailing confusion. In the meantime 'self-quarantine', 'stay at home' and 'social distancing' appear to be the only mantras offering safety till an effec-

Travel relaxations

The inter-district travel relaxations allowed since Saturday for three days and then extended by another three days have come as a welcome respite for thousands of stranded people, including a large segment of migrant workers, enabling them to join their families after more than a month. The Government, the district administrations and the Transport Department deserve credit for facilitating large-scale transportation of people across the State in strict compliance to physical distancing norms. However, despite the apparently smooth arrangements, some hitches were there which resulted in a section of migrant workers getting denied the much-needed travel facility. According to media reports, the workers had contacted the toll-free helpline 104 for availing the bus services but to no avail for no fault of theirs. It is distressing to note that several such groups were seen engaging in a long and arduous homebound march some 200 km away from Guwahati. The Government would do well to inquire into the matter and see what prevented the workers from availing the bus services. While the Government has extended the travel relaxations by a few more days, it should also facilitate some critical and associated services that the travellers would require. Many people have been undertaking long journeys in their personal vehicles and a breakdown or even a flat tyre can put them in serious trouble. It is imperative, therefore, that some vehicle workshops are allowed to function by the roadsides, especially on the highways. Also, a helpline number in the case of any emergency would serve the travellers in good stead.

As the extended period of the nationwide lockdown draws to its conclusion, some States have already urged the Centre to extend it for another term. The logic behind this is understandable, given that the shutdown has done a lot in breaking the rapid chain of transmission and many States in the country, including Assam and the rest of the Northeast, have contained things to a remarkable extent. A sudden resumption in all activities in diverse spheres could well undo the goods achieved this far. The prevailing circumstances would put the Centre in a dilemma over whether or not to extend the lockdown any further. An extended lockdown will definitely boost the fight against the coronavirus but it is the economic cost that is going to trouble the Government in taking a bold decision. A country of India's scale with a huge population many of who are dependent on daily earnings is bound to find a lengthy shutdown very harsh to cope with. Even if the Government wants to prolong it by another three weeks or so, it will have to ensure that this most vulnerable segment does not have to suffer any more. The lockdown has left them without their livelihoods and savings, forcing them to bear the brunt of the stalemate. The Government must weigh in all pros and cons before going ahead with another phase of the lockdown.

Kohima Road: From foot-track to four-lane

FRON FAR & NEAR

Samudra Gupta Kashyap

he first time I had travelled from Dimapur to Kohima was in November 1987. I was then with the Dainik Asam, and I had gone to Nagaland to cover an Assembly election which had assumed significance for Assam because the Asom Gana Parishad, then in power in Dispur, had called a blockade against the hill State. The blockade had made travelling to Nagaland unsafe, and as buses weren't plying, I had to take a flight - a Dornier run by Vayudoot from Guwahati to Dimapur.

While Utpal Bordoloi of the Deccan Herald was also in the same trip, Monalisa Changkija, then a young reporter with the now defunct Nagaland Times, became our most important local contact and guide. That maiden trip to Nagaland was particularly memorable as we got an hour-long interview of the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi amid the humdrum. We drove several times between Dimapur and Kohima in a span of 10-12 days. The telecom facility in Kohima was unreliable. So we always came down to Dimapur by 4 pm or so to send our stories through telex. Since then I have travelled on this Dimapur-Kohima road so many times, sometimes once or twice a year, sometimes up to 10-15 times, depending on what was happening there.

It is a book that I have been reading during the ongoing lockdown which took me back to that road. It is Mor Sowarani, the autobiography of Padmanath Gohain Baruah, a pioneer Assamese poet, novelist, dramatist and author, who was also the first president of the Asam Sahitya Sabha. One of the founders of modern Assamese literature, he was also a prominent public figure, and was nominated to the Assam Legislative Council in 1913. Born in 1871 at Nakari, then a remote village in presentday Lakhimpur district, Gohain Baruah's life story makes very fascinating reading. Assam's road communication then was still in a primitive stage, and the river route was most popular. It is amazing to read how he travelled from one place to another

mostly by boats and steamers on the Brahmaputra, and occasionally by bullock-carts and elephants too. I wish his autobiography was translated into English, so that people all over could know how Assam used to be about 100 to 150 years ago.

I would here refer to three journeys he had undertaken to Kohima, then achievement." a small nondescript British 'station'. Gohain Baru-

ah attended primary and middle schools in North Lakhimpur, and then joined the Sivasagar High School. When he was in the final vear, his most revered headmaster was transferred to the Kohima High School. This prompted Gohain Baruah to follow him and enrol himself there. In 1889, there was no 'road' to Kohima. "One had to literally crawl along the narrow winding path cut alongside the mountain ranges; at several places one had to pass through tunnels created by clearing the undergrowth of

thick jungles and through a few

caves too. No plainsman would dare to travel to Kohima unless there was an extreme compulsion. Thus, when I decided to ignore several good high schools in the plains and chose to go to Kohima, some people laughed at me saying I was mad, while some others were astonished at my courage," he wrote in his autobiography in 1932. Those days it took four days on elephant-back or bullock-carts to reach the foothill point of Nichu-

They were "pick, shovel and basket roads, made by human labour, with an almost laughable lack of machinery... which climbed through the hills... and then wound down again almost to the Burmese frontier... a truly magnificent engineering

guard (now Chumukedima) from

On the way to Kohima, one had to spend a night at a few thatchand-bamboo huts at Nichuguard, from where one could hire a pony. He had three other companions; one was a sanyasi. While the others marched on foot with a pony loaded with their bags, an adventurous Gohain Baruah decided to ride the other pony. Thus, while the others reached Kohima on the fourth day, he made it by the end of the second, negotiating the twists and turns and curves of the slipperv. muddy track. He and the pony also had a massive fall at one place.

His second Kohima journey was in 1894, when he was appointed the headmaster of the Kohima Government High School. "I was very perturbed on seeing the very dreadful changes along the entire hilly road upwards. That hilly track, the tunnel-like passages through thick foliage, the ups and downs, the songs of the cicada – were all gone; in their place my eyes were disturbed

> by the artificial beauty of the reddish dusty road on which now ply bullock-carts," he wrote. The roadside jungles did exist, and so did a few caves, and so much was he in love with the hills that he likened the upward journey with an ascent to heaven. While his description of the road and the journey itself makes exceptional reading, his two-year tenure in Kohima is another story for another time. His third journey up was even more exciting; he

was taking his newly-wed wife on a bullock-cart when the bullocks ran away as they were accosted by a herd of wild elephants on the way.

This road to Kohima later shot into global prominence during the Second World War. Field Marshal Viscount Slim's classic Defeat into Victory (first published 1956) describes three roads that played critical roles during the World War in the Assam-Burma theatre; one was the Dimapur-Kohima-Imphal road. These were the "main all-weather roads" under construction in the autumn of 1943, built "to bridge

the gap between the railheads and the fighting lines". They were "pick, shovel and basket roads, made by human labour, with an almost laughable lack of machinery...which climbed through the hills... and then wound down again almost to the Burmese frontier... a truly magnificent engineering achievement." He also saw "something splendid in its sweep through jungle, along mountain flanks, and over torrents" and described how "day and night without break, thousands of lorries swung round its curves, and ground in low gear up its gradient". But then, what he also wrote was that the making of this road was "hardly a more wonderful feat than keeping it open against the spates, subsidences and the great landslides of the monsoon".

As of now, National Highway 29 is also part of the 20,557-km Asian Highway No. 1, which literally connects Tokyo in the East to Istanbul in the West. I was there in October 2003 when then Prime Minister AB Vajpayee's convoy had to take this bumpy road as his chopper could not fly to Kohima due to bad weather. On reaching Kohima, he said at a rally: "I was told this is the best road in the State. If it is the best, it is difficult to imagine how bad the worst is." While that two-hour bumpy ride had prompted Vajpayee to declare it as a four-lane highway, more than 17 years later its condition is no better. A heavy shower, and the road literally disappears at several portions. No wonder the High Court recently pulled up the NHIDCL for the inordinate delay and the horrible condition that commuters are forced to face.

(sgkashyap@gmail.com)

Impact of Covid-19 on entrepreneurs, startups

Dr Sriparna B Baruah

he coronavirus pandemic has brought the world to a standstill. The worst affected segment in this crisis is unarguably the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). With businesses shut and fixed costs dangling over them. the MSMEs are unable to handle the situation. While for the MSMEs the shocks and surprises are not new, particularly after the demonetization and implementation of the GST policy, Covid-19 has nonetheless brought a unique predicament in the lives of the entrepreneurs of small and medium businesses.

With the preventive measures taken by the government to control the Covid-19 Pandemic, small businesses, startups and entrepreneurs have come out to be one of the most vulnerable groups that have been directly affected by these measures. It is unquestionable that a large number of the MSMEs in some sectors will be choked, possibly to the extent of perpetual closure. The immediate challenge for the MSMEs is to pay statutory dues and wages and to repay creditors. The payment of PE GST, advance tax and running cost, including payments for electricity, water and other bills, EMI for pending loans from banks or financial institutions are

severely hitting this sector. The MSMEs pertaining to supply chains of hotels, airlines, logistics and tourism and transport have already seen their businesses drop. Other impacted sectors include consumer goods, garments and automotive sectors which have also seen a sharp decline in their export orders. Along with the MSMEs, the

startups will also sharply feel the consequences of the pandemic. Even a small decrease in productivity can build a serious problem for the business. Funding deals are likely to be delayed. Startups that provide flight transport and hotel bookings have naturally been the worst hit. However, it is interesting to note that the startups in some other sectors are witnessing a sharp increase in business. Video-conferencing firms for instance are adding hordes of users as companies are conducting meetings online. Gaming, streaming and online education content providers are all reporting a significant increase in users and time spent on their platforms. Online food and grocerv and medicine delivery startups are seeing a boom. Lending startups have not seen major disruptions in their business. Soon, they will have to deal with a par-

even as an increasing number of existing customers may find it tough to make repayments. Meanwhile, the insurance startups are seeing a sharp increase in demand and in most cases it is translating into actual business as some startups are offering products to cover Covid-19 treatment costs. Wealth management startups are expected to see a drop in business. The impact on payment apps is not clear as the country's financial system is reeling under the burden of Yes Bank's collapse.

The textile and apparel sector provides 45 million direct employment and contributes 2% of GDP: the demand shocks are expected and employment will be impacted because of limited demand. The auto and auto components sector which provides 40 million employment and contributes 7.1% of GDP will significantly impact people's purchasing power. The aviation and tourism sector, which provides 42.7 million employment and contributes 2.4% of GDP, is amongst the first sectors to be hit. The tourism and the hospitality sector will see a huge job loss.

The building and the real estate sector is one of the biggest employment generators in the country and has a multiplier effect on around 250 allied industries. Hous-

ing is expected to have a muted demand and significant reduction in new launches. The consumer, retail and internet business which contributes 10% of the GDP and provides 8% employment will see an immediate uptick due to hoarding of essentials. However, the retailers need to be wary of the supply chain disruptions.

In Northeast India, the major sectors contributing towards employment and revenue include tourism, agro and allied, handloom and handicraft and the tea industry. While all these sectors have been negatively impacted, a special bailout package for the tea, and tourism and hospitality sectors is needed.

announced an indicative list of Covid-19 operations and business continuity measures including allowing a moratorium on term loans. eased working capital financing and deferred interest payment on working capital facilities without an asset classification downgrade. The government has also introduced measures permitting delayed GST payments until June 2020, without levy of interest, late fees or penalties. Despite these measures, there are reports that the MSMEs are unsure of paying salaries and creditors, given the current freeze in production and supply, coupled with slowing demands.

Some positives have emerged from the assurance given by the Minister of MSME Nitin Gadkari regarding restructuring of MSMEs in the coming days and creation of a Rs 10,000 crore 'Fund of Funds' that will facilitate the MSMEs to raise money from the capital market, as a portion of their equity will be purchased by the Government.

It is important that the Ministry of MSME draws up a policy framework with multiple scenarios for how to continue business operations commensurate to the spread of the virus. Wage support or subsidy package could be made available to employers to pay salaries and other statutory dues especially to the contractual/daily wage workers. It will be crucial that the selfemployed MSME units be given a salary net needed to navigate the crisis. Treatment of commercial electricity, water and other utility bills could be examined specifically in the scenario where lockdown has been further extended.

Covid-19 is a crisis with an unforeseeable ending. What is clear though is that the government and businesses – both large and small will have to work together to ensure the protection of workers, be ready for risk management in terms of phased restarting of business operations and be prepared to open structural changes in business activity.

Letters to the **EDITOR**

Sir, - The scourge called Covid-19 has impaired the economies of most of the nations including India. Despite several innovations in the healthcare sector in recent times, the Government remains woefully short of its ambition to increase public healthcare expenditure. At present the healthcare spending is only 1.5% of GDP. Despite the doubling of per capita expenditure on health over six years, the figure is still abysmal as compared to that of the developed nations. The Covid-19 pandemic is a reminder for any country for utmost investment in its health sector. India spends the least among the BRICS nations with Brazil expending the most among them. India can raise its level -8.5 hospital beds and 8 physicians per 10,000 people – to the standards of Japan and South Korea, over 100 beds per 10,000

Time for a leap in healthcare spending

people. For this to be done, a specially-designed fiscal stimulus can be funnelled into public health with the policy bottlenecks removed so that the sector becomes the engine of GDP growth. This has become the need of the hour for an enormous and developing nation like India. Yours etc., KUMAR SHIVRAJ, Pub-Jyotinagar, Guwahati.

Self-reliance and **Assam**

Sir, - Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had commented that the one lesson that the Covid-19 pandemic has taught the country is to be self-reliant. Though we live in an interconnected world, hardly anyone would disagree with him, from the viewpoint of serving the national interests and the people of the country. When an adverse situation strikes us, the importance of self-dependence and selfreliance becomes even more pronounced. This is applicable to all places, and especially for a

State like Assam. At present, the State is dependent on imports from other parts of the country even for day-to-day basic needs like fish, egg, onion, pulses, etc., apart from other essential and non-essential items like medicines, clothes, etc. The State is also dependent on the Centre in the form of grants and financial aid to run its daily show. The State, almost every year. encounters various natural disasters like floods, etc. However, the State, especially its people, has hardly done anything to be self-reliant in times of crisis or otherwise. There was a time till around

India's independence that the State's economy was much better than the national average, and the old timers recollect that Assam used to export many items to the other parts of the country. However, over the years, the State has become a laggard in the league of the Union of the States. Many factors may be blamed, but the onus lies on the political

leadership and faulty policies and practices of the successive State governments. The State and its people have failed to learn lessons from the other States, and seem to be happy being a dependent and a parasitic one. The current pandemic has given an opportunity to have a relook at ourselves, and reboot and restart ourselves towards a self-dependent State. Yours etc., A BHUYAN, Nagaon.

Astute leadership Sir – India, which has so far been performing better in comparison to the first world nations, has also seen a rise in the death curve in some States. In Assam, however, the scenario is very different because our State has been successful in breaking the chain of Covid-19 infection. If we were to name that one person who has been ruthless in his battle against the deadly virus, running from pillar to post explaining to the people how social distancing can keep the disease at bay, making sure that

Assam continues to uphold the lockdown mode, it has to be our State Health Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The medical fraternity under his astute leadership has revved up the State healthcare system and is now prepared to fight in the face of all odds. Dr Sarma and his expert team of healthcare providers in their relentless efforts at curbing any further spread of the disease have set an example for the other States of the country. He seems to be equally concerned about the impact of the lockdown on education and has even interacted with the Vice-Chancellors of 17 universities of the State seeking their suggestions and ideas on the possible solutions to the setback in the teaching-learning process caused by the lockdown. We wish him the best of luck. Yours etc., GURUBANDHU CHAKRABORTY, Digboi.

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

Compassion from various quarters assuages the needy

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, April 27: NDRF rescuers today distributed food to more than 420 poor people at Bazarapara 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 disin-

"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, 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 Superintendent 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 Pankai 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

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:**

33.0°C 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 Tiniali 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 Sarusajai 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

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 artistes performed from their Mumbai residence.

It was the inaugural concert of the digital music series 'Heal the World' launched by The Assam Tribune on its Facebook page.

At the beginning of the concert, Sunita Khaund Bhuvan 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 artistes 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.

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

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 27: During the ongoing lockdown, the 108 Mrityunjoy 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.

Zoological Society online project to support BSc, MSc students

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, April 27: At this critical juncture of the coronavirus pandemic that has hit hard the academic future of the students of Assam, the Zoological Society of Assam (ZSA) has come up with an online project to support BSc and MSc students of zoology of various colleges and universities

Around 30 to 40 teachers of different specialised areas of zoology from many colleges and universities of Assam have already volunteered for this noble cause. These teachers are actively working on the project and are contributing with their valuable audio PPTs to ZSA's online

The project is covering the entire syllabi of BSc zoology course running in the State, besides PG. Already some of these online resources are being uploaded in ZSA's YouTube portal. The students can use these lectures at their convenience sitting at home.

Professor Manideep Raj, Department

of Zoology, Darrang College, has been coordinating the entire project to make the open educational resources available to the students through You Tube during this critical lockdown period. Dr Pankaj Chetia of Dibrugarh, Prof Prabodh Bora of College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara and Dr Saurov Mahanta of NIELIT Guwahati have already contributed 15 very important lectures on the entire contents of bioinformatics for BSc students through YouTube and have given the link to ZSA for the benefit of the students.

According to ZSA general secretary Prof Jogen Kalita and president Priyabrata Lahkar, ZSA realised the importance of online teaching of the students due to the present COVID-19 crisis and got involved in creating some quality lectures through learned teachers of the State.

By doing so, ZSA has in a way given an opportunity to all teachers of zoology in the State to make their lectures globally visible so that they become known nationally as well as internationally.

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 200 threeply masks to Marwari Hospitals here today. General secretary of Marwari Hospitals RS Joshi received the items from the representative of Bajaj Healthcare Social Foundation.

Satya MicroCapital Limited has donated 10,000 surgical gloves and 10,000 three-layered masks to the workers at the Sarusajai 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 fed eration, a press release said.

The Assam Tribune Pabhoi AASU president

Let's Fight #Infodemic

#CheckTheFake on #COVID19

But PCI says,

Violence is not the answer

even against bad journalism

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.

Abhiiit 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

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.



from Kota in Rajasthan, at the Sarusajai quarantine facility in Guwahati early Monday morning. - UB Photos

Bengal imams take exception to Governor's

KOLKATA, April 27: Taking exception to West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's "minority appeasement" accusation against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the apex body of the State's imams has requested him to retract his

Bengal Imams' Association (BIA) chairman Md Yahya also urged the State and Central thwart efforts by some to "vilify the entire minority community as lockdown violators, which is the farthest from the

In a letter to Banerjee on March 24, in which he had levelled several charges against Banerjee, Dhankhar had said, "...Your appeasement of the minority community was so explicit and awkward that as regards a question about the Nizamuddin Markaz incident by a journalist, your reaction was 'Do not ask communal

the BJP are trying to communalise the issue by blaming only the Muslim community for the spread of the coronavi-

ment to Muslims of Bengal governor on April 25 read.

sion, it said. - PTI

of the nationwide lockdown.

UP Police serve notice on Bollywood singer Kanika Kapoor LUCKNOW, April 27: A notice was against her on March 20," a senior ing a party where political personali-

Kapoor on Monday regarding an FIR registered against her for negligence accused could be arrested and proand committing acts likely to spread a disease dangerous to life, police said.

She has been asked to report at Sarojini Nagar Police Station on April 30 and record her statement, they said.

"The notice has been served on Kapoor and she has been asked to visit Sarojini Nagar Police Station, where an FIR under IPC Sections 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 270 (maligdisease dangerous to life), 188 (diso-

served on Bollywood singer Kanika police official said here.

duced to the court," he said.

The FIR was lodged on a complaint

The popular singer had tested positive for novel coronavirus on March 20. She came under attack for negligence and not practising self-quarantine despite returning to the country from the UK amid the coronavirus pandemic.

governments to take steps to nant act likely to spread infection of Pradesh Police for negligence and com-understandings and wrong exchanges mitting acts that were likely to spread of information. I was giving time for bedience to order duly promulgated the infection after she attended at least the truth to prevail and for people to by public servant) was registered three gatherings in Lucknow, includ- reach their own realisation," she said.

ties, including senior BJP leader and elled to Lucknow to meet her family "If the notice is not followed, the former Rajasthan Chief Minister on March 11 and claimed there was Vasundhara Raje and her son, Dushyant Singh, were present.

In a statement on Sunday, the singer of the Lucknow Chief Medical Officer. said she is aware of "several versions of stories" about her diagnosis, but "negativity thrown at a person does not change the reality".

"Some of these seem to be fuelled even more because I have chosen to be silent till now. I stayed quiet not because I am wrong but in fact being Kapoor was booked by the Uttar fully aware that there have been mis-

"no screening setup for domestic flights".

On March 14 and 15, Kapoor said she attended a friend's lunch and dinner and clarified "there was no party hosted by me and I was in absolute normal health".

However, on March 17 and 18, she developed symptoms and said she got herself tested on March 19.

"On March 20 when informed that my test was positive, I chose to go to the hospital. I was discharged after three negative tests and have since been at home for 21 days, she

EXTENSION NOTICE

This is for the information of all the intending suppliers/firms that the last date for submission of quotation for supply of relief materials for flood affected people and people affected by other natural calamities during the year 2020-21 invited vide this office Quotation Notice No.DR-11/NIT/2019/70 Dtd. 07.03.2020 is hereby extended upto 2.00 PM of 5th May 2020. These will be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM.

The terms and conditions as laid down in the previous quotation notice will remain the same.

Those firms/suppliers who have already submitted the quotations need not submit these again.

Sd/- Addl. Deputy Commissioner (i/c) Dhakuakhana Janasanyog/C/91/20

28-yr-old donates disability pension to COVID-19 fund

she handed over a cheque of Rs 5,000 for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for COVID-19 on Monday at her modest home here, 28-year-old Shabi- have to put a brake somena Saifi presented a picture of where if we really want to down, it is not possible. Let pride and fortitude.

Stricken by polio at the age of two. Shabina was unable to walk and later suffered vision loss. rus, the BIA letter wondered She was interested in studying what was wrong with the Chief music and now takes care of her mother and brother by giving musical performances.

And though the ongoing livelihood, she decided to donate the money she collect-[sic]," the letter sent to the ed from her 'disability pension' of Rs 500 per month for A Chief Minister has the the fight against the corona-

"It may not be a big addition

give a message that if anyone wants to help, he or she can do that in any circumstances. Our daily needs are unending. We help," said Shabina, who has

never been to a school.

'Our daily needs are unending. We have to put a brake somewhere branch manager of Sahaif we really want to help' datganj visited her on

At a time when everyone is anxious due to the prevailing uncertainty, wasn't it difficult to give away the money she had collected for 10 months? How will she run her house?

"Uparwala chalayega. Hum thodey mein kaam chala lengey (God will help. I will manage in

LUCKNOW, April 27: As to the CM's fund, but I want to less amount)," she told PTI ed in competitions in Yuva while replying to the queries.

> "I have some savings also that I have earned by giving music performance. People do help me but due to the lockthis coronavirus problem be over, that's what we all want,"

> > she added.

State Bank of India officials including the

Monday and received the

"I could never go to school. When I was two years old, I was stricken by polio and I also became blind. As I wanted to do something, I requested my father to provide me training in music. I did 'Prabhakar' (degree) in music and participat-

Pradesh Chief Minister Shiv-

raj Singh Chouhan, after his

interaction with Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi on Mon-

day, asked State officials to

make specific plans for post

May 3, when the coronavirus-

enforced lockdown is sched-

The Prime Minister on

Monday held a video confer-

ence with Chief Ministers to

discuss the situation arising

due to the coronavirus pan-

with Chief Ministers on the

issue of checking coronavirus

spread, providing necessary

supplies in containment areas,

other facilities to people and

also discussed plans to be made

tions Department said.

The PM has interacted

demic in the country.

uled to end.

Mahotasava in Lucknow from 2006 to 2016," she said.

"I have given performances in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and performed for All India Radio also," she said.

Shabina has received vari ous awards, citations, certificates of excellence and also State Award from UP government in 2018.

For her inspiring achievements in the field of music, the National Award for Role Model 2019 under the category multiple disability was conferred upon her by the Vice

Shabina also appealed to other people to come forward and help in the efforts to fight the pandemic, saying "it gives a great feeling". - PTI

Make post-May 3 plans,

MP CM tells officials

after PM interaction

BHOPAL, April 27: Madhya han discussed modalities with

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO: BWRD/TEN/6/Pt-I/07-08/93

Sealed tender in prescribed form affixing non refundable court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and paisa Twenty five) only is hereby invited from the registered Contractor/organization/firms of W.R. Department for the following works. An earnest money of 2% on the value of work for the package (1% for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC etc) in the form of Fixed Deposit from any nationalized bank duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, Barpeta W.R. Division, Barpeta, along with the tender paper will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 2 pm on 08.05.2020 and will be opened on the same date and place at 3-00pm. If the day 08.05.2020 fixed for submission/opening of tender falls on unscheduled holiday/bandh etc, the same will be received/opening on the next working day. The Tenderer or their authorised representative may remain present at the time of opening of tenders, if they desire so.

Detailed Notice inviting Tender including Item of Works, Specifications, Terms and conditions etc for the work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days up to 1-00 pm till 08.05.2020.

The tender paper will be supplied by the department on payment of Rs.50.00 (Rupees fifty) only for each package through IPO/Cash, duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, Barpeta W.R. Division, Barpeta and may be obtained from the office of the undersigned up to 1-00 pm on 08.05.2020.

SI.NO.	Name of Scheme	value (Rs. In Lakh)
1	M&R to recoupment of damaged section at different reaches on R/B embankment of river Beki for 2019-20.	12.00
2	M&R to protect Jaurimari area from the erosion of river Beki (R/B) for the year 2019-20.	15.00
3	M&R to M.E. along R/B embankment of river Pahumara at 9th Km Moirambhitha for the year 2019-20.	8.00

Item of work: As per group list attached with tender paper Earnest Money: 2% (1% for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC) of each Package value. Time for Completion: 30 Days from the date of issue of formal work order.

Special terms and conditions:

- The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tendered rate and deserves the right to reject the tender in part or whole without assigning any reason thereof.
- No tender will be accepted without deposition of Earnest money.
- Rate should be quoted in figures and words.
- All other terms & conditions are as per rule and procedure followed in W.R.Department Assam from time to time also applicable.
- Contractor should attached valid upto date GSTIN number with the tender paper. Payment/Proportionate payment will be made subject to the availability of full
- fund/part fund under proper head of account. No claim (Including interest of bill) what so ever will be entertained for delayed payment due to non-receipt of fund in time from Govt. The deptt. will in no case be responsible for the same.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Barpeta W.R. Division,

Janasanyog/C/85/20

Barpeta.

TN builds makeshift walls on

VELLORE (TN), April 27: Temporary walls have been A spokesman of the NAJ told this newspaper that there built on roads across the border with Andhra Pradesh at two rewere some issues with the managements, which the governmote checkpoints near here to ment should look into. The Indian Newspaper Society has three help prevent unauthorised arspecific demands, including import duty exemption for newsrival of people into Tamil Nadu, print, a two-year exemption from taxation; and an increase of

> The walls, made of concrete hollow blocks have come up at Synagunda and Ponnai on the border with Andhra Pradesh. the official said.

Asked about the reason be-The Prime Minister's interaction with the Chief Ministers came hind the construction of walls, Velamid calls from some States to allow economic activities to re- lore District Collector A Shanly to check unauthorised entry of people like migrant labourers, who use vehicles including buses to enter Tamil Nadu without

very remote locations like

ting detected at the main border crossing is high, some people tend to use little noticed locations in remote places," he pointed out adding the effort was aimed at preventing unauthorised entry or exit.

Ten Indonesian Tablighis arrested by Mumbai Police

MUMBAI, April 27: Ten Indonesians, including six women – who all are members of the Tablighi Jamaat and had attended the religious meet at the Nizamuddin Markaz in Delhi in March - have been arrested by the Mumbai Police under various Sections of the IPC on completion of their quarantine period, an official said on Monday.

These 10 members were part of a group of 12 Tablighis from Indonesia who were staying at an apartment in Bandra (West) since March 29 after they had returned from Delhi, he said.

A large number of COVID-19 cases were attributed to the religious congregation held at the Markaz, as many Tablighis travelled to various

The official said the police came to know about the presence of the Indonesians in Bandra only on April 1.

came to India in two batches on February 29 and March 3, and later visited the Markaz

activities, among others. The CM gave necessary directions to officials," he said. Chouhan directed the officials to prepare models for the days to come and told them that further action will be suggested after detailed instructions on issues are received

senior officials, especially

treatment of coronavirus infec-

tion as per the PM's directives,

preparations for post-May 3

situation, running economic

from the Centre. Newly appointed Home and Health Minister Narottam Mishra, Chief Secretary Igbal Singh Bains and MP Director General of Police Vivek Johri were present, among others, he said.

for post-May 3 situation," an So far on Sunday, Madhya official of the MP Public Rela-Pradesh reported 2,090 coronavirus positive cases with 103 "After the meeting, Choudeaths. - PTI

parts of the country.

"We found that they had

for the event," he said.

The official said while the foreigners reached Mumbai on March 7, they settled down in the apartment only on March 29, implying that they had been roaming around during the 22 days.

"During their medical examination, two members of the 12-member group tested positive for coronavirus, following which 10 others were placed under quarantine for a period of 20 days. They were arrested on Wednesday (April 22)," he said.

They have been booked under Sections 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 269 (Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease that is dangerous to life) and 270 (Malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and under provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

They were produced before court on April 23, which remanded them in the custody of the Bandra Police, the official added. - PTI

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/34

PRESS NOTICE FOR BID

Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chandmari, Guwahati-3, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Tender for the following works

SI. No.	Name of W.R. Division	Name of The Scheme	Approx. amount in Lakh (Rs.)	HOA
1		Immediate measures for restoration of flood damaged on R/B embankment of river Pohumara at 7th Km Pachim Kolorguri under SDRF for 2019-20.	249.999	
2	Barpeta W.R. Division	Immediate measures for restoration of flood damages on R/B embankment of River Pahumara and Teklajan at Saralpara area under SDRF for 2019-20.	189.999	SDRF
3		Immediate measures for restoration of flood damages on R/B embankment of River Pahumara in different reaches in between Ch 3rd km to 7th km under SDRF for 2019-20.	199.999	
4		Immediate measures for restoration of flood damages on R/B embankment of River Pahumara at 20th Km Kahara Pathar & 24th km Banglipara under SDRF for 2019-20.	219.999	

Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chandmari, Guwahati-3, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Re-Tender for the following works

SI. No.	Name of W.R. Division	Name of The Scheme	Approx. amount in Lakh (Rs.)	HOA
5	Tezpur W.R. Division	Immediate measures for restoration of damage section of Solengi L/B embankment at different location of the river Solangi under SDRF for 2019-20.	270.00	
6	Dibrugarh W.R. Division	Immediate Measures to restore Bogortolia area of Rohmoria from the river Brahmaputra for 2019-20	1056.368	SDRF
7	Hailakandi W.R. Division	Immediate measures to dyke along L/B of Katakhal from Gaglacherra to Nutanbazar for restoration of breach like damages occurred at Bamun Lekai for 2019-20 (Under SDRF)	150.00	
8	Nagaon W.R. Division	Immediate measures to restoration of damage section of Brahmaputra dyke from Silghat to Dhing at Danduwa area under SDRF for 2019-20	230.00	
9	Silchar W.R. Division	Anti-erosion measures to the dyke along L/B of river Sonai from S. M. Road to Dharmikhal (R/B of river Rukni) restoration of damages at Malugram Ph-1	158.995	SOPD-G

Details may be seen at website-http/assamtenders.gov.in

The interested registered Contractor/ Bidders of WIRD who are experienced in the execution of works unde Water Resources and possess required technical and financial strength may obtain the SBD which can be down loaded from the website http/assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website.

The Contractors/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. o Assam (website http/assamtenders.gov.in. Contractors can download documents free of cost. Contractors have to necessarily down load the bidding document from the ETS using their own ID(Digital Signature Certificate). Bid documents not procured (downloaded) through the ETS/not using the contractor's own use ID will be considered invalid and summarily rejected. Contractors submitting bids online have to submit copy of the documents of technical bid required to be submitted manually before the expiry of the sequence 'Online Bid Preparation & Submission' in the tender schedule . The last date and time for submission of the Technical Bids manually is the same as the expiry of the sequence 'Online Bid Preparation & Submission' ir the tender schedule. Bid will be rejected/ cancelled if Financial Bid submitted off-line/hard copy

All the interested bidders are requested to read the Bid Document carefully before submission of their bid Issue of Work order Is subjected to the accordance of Administrative Approval from Government

For any e-tendering related quarries please mail to etenderingcewrd@gmail.com

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department Assam Janasanyog/C/94/20 Chandmari, Guwahati-3

east India. The plant will produce annually 60 million litres of bioethanol, 19,000 tonnes of furfural, 11,000 tonnes of acetic acid, and 144 gigawatt hours of green energy.

remarks

questions'. Alleging that the Centre and

Minister's reply to the jour-"By giving that opinion and avoiding such question in her lockdown has affected her press meet how it is appeare-

right to freedom of expres- virus pandemic.

pay that have taken place in the media after the announcement

50 per cent in the rates for government advertisements.

days till May 3 to cut the transmission of the virus.

ange and thereafter to green zones.'

Member and other representatives.

administration of the BTC.

the coronavirus hotspots.

Need to focus ...

(Contd from page 1)

The first phase of the nationwide lockdown of 21 days was

ce the devastating impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the

"We have to give importance to the economy as well as

continue the fight against COVID -19," Modi said, adding it is

important for "States to enforce guidelines strictly in the

hotspots i.e. the red zone areas and the efforts of the States

should be directed towards converting the red zones into or-

in a gradual manner and restrictions are likely to continue in

Chief Ministers were unanimous in telling the Prime Minister that there should be a cautious approach in lifting the lock-

down, given that the coronavirus cases were still rising in the

country, Naraynswamy said. "The Prime Minister should take

Governor's Rule ...

(Contd from page 1)

It added that the Governor has appointed Rajesh Prasad,

senior IAS officer and Principal Secretary to the Government

of Assam, to exercise all the functions and powers exercisable

by the BTC and its Executive Committee, Chief Executive

Rajesh Prasad, IAS, shall be designated as the Administrator,

NRL resume ...

(Contd from page 1)

down as it is exempted under the essential services and they

were carried out in two to three shifts. However, construction

activities had come to a standstill," the sources said.

lised. Progress is picking up each day," they said.

producing green power as byproduct for local use.

ing and operating the biorefinery.

"Refinery operations were not hampered during the lock-

Administrative functioning was work-from-home and with

less than 50 per cent of the staff. "We are also resuming work

on other smaller projects for which manpower is being mobi-

Work on the biorefinery had commenced six months back

and is expected to be completed towards the end of next year.

It will be the first biorefinery in the world that will produce

cellulosic ethanol and bio-based chemicals from bamboo while

Numaligarh Refinery Limited, Finland's Chempolis Ltd and

Finnish energy company Fortum 3 BV had established a joint

venture Assam Bio Refinery Private Limited in 2018 for build-

The biorefinery will use 300,000 tonnes of bamboo annually

from the vast natural and cultivated bamboo reserves of North-

Bodoland Territorial Council," stated the notification.

"... in exercising the functions and powers under this order

a call on what needs to be done," he added. - PTI

Sources in the government said the lockdown may be lifted

economy as well as on livelihoods of lakhs of migrant workers.

announced by Modi on March 24, it was later extended by 19

SC notice ... (Contd from page 1) Later, the three petitioners – National Alliance of Journalists (NAI), the Delhi Union of Journalists (DUI) and the Brihanmumbai Union of Journalists (BUJ) – in a statement said they had sought immediate suspension of all terminations, resigna-Andhra border tions, wage deductions and directions to go on leave without

a senior official said on Monday.

any valid permission. In view of the nationwide curbs to help prevent spread of coronavirus, the governments of other States too do not allow people to travel anywhere. But some people get access to vehicles and use them to enter Tamil Nadu taking advantage of crossings in

Synagunda, he said. "Since the chances of get-

It is noteworthy that both the BJP and the Congress had Standalone ... earlier urged Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi to take over the

(Contd from page 1)

Officials said today's target was to transport 9,500 people in 593 buses. "The last trip will start at 9 pm from various locations of the State. Today's timing were 8 am, 11 am, 8 pm and 9 pm. Today's occupancy was also quite high compared to the previous days," officials said.

Meanwhile, all kinds of goods-carrying vehicles will be allowed with only two persons in each vehicle, both empty or laden. The council of ministers also

decided to advise the State Election Commission to begin the BTAD election process at the earliest using innovative methods of campaigning without violating social distancing norms and by not allowing crowds to gather during electoral campaign process.



Forecast for NE: Rain/thunder showers is very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Maximum temperatures are likely above the normal by 3-4 degree celsius in the plains of the region

Warning: Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind with speed (30-40) KMPH is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

Temperatures

•			
Ma	x (°C)	Min (°C)	
Dibrugarh	33.2	19.4	
Tezpur	33.2	21.9	
Silchar	34.6	22.4	
Dhubri	32.3	22.0	
Jorhat	32.5	17.5	
N/Lakhimpur	35.4	19.5	
Shillong	21.4	NA	
Cherrapunjee	23.6	12.2	
Aizawl	23.9	14.5	
Kohima	20.2	12.0	
Pasighat	33.6	21.0	
Itanagar	35.1	19.6	
Imphal	24.8	17.3	
Agartala	34.0	20.1	

Five out of eight NE states virus-free

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 27: Five out of eight North East States are corona free, while the other three States have not added any new coronapositive case in the last few days, claimed Union Minister of State Development of North Eastern Region (DoN-ER), Dr Jitendra Singh.

The Minister's remarks came after a review meeting through video conference, in which senior officers from North Eastern Council (NEC), among others, participated. The meeting was also attended by representatives of different government bodies and PSUs, including North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMC), North East Handicraft and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi), Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) from their respective

Briefing newsmen, Dr Jitendra Singh said five the North galand, Arunachal Pradesh tally corona free, while three other states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram had eight, 11 and one corona positive cases respectively, while no new cases were added till last night.

In addition, he informed that the Ministry of DoNER had placed Rs 25 crore at the disposal of the North Eastern States in the initial stage itself, much before the lockdown, as gap-funding for corona-related activities.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed about the proposals received and under consideration from different North Eastern States like Mizoram. Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur for new healthrelated projects devoted to management of infections and corona care, critical care and projects will be dealt with on effort and money. priority, he said.

Coronavirus Relief Bank Lockdown in Meghalaya opened at Churachandpur to continue beyond May 3



Agriculture Minister V Hangkhanlian handing over relief items during the opening of a COVID-19 Relief Bank in Manipur on Monday.

CORRESPONDENT

der fencing was erected along the COVID-19 pandemic. the Churachandpur district sector of the Indo-Myanmar relief bank, Hangkhanlian, border, a COVID-19 Relief Bank for the district was opened at the Deputy Com- pressed his willingness to domissioner office premises at nate 1,000 masks to the relief Churachandpur town, 65 kms south of Imphal today.

Minister V Hangkhalian, who including the police in a solis the minister incharge of the emn function at Tuibong in the district, formally inaugurated the Relief Bank which is a joint

istration and Autonomous Dis-IMPHAL, April 27: A day trict Council (ADC) of dreaded virus, he assured adafter the 200-metre-long bor- Churachandpur to fight against

Soon after inaugurating the who also holds the Animal Husbandry portfolio, exbank. He distributed Personal Protective Equipment kits The State's Agriculture among officials of the district, hill district.

Lauding the efforts of Shivanand Surve and other

initiative of the district admin- frontline workers for their district officials attended the tireless efforts in fighting the day's function. The relief bank which is ex-

commodities in the district

In his speech, DC Pawan

Yadav of Churachandpur dis-

trict said it is imperative that

special focus should be given

to the poor and the vulnerable

section in the ongoing meas-

ures for supply of essential

services during the lockdown.

Paukhanlian, ADC Thangboi

Gangte, Additional SP

Chairman

during the lockdown.

equate supply of essential pected to be run by volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra, is likely to provide immediate relief in terms of food and other essential goods and services to the poor, vulnerable and the needy population of the district.

Significantly, the relief bank provided assistance to two orphanages of the district during the inaugural function. The essential items were donated by people from all walks of life while the ADC of Churachandpur pro-

How Mizoram fights COVID-19 is exemplary, says Zoramthanga

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, April 27: The way Mizoram is fighting the coronavirus pandemic where the community is actively involved right from the village level is exemplary, observed Chief Minister Zoramthanga during a video conference hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today for the chief ministers of India.

From Mizoram, Home Minister Lalchamliana and Health Minister Dr R Lalthangliana also joined the online meet-

Chief Minister Zoramthanga informed Eastern States of Sikkim, Na- Prime Minister Modi of how members of the public, churches and associations Manipur and Tripura are to- have donated to the CM relief fund to fight COVID-19, and how local volunteers in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic is came forward to enforce the lockdown, distribute essential commodities among the people and guard the interstate and international borders without expecting anything in return, and also how landlords waved off rent for their tenants.



exemplary," he reiterated.

Zoramthanga went on to say that even though Mizoram has only one COVID-19 patient who is recovering, there can be no respite from the battle as there are "The unity of the people of Mizoram and countries. He emphasised on the need

to continue sealing of the border and strengthening security too. He praised the Prime Minister for pro-

viding free ration and LPG to the economically weaker section of the society and said that there are a large number of beneficiaries in Mizoram.

Apprising the Prime Minister about various needs of the State, the Chief Minister discussed ways on how best to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on the economy of Mizoram and other Free LPG cylinders: In the mean-

time, free LPG cylinders under the grope said on Sunday. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana has brought much-needed relief to families of the weaker section of society during the lockdown, a PIB release stated.

The release said more than 20,000 beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujiwala Yojana have credited money against the free cylinders in their bank accounts.

These beneficiaries belong to Aizawl, active cases in the neighbouring states Mamit, Lunglei, Saiha, Serchhip, Lawngtlai, Kolasib and Champhai districts.

SHILLONG, April 27: Chief Minister Conrad Sangma today said that the lockdown in Meghalaya would continue bewould be relaxation.

This information was conveyed by Sangma during the video conference between modities are open. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the chief ministers of the

The video conference was convened by the Central Government between the chief ministers to solicit ideas and suggestions to open up the economy after May 3. However, different States have fixed different criteria for lifting the

Out of the 11 districts in Meghalaya, only East Khasi Hills district has been affected by the pandemic. There are 11 active COVID-19 cases in this district, with one dead. All the other districts have remained COVID-19 free so far.

cannot be held up any further in today's video conference. and these have to be opened up in a phasewise manner.

begun in the State. The rural sector has also opened up ow-

ing to the sowing season. These activities are all being carried out by following strict yond May 3, but in districts not health protocols as laid down by affected by the pandemic there the Government. But in the State Capital, extreme precaution is being taken and only shops selling essential com-

> big market places like Iewduh (Bara Bazaar) and Police Bazaar, apart from those in other districts to remain shut.

As far as East Khasi Hills dis-

trict goes, there are over 5,000 people who are primary and secondary contacts of the first COVID-19 patient and these people are all quarantined. Many tested. Meanwhile, Sangma suggested to the PM that an 'Economic Task Force' by taking all States on board be established for exchange of ideas and possible solutions to kick-start the Indian economy post lockdown.

The Meghalaya Chief Minis-Sangma has said earlier that ter was given the opportunity economic activities in the State to make the opening submission

He said the proposed task force would initiate economic So far, construction activities activities albeit by adhering to like roads, bridges and also necessary precautionary terreceiving distress calls.

"The establishment of economic task force will help States and its adjoining neighbours to a large extent in devising practical measures to revive the economy," Sangma said.

Talking about the prevailing situation, the Chief Minister said that the use of technology has become all the more important. He added that everyone should The Government has asked brace up for the change by integrating technology in governance, healthcare and business.

> Eulogising the Meghalaya 'Rapid Response System' model, Sangma said response teams, including health, administrative and police officials have rushed upon detection of new COVID-19 cases.

He said similar models should of these people are yet to be be implemented in different parts of the country for different exigencies.

"The rapid response system will enable the government to work better at the micro level, like the panchayat institutions and prepare us for any situation that may arise in future," the Chief Minister suggested.

He added that response of different stakeholders should be specified in the form of standard operating procedures by responding within 60 minutes af-

Meghalaya farmers in urgent need of agricultural tools

NEWMAI NEWS

SHILLONG, April 27: The Jyrngam, Bajop Pyngrope has highlighted the dire straits of the farmers under his constituency who are struggling to falls under the Sixth Schedule procure tools required for agricultural purpose.

for the farmers in the cultivation season and if the government can address this problem of the farmers, it will be very conducive because they are out of cash owing to the lockdown. loss for the entire year," Pyn-

seeds, manure, etc., and also subsidise all the agricultural implements to ease the burden on the farmers who are also constantly facing wrath of Mother Nature by way of occasional hailstorm and heavy

He said all the agricultural implements should be disbursed in every district headquarter so that the farmers can and diesel in a bid to augment go and collect them from their

He also criticised the new

District Council (KHADC) and

said that it should have sum-

problems faced by the people

area, it is high time the Dis-

trict Council coordinates with

the state government to be

price of fuel has come down.

The Meghalaya government

has increased taxes on petrol

its resources.

during the lockdown.

Congress MDC of Rambrai-"The spade is the main tool

able to provide more help to the people of the state during this crisis," he added. Had the EC called for an allparty meeting on social distancing and other safety meas-If agricultural activities are afures, the members could have fected at this crucial juncture, shared their ideas and implethe farmers will incur great mented them in a more conducive manner, he felt. "This is not the time to play

He also said that the Agripolitics. The need today is to culture Department should take a collective decision to enhance free distribution of address this crisis and to examine from where funds can be mobilised to help the people," he said. He also said that the decision of the State Government to increase fuel prices is an embarrassment at this point of time when the international

respective districts. He also ridiculed the Prad-

han Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) scheme which is a Central programme that grants only Rs 6,000 a year to the farmers. He said this is too meagre an amount for a section that is considered as the backbone of the country.

Executive Committee (EC) in the Khasi Hills Autonomous

TURA, April 27: The DC of

Kerosene quota

West Garo Hills in Tura has informed that all AAY, PHH and Non-NFSA card holders under Tura urban and rural-based SK Oil centres under the PDS for the current month has been released through their respective centres. The oil quota will be dismoned a meeting of all MDCs to discuss and address the tributed at the scale of 2 litres per card at the revised wholesale rate of Rs 25.62/- per litre while the "As 97 percent of our state revised retail rate is Rs 28/- per litre. - Correspondent

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: DBWS enders are invited by the undersigned for he following work: Name of work: Itkrisht' - Phase -II. Approx. cost of ork: ₹1.48.08.332/- inclusive GS ᡚ15%; Earnest Money: ₹2,24,000/-. E 7-05-2020 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. o vith the tender documents of above 07-05-2020 in website <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

KIR/20: Dated: 24-04-2020. E-tender Two Packet System" are invited by the ndersigned for the following work. Nam of work: Mechanized cleaning of coache of through passing trains at Katiha olatform during halt under Clean trai tation (CTS) scheme for four (04) years Tender Value: ₹13,84,72,456/-; Earnes closed at 15.00 hrs. on 21-05-2020 and mplete information with the tende ument of above e-tender will be

Sr. DME/IC/Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

www.ireps.gov.in.

AEGCL invites e-tenders from reputed Bidder for the works "(1) Supply

ation, testing and commissioning of VRF Air Conditioning system at first floor (west side) of Bijulee Bhawan. (2) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for five years beyond warranty period Interested bidders may kindly refer the following websites for deta

Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati-1



transportation of essential goods, medicine, baby food, vegetables etc., one time table Parcel Express train in the wake of COVID-19 will with en route stoppage at Jagiroad, Chaparmukh Jn., Hojai, Lumding, Diphu, Dimapur, Sarupathar, Farkating Jn., Marian Jn., Simaluguri Jn., Duliajan & New Tinsukia Jn. The duration of stoppage at each halt will be 15 minutes for loading and unloading of parcel packages. The composition of the train will be 5 VPs

Parcel Booking for this train will remain open from 10.00 hrs. of 27 04-2020 to 20:00 hrs. of 28-04-2020 for New Guwahati/Guwahati Dibrugarh Circuit and for Dibrugarh - Guwahati/New Guwahati Circui on 28-04-2020 from 10 hrs. till 20 hrs. of 29-04-2020

-Tentative train timings Time on 29-04-2020 Station Time on 30-04-2020

Dep. 09.20	Guwahati	Arr: 00.00
Arr. 00.00	Dibrugarh	Dep. 09.20
e interested trader	s, e-Commerce firm(s), Tea Gardener, Oil, ON

including Govt, agencies may contact 24×7 Railways Helpline Lumding (Ph. 9957553950), ACM/Lumding (Ph.- 995755953), ACM/ Guwahati (ph. 9957553954), CS (Parcel)/Guwahati (Ph. 9706614754), Commercial Control, Lumding (Ph. 9967553915), Sr. DCM/Tinsukia (Ph. 9957555950). ACM/Tinsukia (Ph. 9957555952). Commercia Control, Tinsukia (Ph. 9957555984) and respective Station Manager

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Free seeds given to Mizoram farmers

NEWMAI NEWS

AIZAWL, April 27: The Mizoram government is trying its best to reduce the scale of importing fruits and vegetables from outside the state by boosting the volume of local produce. Towards achieving this target, the Zoramthanga upgraded healthcare. These government has put in both

One way towards achieving Over Rs 30 lakh worth of seeds

this goal was by distributing seeds of vegetables and fruits among the local farmers during this planting season free of cost.

The ongoing COVID-19 induced lockdown has highlighted the urgent need to boost local produce.

According to sources in the Horticulture Department, distribution of seeds of fruits and vegetables began from April 17.

were distributed among the eficiaries registered under the farmers across Mizoram till date, according to the source. Since the need for seeds is

huge, the Horticulture Department has placed order worth Rs 12 lakh. The consignments are expected to arrive in the State any of these days from Kolkata and Guwahati. the source added.

In previous years, the seeds were given only to those benHorticulture Department. "However, owing to the

hardship faced by the farmers because of the lockdown, we are sharing their burden by making the seeds available to all the farmers across the State," the source added.

Further various other strategies too have been adopted by the Zoramthanga government in order to uplift the local farmers.

were transmitting data during this radio tagging programme, Puching and Phalong failed to transmit any data just a few days after being tagged. Meanwhile, Barak and Irang are said to be in Mogadishu till Sunday.

On April 24, Chiulon was reportedly in the middle of the Arabian crossing covering a distance of 3,150 km and gliding over the jet stream, the scientist, who is currently monitoring the route of the migratory birds, informed.

falcon named after Nagaland's district had already arrived in India on April 23 and flying non-stop towards Karnataka, the scientist informed. The bird which was radio-tagged in October 2016, started her 4day return passage from Somalia to India on April 20.

The Amur falcons spend the summer in their breeding grounds in northern China and migrate to South Africa during the winter. En route to their wintering grounds, these birds enter the North East of India in October.

CORRESPONDENT On the other hand, satellite transmitter along migratory birds and environwith four other falcons, mental patterns along the Longleng, a female Amur IMPHAL, April 27: Amidst namely Puching and Phalong - both names of villages in Though all the falcons

Amur falcons returning to North East after winter sojourn

the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across various corners of the world, the radio-tagged Amur falcons which flew non-stop for 5 days covering thousands of kms to reach African countries as part of their routine annual migratory journey in November 2019, have started returning to the North East for onward journey to their breeding sites in northern China, a scientist from the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun said.

Chiulon, a male Amur falcon radio-tagged with a

Tamenglong district, besides Irang and Barak - both names of rivers in the district, by the Forest Department in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India (WII) scientists in Tamenglong district on November last, arrived in Mizoram on Sunday, scientist Dr R Suresh Kumar from the WII said when contacted. after the falcon reported in Madhya Pradesh on the The bird which left

Somalia coast on April 21, morning of April 25. was located at a place close The scientist felt that Chiulon may skip Manipur to Zwalpui in western Mizoram on April 26 at 4 pm and instead fly across to

Myanmar on his way to the breeding site.

tagged with satellite transmitters to study the flight route of these long-distance

Amur falcons were radio

NEWS IN BRIEF

5,154 people reach Barpeta

PATACHARKUCHI, April 27: A total of 5,154 people stranded in other places entered Barpeta district and were screened at Patacharkuchi by a medical team. A total of 3,793 people entered the district on the first day, and the remaining on the second day through NH-31. All of them have been advised home quarantine. - ANN

Satriya teachers seek relief

DERGAON, April 27: As many as 1,000 teachers of Satriya dance and another similar number of other dances and music who have been running schools or centres on their own in the region have been severely affected due to the lockdown. Nrityacharyya Jatin Goswami said artistes of Satriva dance have never been recognised by the government, and urged the authorities and citizens to provide them some relief in these tough days. Srimoyee Borah, principal of Jhumka Kala Kendra, a Satriya dance school at Dergaon, said they were facing severe financial hardship, and urged the government to provide some assistance as they were uncertain whether the school will regularly open after the lockdown is

Aid by Manipuri women



GUWAHATI, April 27: The Women Aid And Development Association (WAADA), a city-based Manipuri women's group recently distributed essential goods to people facing hardship during the lockdown, stated a press release. The group distributed rice, dal, mustard oil, salt, potato and soap to around 100 families of Rupnagar, Srimantapur, ASTC Colony, Salbari, Noonmati and Kekuranagar in Dispur. The third phase of distribution of relief goods by the organisation was held on Sunday at the Radha Krishna Mandir premises in Kekuranagar, Dispur. Members including Anjita Devi, Purnima Devi and Nirmola Devi conducted the

AMSU plea

DOOMDOOMA, April 27: Amidst the lockdown, thousands of teachers of venture institutions have been facing severe hardship and government schemes have failed to reach them. On realising this, a delegation of All Moran Students' Union (AMSU) led by its president Arunjyoti Moran met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Education Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma at their residences at Dispur on Sunday and submitted two memorandums urging them to grant some immediate financial relief to teachers working in venture institutions. The AMSU also urged them to take steps to provincialise these educational institutions on priority basis after the situation becomes normal. – Correspondent

Man falls from tree, dies

DHEMAJI, April 27: One Deba Bhuyan, son of late Makhana Bhuyan of Gharmara village in Dhakuakhana subdivision under Ghilamara Police Station, died on Sunday after falling from a tree. He was 53. According to sources, the deceased was a skilful tree-cutter and climbed a tree at the house of Manju Gogoi. While cutting the tree, he unfortunately slipped and fell down and died on the spot. - ANN Service

Reusable masks distributed

DIBRUGARH, April 27: With 3-ply masks being sold at Rs 40 a piece at pharmacies, a youth leader Taranga Gogoi, who is associated with the BJP in Naharkatia area of Dibrugarh district, is trying to make such masks available to the poor rural population. He has arranged for the free distribution of 20,000 fabric face masks, which are reusable after a proper wash. He has begun distributing the face masks from Amguri gaon panchayat in Sasoni area. Gogoi said that since this is an additional expenditure on the rural population, he is doing all he can to be of assistance to the people. – Our Bureau

Erosion-prevention measures

PATACHARKUCHI, April 27: Families residing near the Kaldia river at Patacharkuchi town's ward No.5 have constructed a bamboo protection wall along the banks of the river as a prevention measure against erosion. Every year, erosion poses serious threat to residents near the historic Siva Durga Dham. This year, the people with their united efforts have set up a bamboo wall. Some of the residents alleged that though they appealed to the authorities for help, the appeal went in vain, and they decided to build the wall with their own contribution and labour. A youth named Mrinmay Sarma also donated some bamboos for the purpose. The families of Mrinal Das, Subhash Roy, Kamal Roy, Dhanmani Das, Rinku Das and Gitu Mani Das that were badly afffected by the erosion in previous came out for the work. – ANN Service

Meeting on JE

DOOMDOOMA, April 27: A District Task Force meeting on Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) was held on Monday at the office of the Tinsukia Deputy Commissioner, under the chairmanship of ADC (Health) Manjit Borkakoti in the presence of Joint Director of Health Services, Tinsukia and other health officials. Representatives of various departments such as Agriculture, Education, Fishery and Municipality were also present. In 2019, Tinsukia had 61 AES cases of which 30 were found JE positive. On the contrary, 11 AES deaths took place, out of which 8 died due to JE. The meeting emphasised on conducting awareness activities among the public, including in agricultural fields, schools, forest areas, urban slums, etc. with the help of health professionals and experts. -Correspondent

TU MBA alumni donates kits

GUWAHATI, April 27: To show solidarity towards sanitation workers of GMC, members of the 2005 batch of MBA from Tezpur University distributed utility packs containing masks, gloves, soaps and hand sanitisers to 100 workers through GMC Commissioner Devajyoti Hazarika at the GMC office at Panbazar in the presence of Joint Commissioner Siddhartha Goswami, and executive engineer Manojit Buzarbaruah, stated a press release. Representatives of the alumni group thanked the sanitation workers for their relentless efforts and hoped that the kits would add some strength to their work. The Commissioner expressed his gratitude to the group.

STATE _______ TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 It was an experience of a lifetime: COVID-19 warriors

ARINDAM GUPTA

SILCHAR, April 27: Over the past fortnight, Dr Daemi Nongtdu and Dr Rajneel Bhattacharjee have been away from their parents.

The two doctors, at a very young age were at a crucial juncture of their medical careers as they were a part of the first batch to attend and treat the COVID-19 positive patients including Assam's first positive case at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) which was transformed into a COVID-19 hospital.

Recently, the first batch of 11 doctors along with nurses and paramedics completed their mandatory 14day institutional quarantine and they were felicitated by the State Government for their services to humanity.

The two COVID-19 medical warriors who are now on home quarantine shared their experiences with The Assam Tribune of working and treating the positive cases.

"It has been an experience of a lifetime for me and all of us in the team to deal with COVID-19 patients. It was a new thing for us but we were mentally prepared to encounter the situation with whatever resources we had. We knew, we shall get through this situation. We could

attend to the first positive patient of the State and to see him stable and also see the curve of cases flattening is the best feeling as a doctor. I pray that he recovers soon," said Daemi, who has been rendering duties at the Department of Medicine at SMCH.

Asked how difficult it was to wear the Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) for long hours, Daemi replied that although it was difficult at the start, but since they had to protect themselves first, the eight-hour long schedule with the PPE kit gradually became an adjustable chore.

"My mind was calm and ready for the job with the PPE. The objective was to attend the patient while ensuring self protection," she added. Staving way from home at Khilie-

hriat in East Jayantia Hills district of Meghalaya, Daemi got constant motivation from her parents over phone. "After my duty shift, my parents used call me and enquire about my health and safety. They kept reminding me of my oath taken to serve the people and asked me to take precautions. I felt happy and inspired," Dr Daemi said with a smile.

Dr Rajneel Bhattacharjee from the Department of Opthalmology, and a resident of Das Colony here had similar views. He said, "wearing the PPE kit for eight hours was a tough task, but our duty kept us

motivated. There is a method to wear and put off the kit and we followed that with great caution to avert any risk of contamination. We maintained social distancing while treating the patient and I am feeling glad to have served the community during this period of crisis. The patient was cooperative and followed whatever was told to him."

Speaking about reactions from his parents, Dr Rajneel said that his mother was his constant source of motivation. "My parents were worried. Yet, they motivated me saying that I was in a battlefield doing my duty to save lives."

Asked whether they faced any

mental fatigue or strain at work or even during the institutional quarantine period, Dr Daemi and Dr Rajneel said that at the primary stage when the first case just got admitted, mentally it became taxing for all to deal with the situation but after encountering the situation, they have become mentally tough to face more challenging life-saving tasks.

The doctors expressed their gratitude to the Government, Minister of Health Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma and medical fraternity of SMCH led by Dr Babul Bezbaruah, the principal for all the hardwork, inspiration and support in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

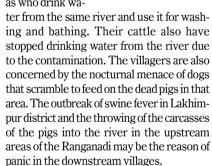
Pig carcasses found floating on Ranganadi

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, April 27: Carcasses of pigs floating on the Ranganadi river and lying on its shallow banks have led to panic in many villages and discomfort in Lakhimpur district.

Such incidents have been reported from the downstream areas of the river since April 24, where the dead animals on the river are not only leaving a stinking smell, but also set alarm bells ringing among the people of this

riverine area of a possible outbreak of another epidemic amid the lockdown for coronavirus. The presence of carcasses of pigs on Ranganadi is affecting the lives of thousands of villagers of the downstream areas who drink wa-



Thousands of pigs have died across Lakhimpur districts of possible classical swine fever at a time when piggeries have been hit by the COVID-19 lockdown in the State. In Tamera-Mising village under Narayanpur Revenue Circle of Lakhimpur district, hundreds of pigs have been dying in the last three days. Each of the villagers, who keep pigs are losing two-three of them daily on an average these days.

More than 2000 pigs have died so far at Gogamukh on Lakhimpur-Dhemaji district boundary since last week. Symptoms like high fever, unconsciousness, problem in breathing, vomiting, dysentery, loss of appetite, forming of reddish warts near the ear, mouth, legs and groins have been reported in the affected animals from Gogamukh.

In Dhakuakhana subdivision of the district, most of the cases of swine fever have been reported from the riverine areas. The epidemic was widespread in 15 villages like Ezarguri, Bogoriguri and neighbouring areas under Kherkota Gaon Panchayat. A pig farmer says that the mortality rate of animals kept in captivity are relatively low than those who roam freely outside the households and visit the paddy fields. However, the State Veterinary department has

> launched vaccination of pigs in some villages from April 25 onwards.

It may be recalled that cases of pigs dying in large numbers in unknown diseases have been reported since mid-February this year in Sila-

pathar-Chimen Chapori areas of Dhemaji and in riverine areas of Gohpur in Biswanath districts - both neighbouring Lakhimpur. On March 2, there were reports of many carcasses of pigs seen floating on the Sisi-Tongani river of Dhemaji district which joins Lai-Pulia river in Lakhimpur district. The Lai-Pulia river becomes Chari-Kodiya in Dhakuakhana before meeting the Subansiri in its downstream. A major portion of fishes supplied in Lakhimpur district come from these rivers.

Veterinary experts in the State have so far ruled out the outbreak of swine flu or H1N1 and attributed the present epidemic to classical swine fever. Classical swine fever is a viral disease that affects pigs only and requires vaccination in time. There is a Classical Swine Fever Control Programme (CSF-CP) in the department of veterinary of the State which was added in the scheme of Livestock, Health and Disease Control Programme since 2014-15. The Lakhimpur district administration has not made any statement over the swine fever epidemic in the district so far. Burning or burying the carcasses in 3-4-feet-deep pits is the advis-



A farmer from Kaithalkuchi shows how vegetables in his land are rotting. Nearly 80 vegetables farmers of Gobaradal-Sathikuchi, Nathpara and Jamunattari villages under Tihu subdivision in Nalbari district have suffered a huge loss as their products have started to waste away in the fields as they are unable to sell them due to the lockdown. The farmers cultivated seasonal vegetables like cabbage, tomato, brinjal, pumpkin, lady's finger, cucumber and ridgegourd in around 75 bighas of land, and many of them had invested a sizable amount of money by availing bank loans. - Photo: Paresh Chandra Sarma

OBITUARY Gulnahar Begum CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, April 27: Gulnahar Beg-



um, a resident of Burmese Nagar (ward no. 3) breathed her last on

April 26 at a hospital in Guwahati following a brain stroke. She was 72.

She associated with many social and religious organisations. She leaves behind her husband, three sons including senior scribe and local correspondent of Dainik Asam, Mirajul Islam, and two daughters.

Bhaskar Dutta CORRESPONDENT



Bhaskar Dutta, former journalist from Lakhimpur district bre-

athed his last on Saturday at North Lakhimpur Civil Hospital after a prolonged illness. He was 42.

Hailing from Nowboicha, Dutta worked with News Live and in vernacular dailies like Aji, Ajir Dainik Batori and Asomiya Pratidin since the late 1990s to mid-2000s. He leaves behind his wife, two sons and his parents.

Swapna Bhattachariya CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, April 27: Swapna Bhattacharjya, retired Headmistress of Nababharat Pathsala High School, Golokganj breathed her last on April 24 at her residence at Chilarai Nagar due to a heart attack. She was 71.

Bhattacharjya served as assistant teacher in Chinmoyee Girls High School and thereafter joined Nababharat Pathsala High School as assistant teacher and later on was appointed as Headmistress.

She was a life member of the Asam Sahitya Sabha. She leaves behind her husband Nripendra Nath Roy, retired Headmaster, Jagamohan Vidyapith, Golokganj.

Biren Kalita CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, April 27: Biren Kalita, a citizen of Telahi area of Morigaon district breathed his last yesterday at his residence due to cardiac arrest. He was 68.

A devotee of Satriya dance and music, Kalita was the vice president of the Morigaon district unit of the Asom Satra Mahasabha in 2015-16. He leaves behind his wife, two sons besides a host of relatives.

Returning students thank govt olet Baruah, Deputy Com-CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, April 27: Amid the ongoing lockdown, the Assam government facilitated the return of 391 stranded students and parents from Rajasthan's Kota, the country's coaching capital. The students started their journey from Kota on Friday in 17 buses and reached Assam on Sunday after passing through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

After entering Assam through the Srirampur check post on Sunday, they reached UN Brahma College at Kajalgaon in Chirang district around 8.30 pm. There, they were accorded a warm welcome by clapping of hands and were offered light refreshment by the Chirang district administration. Of the total 391 people, there are 184 boys, 167 girls and 40 parents.

Interacting with the media, one of the students said they were very much thankful to both the Central and State governments for arranging their journey back to Assam.

They were given a grand welcome by BTAD DIG Vi-

missioner Gautam Talukdar, Superintendent of Police Sudhakar Singh and other dignitaries. Free rations distribut-

ed: People's Aid (Trust) distributed free rations and masks to people of Serfanguri area in Kokrajhar, to minimise the hardship faced by daily wage earners and needy people due to the lockdown. The ration was distributed among 500 families from 19 villages. The Trust also organised a series of awareness programmes on COV-ID-19 and appealed to people to obey the lockdown guidelines and maintain social distancing, wear masks and stay at home. Awareness leaflets were also distributed.

Universal Dental and Child Health Care Centre, Kokrajhar also came forward to distribute food packtes to villagers in Haijraiguri, Manchargaon, Bhutiapara and Haldibari near Kokrajhar town. Food packets containing 5 kg rice, dal, sugar, oil and salt were distributed by child specialist Dr Niiwm Mahilary and paediatrician Dr Sudem Mahilary of the centre.

Dr Bidhan Choudhury: a tribute



The year 1971 was when I met Bidhan Choudhury for the first time and this bond lasted for half a century. I was fortunate to be his classmate, roommate and one of his closest batchmates in college.

After completing his

schooling from Victoria School, Darjeeling, Bidhan Choudhury had joined Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh. A multi-faceted person, he proved to be an exceptional artist and a great organiser in college. His spic and span room, neatly arranged bookshelf and table, and the immaculately made bed were some of the characteristics we always admired.

He was always there for anyone who needed anything – be it books for a junior student, money for medicines for a menial worker's parent or clothing for a batchmate. He would just say "return it when you get your money". That was never to be as when one tried to do so, he refused to take it, saying that the thought of repayment was enough.

Fluent in a number of languages, he tried to talk in the other person's native tongue as far as possible. It was always his endeavour to elevate his companions. He would highlight the smallest of achievements in others while overlooking faults, though not without advice or sometimes a well deserved rebuke.

In college, he stood out for extracurricular activities. Eyecatching posters at election time and decorations in the auditorium always saw the stamp of this master's hand. Exceptionally gifted in culinary prowess, he treated us to a variety of dishes in the hostel.

After graduating, Dr Bidhan Choudhury toyed with the idea of specialising in Radiology and completed the house job in the department at Gauhati Medical College. However, he did not pursue it and instead set up private practice, opening the Boncure Clinic in Guwahati.

Though he was plagued with health problems right from his student days, he rarely let it be known even to his close associates. Farewell friend, I and all your companions of the 1971 batch of AMC will cherish those years with you as you showed us how to live gloriously despite hurdles.

- Dr UT Bhuyan

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

SHORT-TENDER NOTICE

Mission Directorate of Swachh Bharat Mission (U).

Assam invites sealed quotations from eligible

Sd/- Mission Director,

Dispur, Guwahati

Swachh Bharat Mission (U), Assam

No. SBM(U)218/2020/5

Administrative reason.

No. SBM(U)218/2020/7

Janasanyog/CF/34/20

No.

3

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

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 selfhelp 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

ing to retailers to tide over the lockdown

is needed to avoid mass unemployment

culars to banks to lend support to busi-

"The banks are not giving any kind of

in the sector, according to RAI.

for various reasons.

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

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.

fined to the high-risk debt MF segment at this stage; the larger

ity 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 cial borrowing window of Rs

The stress is, however, conmeet the cash requirements of ble from today itself till May taking outright purchase of and/ mutual funds in July 2013.

> Following the collapse of Lehman Brothers, RBI in October 2008 had provided a al fund industry.

MF), the RBI will conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.

11, 2020, or up to utilisation of or repos against the collateral 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-

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 mul-

feedback till June 5

The Power Ministry today extended the deadline for submission of stakeholders' comments on the draft Electricity Amendment Bill by four weeks till June 5.

ments 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 min-

Earlier last month, the All due to the lockdown.

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 Statelevel and inter-State PPA dis-

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 pan-

Power Ministry extends deadline for NEW DELHI, April 27: Electricity (Amendment) Bill

istry order said.

come out with fourth draft of the demic. - PTI

Janasanyog/C/83/20

ADMISSION NOTICE

Counselling for Admission into Post Graduate in MDS Courses in the Regional Dental College, Guwahati for the Session 2020

MDS/03/2017/298-01 dated 24th April/ 2020 the 1st round of counseling 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 counseling provided they fulfill all

Candidates are directed to submit the following documents through e-mail ID- rdchguwahati@gmail.com on or before

- 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
- 8. Internship Completion Certificate:

Two pass port size photograph

Sd/- Principal i/c Regional Dental College, Guwahati-32

LIC's new premium business jumps 25.2% MUMBAI, April 27: Despite cent and 68.74 per cent respec-crore, the insurer said. LIC said The Corporation has collect-

duced lockdowns, national insurer LIC achieved a 25.2 per cent corded just 11.64 per cent.

This has the Corporation increasing its market share as Individual new business performwell. The Corporation's com- ance has shown impressive figposite market share in terms of ures of 2.19 crore in number of number of policies and first-year policies and the first-year prepremium stood at 75.90 per mium income rose to Rs 51,227

NEW DELHI, April 27: Auto-makers

da Cars India today said they have intro-

duced online sales initiatives in India in

order to help customers book vehicles

from the safety of their homes amid the

Volkswagen said it is digitising its sales

and service portfolio, enabling customers

with the flexibility to choose their preferred

The online retail process is simple,

and 116 service touchpoints, enabling cus-

tomers to choose their preferred dealer-

ship while booking online.

model at their comfort and convenience.

coronavirus pandemic.

losing the most productive fort- tively, recording a respective in- this was achieved in spite of the night of the year to COVID-in-crease of 1.19 per cent and 2.50 per cent, LIC said.

done "sweet nothing" to provide financ- uation to help retailers in this country,"

nesses, on the ground retailers are find- been otherwise used for "paying salaries"

ing it difficult to access funds from banks and other fixed costs as they have zero

income at present.

crisis, and the government intervention Kumar Rajagopalan told PTI.

In terms of new policies, LIC growth in the first-year new busi- has recorded the best sales in ness premium in 2019-20, while the past six years, selling 2.19 private players collectively re- crore new policies in FY2020 while its first-year premium income rose to Rs 51,227 crore.

truncation of the most productive fortnight of the year.

Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (i/c), Prime Minister's Office,

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 have done sweet nothing in this whole sit-there is this serious issue of shops shut-

Retailers Association of India (RAI) CEO

He claimed that the RBI circulars have

The retail industry body claimed that including new business plans" and as a retail does not work, production is of no

despite the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) result of that retailers are unable to get use. We want that clarification to come.

finance to retailers although RBI has stepped Rajagopalan said, "We want clarifications and now they cannot be paying any sala-

in. It is not happening on the ground. Banks from the government on this because ries. They don't have any money." - PTI

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

The Corporation has collected single premium of Rs 21,967 crore and non-single premium ofRs 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.

ed 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

line payment of products and services.

dia MD and CEO Martin Schwenk said.

select their preferred dealership and pro-

ting down and a big amount of unemploy-

ment happening. There is zero income

Stressing that all industries are de-

When asked about job losses in the re-

tail sector, Rajagolapan said, "Retailers

for retailers.'

been "set aside for want of various things, pendent on retail for sales, he said, "If

financing from banks which would have We want the Centre to support us or

Seeking the Centre's intervention, themselves have become unemployed,

Auto companies take online sales route amid coronavirus pandemic Luxury car-maker BMW also said it Home'. The initiative focuses on the ease

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 comply chain, not just component ments, 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 con-





NO: BWRD/GEN-25/Pt-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 Bahar Satra, Fulbari, Bhogerpar 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
- Address proof
- GST Registration certificate. SI.No. Name of contractor | Work Order No

1	M.Halim Khan	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/Pt/11 dt.06.02.2009
2	M/S New Krishnav	SE(NAC)/199/BAR/Pt/173 dt.29.01.08
3	Safiquar Rahman	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/70(A) dt.12.05.2008
4	Sahidul Islam	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/Pt/18 dt.06.02.2009
5	Samsul Haque	BWRD/CS/B-3/2007-08/Pt-I/ 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/Pt-I/ 25(A) dt.04.06.2008

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

hassle-free and provides an end-to-end prospects by leveraging new-age digital technologies," BMW Group India Acting contactless experience, the company said President Arlindo Teixeira said. Volkswagen has integrated its 137 sales Similarly, Mercedes-Benz India said it has

Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes and Hon- has rolled out a unique contactless expe-

rience for its customers in India.

The 'BMW Contactless Experience'

enables customers to explore and buy new

and pre-owned BMW cars, book vehicle

"Amidst the current pandemic situa-

tion, we have successfully transformed

our business processes and put in place

various measures to effectively and effi-

ciently serve our existing customers and

and announced a host of new customer ini-

tiatives under the campaign 'Merc from ceed to book their car online. - PTI

service, and make payments online.

activity. - PTI

industry remains liquid, it said. "With a view to easing liquid-

of India (RBI) had opened a spe-25,000 crore for banks to help

similar additional liquidity support exclusively for mutu-Under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-

"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 availa-

Draft electricity Bill

The ministry had circulated the draft Bill on April 17, 2020 with a deadline to submit com-

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

Last month, the ministry had

putes, respectively. The AIPEF had strongly

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 supsuppliers 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

companies/firms/distributors for supply and delivery of following items at Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Assam. Items Washable/ Re-usable Cloth Mask

Re-usable Rubber Hand Gloves Manual Spraying Machines (16 liters capacity) 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.

Sd/- Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (U),

Janasanyog/CF/37/20 Assam Dispur, Guwahati - 6 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

On Suppression of the earlier office order vide No.RDC/

the eligibility criteria.

Admit Card issued by NBE Rank Letter issued by NBE:

-Movies-

UTV MOVIES

12:20 Lake Placid: The Final

18:45 Doctor Strange Samay Ka Khel

Rise of the Apes

HBO

13:00 MS Dhoni: The Untold

16:50 Bol Bachchan

10:15 X-Men Origins

14:00 Masterpiece 17:00 12 Disaster

19:50 Vijaypath

22:20 Tezaab



Ayurveda vs COVID-19

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

s the field of alternative medicine gains popularity in the wake of COVID-19, the Agancient practice of Ayurveda with India as its land of origin can don the role of quiet vet 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.

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-uddhvansa 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

(Source: IANS)



12:00 Best Of Crime Patrol 19:00 Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur . Vighnaharta Ganesh 20:00 Isharon Isharon Mein 20:30 Patiala Babes

21:30 Tara From Satara 22:00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22:30 Crime Patrol Satark

23:30 Best Of Crime Patrol

21:00 Beyhadh 2

15:00 Choti Bahu



12:00 Teleshopping

13:00 Johnny Bray

14:30 Haddi Mera Buddy

20:00 Oggy And The ... 23:30 The Tom & Jerry Show

12:00 Chhota Bheem 12:30 Grizzy And The 13:30 Chhota Bheem 14:30 Grizzy And The

16:30 Grizzy And The 17:30 Chhota Bheem18:30 Chhota Bheem - Dholal pur to Kathmane 20:00 Chhota Bheem

22:00 Mr. Bean: The Animate

WILD

21:00 Grizzy And The

12:00 Deadly Game

13:00 Wild Families

14:00 World's Deadlie

16:00 Dangerous End

18:00 Wild Hunters

22:00 Wild Amazon

19:00 India's Lost Worlds

23:00 Dangerous Encoun

13:00 Adventure: Primal 14:00 Adventure: Snakes in .. 15:00 Science: Street Genius

16:00 Adventure: Primal .

17:00 Investigates: Airport Se-

curity 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

21:00 Adventure: Primal

20:30 Wildlife: Animal Fight Club

With Bear Grylls

23:00 Investigates: Banged up

NATIONAL

CHANNEL

Investigates: Lost Treas ures Of The Maya

GEOGRAPHIC

20:00 Survival Of The Fittes 21:00 Africa's Deadliest

15:00 Survival Of The Fittest

23:00 M.A.D.

Pavitra Rishta Kumkum Bhagya 17:00 Kumkum Bhagy 17:30 Kundali Bhagya 22:30 Yeh Hai Chahatei

nment

HISTORY

12:00 Forged In Fire 12:30 Pawn Stars

13:30 Storage Wars

16:00 Forged In Fire

17:00 Storage Wars

17:30 Shipping Wars

19:00 Car Jackers

19:30 Pawn Stars 20:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India

22:00 Pawn Stars

22:30 Storage Wars

15:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India

Forged In Fire

PLANET

12:30 Jewels Of The Natural

13:00 Animal Planet Exclusive

13:30 Living With Maneaters 15:00 Fierce Fighters 16:00 The Beauty Of Snakes

17:00 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life

19:00 Animal Planet Exclusive 20:00 Fierce Fighters

21:30 Jewels Of The Natural 22:00 Wildest Survival 23:00 Expedition Mungo

18:00 Into The Wild India

21:00 The Lion Kingdom

14:00 Food Tech

TVE

Entertainment-18:00 Guddan Tumse Na 18:30 Tujhse Hai Raabta



19:30 Dil Ye Ziddi Hai 20:00 Guddan Tumse Na 20:30 Tujhse Hai Raabta 21:00 Kumkum Bhagya 21:30 Kundali Bhagya

22:00 Ishq Subhan Allah 22:30 Manmohini 23:00 Guddan Tumse Na 12:00 Guddan Tumse Na 12:30 Kumkum Bhagya 13:00 Kundali Bhagya 13:30 Tujhse Hai Raabta

14:00 Guddan Tumse Na14:30 Dil Ye Ziddi Hai 12:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai 13:30 Kasautii Zindagii 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 Phoo 18:00 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai

18:30 Sanjivani 19:00 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 19:30 Dadi Amma.. Dadi ... 20:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay 20:30 Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka! 21:00 Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum 21:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Ha

22:00 Yeh Rishtey Hain Pyaar Ke

07:00 Breakfast Live 08:00 Live at 8 09:00 Good morning Assan

Afternoon Prime

10:00 Assamese news 11:30 Kotha Barta (R)

17:30 Guwahati Bisesh

18:00 Guwahati Live 18:30 Breaking @ 6:30 19:00 Assamesse Prime 20:00 Discussion Show 21:00 Super Prime Time 22:00 Live at 10 22:30 Noixo Guwahati

raing

1830 Xopunor Aasutia Band

23:00 Noixo Batori

1700 Xopun

1730 Barala Kai

2200 Borola Kai

2000 Jonaki Kareng

Xopun Oi Khapla Bah Amaraw

18:00 Guwahati Live

12:00 Mid Day Live

12:00 Happu Ki Ultan Paltan 13:30 Santoshi Maa Sunaye. 14:00 Ek Mahanayak Dr. B. R. 14:30 Gudiya Hamari Sabhi ... 15:00 Laal Ishq 19:00 Santoshi Maa Sunaye.

19:30 Happu Ki Ultan Paltan 20:00 Gudiya Hamari Sabhi ... 20:30 Ek Mahanayak Dr. B. R. 21:00 Santoshi Maa Sunaye. 21:30 Kahat Hanuman Jai 22:00 Happu Ki Ultan Paltan 22:30 Bhabi Ji Ghar Par Hain

colors 12:30 Naati Pinky Ki Lambi

Vidya Bigg Boss - Weekend

16:30 Naati Pinky Ki Lambi Love

19:00 Vidya 19:30 Choti Sarrdaarni 20:00 Shakti Astitva Ke

07:45 Pratham Xongbac 14:00 Biyolir Headline

16:30 Superfast Prime Time 100

17:02 DD Kisan TV Serial in Hindi 17:30 Krishi Darshan

08:30 Devotional Music 08:45 Swachh Bharat Bator

08.50 Batori 15:00 Vigyan Prasar 15:30 Classical Music

16:30 Chiphung 17:00 Nimishote Bator

16:00 Abelir Batori

16:05 Akholor Jut

18:00 Dharabahik

16:00 Abelir Khabar

17:00 City18 18:00 Prime Time18 19:00 Dintur Shironam

20:00 Porjyobekhyon

21:30 Aparadh Nama 22:00 North East Scar

22:30 Noixo Xironam

Regional

20:30 Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush 21:00 Shubharamabh 21:30 Naati Pinky Ki Lambi ...

Apes 13:00 Toy Story 3

19:35 The Jungle Book

IP Man 2

23:15 Unstopp

22:50 Kal Ke Baad

12:10 The Meg 13:55 Mission: Impossible -12:10 Old School 13:30 Troy 16:10 Zambezia Fallout 16:15 Kung Fu Panda 2 17:25 Music and Lyrics 19:35 Rush Hour 3

21:00 Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindel 23:15 The Terminal M*VIES 11:15 Rise of the Planet of the



HBO 23:15 TheTerminal



16:40 Lakshmi Bomb

23:30 Double Taddkaa

11:45 De Dana Dar 15:10 The Jungle Book 17:30 Bade Miyan Chote Miyan



18:30 Shiva The Super Hero 3 23:30 Shiva The Super Hero

11:30 Men in Blue Victorious16:30 Arena-E Sports 17:00 Turf Wars

17:30 Masters of Oz 18:00 Men in Blue Victorious 19:00 Memorable Maste 19:30 The Immortals

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 Maste

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 vou 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.

sistencies 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

**** Your nature has been challenged by scandals and incon-

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) $\star\star$ 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

night away

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

receptive to the inevitable change in the air and all will be well. Tonight: Play the SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

them. Identifying real values can be something of a challenge. Be

***** Childhood memories as well as past line issues can the present. Honor the past and learn from it, but do not let it haunt the present. Honor the past and learn from it, but do not let it haunt the present hegins 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

relative needs help. Tonight: Date night. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) $\star\star\star$ 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

triangles or associations with those who have addictive tendencies. An elderly

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."



R THE PHANTOM By Lee Falk IS THE PYTHON REALLY DOWN THERE? CAGED IN JUNGLE COVER? GUARDED RY WAMBESILAND'S BEST FIGHTERS?

BLONDIE HUH? NO WE ADDED THEM ADD HALFTIME HOT WINGS AND HOW DID SUPER BOWL SALES FOOTBALL FUDGE CAKE THAT PIGSKIN TO OUR NEW RECORD! POPPERS TOUCHDOWN AND 3 MARRIAGE THIS YEAR? TACO PLATTER FUMBLE! GIMME 2! PROPOSALS!





13:50 Beta

12·10 Himma

20:30 Kesari

17:00 Mohan Vadani

19:45 Phir Hera Pheri 22:45 Drunken Maste

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

23:30 Hero ISL HLs

23:00 Ind vs Aus

11:00 ICC Cricket World Cup

21:00 Jouney of Vivo IPL 22:00 Football United Special 23:00 Ind vs Aus 23:30 Football United Special

SONY TEN 1 12:00 The Olympics 12:30 WWE BlockBusters

15:30 The Olympics16:00 WWE Smack Down 18:00 WWE BlockBusters

14:30 Best of UCL 14:30 Best of UCL 15:00 Impact Wres 17:00 Best of UCL 17:30 Football Grea 18:00 NBA HLs 19:00 UFC 200

20:00 March of the Champion 20:30 Football Greate 21:00 City's March.... 21:30 Besto f UEFA Champions 22:00 UFC 200 23:00 City's March.

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6879

24 Essential point

26 A doll or a kite

29 Misfortunes (4)

32 Change from a

state (4)

33 Ladle (5)

34 Capital of

frozen state to

a liquid or soft

27 Block up (4)

Across Papeete and thereabouts Seaport on W

Kyushu (8) Oak seeds 10 Escapes from

danger (5) 13 German count 14 Enemies (4) 15 Scheme (4)

16 Charged atom 17 Tofu base (4)

19 Useless (4) goddess of wisdom (9)

21 Indian

23 A Central American people (4)

Sinew (6)

Croatia (6) 21 Speak (3) 35 Strong black 22 Head covering coffee (8) 36 Bony (6) 23 Ethics (6) 25 Specialized

Smell (5) Concur or

correspond (5) Inquires (4)

U.N. agency (3) 28 Identity tag (5) 30 Slack (5)

31 Eating utensil Crown (5) (5)Animal foot (4)

32 Authentic (4) 33 Progenitor (4)

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6879

Sails

collectively (6)

11 Auction item (3)

12 Attempt (5)

13 Scottish city

15 Monetary unit

16 Latin trio (3)

spinach (6)

18 Mountain

20 Loft (5)

of Myanmar (3)

31 Spoon, 32 True, 33 Sire. 20 Attic, 21 Say, 22 Wig, 23 Morals, 25 Ilo, 28 Label, 30 Loose Canvas, 11 Lot, 12 Essay, 13 Glasgow, 15 Pya, 16 lii, 18 Orache, Down: 1 Sniff, 2 Agree, 3 Asks, 4 Tiara, 5 Hoof, 6 Tendon, 9

35 Expresso, 36 Osteal. 24 Gist, 26 Toy, 27 Clog, 29 Ills, 32 Thaw, 33 Scoop, 34 Zagreb, Foes, 15 Plan, 16 Ion, 17 Soya, 19 Vain, 21 Saraswati, 23 Maya, Across: 4 Tahiti, 7 Nagasaki, 8 Acorns, 10 Flees, 13 Graf, 14

HEALTH CAPSULES® by Bron Smith

WHY DO I FORGET WHY I WALKED INTO ANOTHER _ROOM? WHAT AM 1 DOING HERE? THIS PHENOMENON IS CALLED AN "EVENT

COMPARTMENTALIZES EVENTS AND TIES THEM TO A SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENT (OFTEN A ROOM), THEN FILES THEM. WHEN YOU WALK INTO ANOTHER ROOM, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO "CHANGE FILES" AND REMEMBER WHY YOU

HAS SHOWN THAT THE BRAIN

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 mo

RONDO BAILS LIGAND

REVIEW Never part without _____ to think of during your absence. It may be that you will not meet again in life. – Jean Paul Richter (6,5)

SOLUTION to think of during your absence. It may be that you will not meet again in life. – Jean Jusmer: Never part without loving words

Nords: Donor, basil, lading, viewer.



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

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, Debdas 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 prsent 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 COV-ID-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 day 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

Hospital were quarantined to-

Movement of people from Red to

Green Zone creates tension

antined

people from people could arrive this place people are – Abdul Mutal-

by a hiring a bus at Rs 40,000. ib, Jamal Uddin, Akbar Ali, It was also questioned that Sikandar Ali, Md Maijiudon what ground the Dhubri din, Md. Jahangeer Alam, district administration has Muiibur Rahman, Rustam given the permission to this Ali, Mafidul Mamin, Giasuddin, Halimuddin, Jafar Ali, 22-member team of Zamaa-Abdul Jabbar, Tahir Ali, Nur tis to move from a 'Red Muhammad, Abdul Jabbar, Zone' to a 'Green Zone' area Kamaluddin Seikh, Rsidul like Sonitpur district. The recovered people after Islam, Nabi Hussain, Mubarak Ali, Zahed Ali and the preliminary health checkup in Tezpur Kanaklata Civil

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 lock-

down.

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 of 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 transporta-

tion 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," men-

tioned 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.



Police personnel being felicitated for their exemplary duty during the ongoing lockdown period at Narayanpur police station,

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.

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 marketeer 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 Bakaliaghat on Monday.

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, Muttock Yuva Chatra Sanmilan, 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 ar-

eas.

"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 sanitization, 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 KAAC 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.

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.

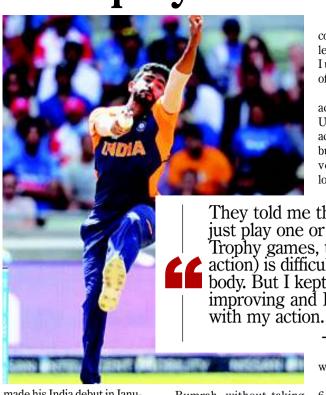
'Many thought I would be last person to play for India'

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



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

Bumrah, without taking names, also revealed the in-

spiration behind his action.

"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

- 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

Holding finds no logic in legalising ball-tampering

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

"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

"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

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.

would be allowed to resume training on May 4. Teams could start to train

He said individual athletes

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

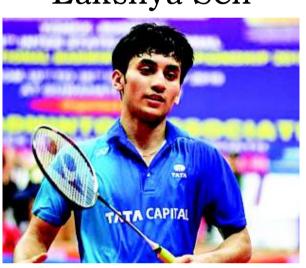
KARACHI, April 27: Temperamental Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal was on Monday banned for three years by the PCB for failing to report corrupt approaches ahead of the country's premier T20 league this year.

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 threeyear ban from all cricket by Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel Mr Justice (retired) Fazale-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

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

"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 Uttarakhand 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 goldmedallist 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 tourna-

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

NY Guv 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

Not regrets about IPL snub: Vihari

NEW DELHI. April 27: Happy to be a Test specialist, India batsman Hanuma Vihari savs being snubbed by IPL franchises this season has neither made him sad nor affected his belief that he is good enough for the shorter formats as well.

"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 fool-

proof, then that means you

are putting everyone in that

play cricket under those cir-

cumstances? It's either safe

or it's not. No guessing,

please," one of the most re-

spected voices in world

"Why would you want to

environment in jeopardy?

Vihari was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 2 crore in the 2019 IPL but he didn't find any takers this season, which has been indefinitely suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I realised that when things

are not in your control, you can't do much about it. No regrets. I am not gutted about IPL (snub)," Vihari said during an Instagram chat on the show 'Homerun with AV'. "My focus always was on

Tests from an early age and I am happy I could achieve whatever I did," added Vihari, who kept his base price at Rs 50 lakh this season. Vihari said he is in awe of

captain Virat Kohli's work ethic and has learnt a lot by watching his preparation before matches. "The best part of Kohli's

game is his preparation. I nave learnt that from him. His work ethic is also amazing," he said.

A regular in India's squad



for overseas Tests. Vihari said he always tries to put a price on his wicket so that he is not left out of the team. "I am ready to do anything

for my team. I always tried to score runs, dig deep and play long innings whenever I play abroad. I always try to do my best so that team can't drop me," said the 26-yearold, who scored a gritty 55 in the second Test in New Zealand earlier this year.

Successful as a Test specialist, Vihari believes he also has the ability to do well in other formats.

"See I can't change what people think about you. I have to score runs consistently and those are the thoughts that come to my mind. "I believe I have the abili-

ty to play all formats. So that's good enough for me, this knowledge. Once I get right the opportunity, I can do it." – PTI

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-



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

১ মে' সংখ্যাৰ বিশেষ আকৰ্ষণ জাতিৰ সেৱাত উছৰ্গিত ৬৫ বছৰ

এই সংখ্যাত আছে–

লকডাউনৰ কু-প্ৰভাৱ ঃ ৰাজ্যৰ কৃষকৰ পাচলি গেলিছে পথাৰত। ৰাজ্যখনৰ দুটা মাত্ৰ শীতলীকৰণ ভঁৰালেৰে শন্যত গদা ঘৰাই আছে বিয়াগোম কৃষি বিভাগে। —অসম বাণীৰ প্ৰতিবেদন।

ক'ভিড-১৯ ভাইৰাছৰ সংক্ৰমণৰ ফলত সৃষ্টি হোৱা আতংকত বিপৰ্যস্ত ৰাজ্যৰ অৰ্থনীতি। কিদৰে ইয়াৰ পুনৰুদ্ধাৰ সম্ভৱ ? সেই সম্পৰ্কীয় সমীক্ষণত মত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে হৰেন্দ্ৰ নাথ দাস, হিমাংশু শেখৰ দাস, চন্দ্ৰকান্ত দাস, ডঃ নিৰ্মল কুমাৰ চৌধুৰী, উদয়াদিত্য ভৰালী, ডঃ সত্যকাম বৰঠাকুৰ, বিদ্যানন্দ বৰকাকতি, ডঃ চন্দন কুমাৰ শৰ্মা, উদ্ধৱ ভৰালী, নেকিবুৰ জামান প্ৰমুখ্যে বহুজনে।

জ্যেষ্ঠ সাংবাদিক হাইদৰ হুছেইনৰ কলমত সাম্প্ৰতিক পৰিস্থিতিৰ বৰ্তমান আৰু ভৱিষ্যৎ।

দিলীপ চন্দনৰ সম্পাদকীয় কলমৰ ভাবনা।

ৰাজধানী মেইলত দুঃসময়ত অহা আমোদ যোগাব পৰা

• বিশিষ্ট গদ্যশিল্পী দীনেশ চন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামীৰ 'অন্য এক দৃষ্টিকোণৰ পৰা'ত 'যান্ত্ৰিক সূচলতা' আৰু মদন শৰ্মাৰ 'সমসাময়িক'ত ধর্মান্ধতা, অন্ধবিশ্বাস আদি সম্পর্কত লেখা।

নাওবৈচা সমষ্টিৰ বিধায়ক মামুন ইমদাদুল হক চৌধুৰীৰ বস্তুনিষ্ঠ লেখা 'অহংকাৰেই কাল হ'ল কংগ্ৰেছৰ'। বন্দী মানুহ, মুক্ত প্রকৃতি।

বিশিষ্ট লেখক অনন্ত কলিতাৰ বিশ্বায়নে শৈশৱ কাঢ়ি নিয়াৰ

লকডাউন, প্ৰব্ৰজিত শ্ৰমিক আৰু 'বেইল আউট'।

জনপ্ৰিয় শিতান 'মুকলি চ'ৰা'ত সমসাময়িক বিষয়ৰ বহুকেইটা

গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ লেখা। দেশ-বিদেশৰ বা-বাতৰি, ক্রীড়া-সংস্কৃতি-কলা জগতৰ খবৰ,

বিজ্ঞান-অর্থনীতিৰ ইটো-সিটোৰে সমৃদ্ধ। আইদেউসকলৰ বাবে বিশেষ কেইপৃষ্ঠাৰ আকৰ্ষণ আছেই।

লগতে লিখিছে— জুনু বৰা, ডঃ ধৰ্মকান্ত কুম্ভকাৰ, ৰঞ্জিত হাজৰিকা, জিতেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ চৌধুৰী, ডাঃ নীলাক্ষি চলিহা গগৈ, ডঃ মহানন্দ পাঠক, উৎপল কুমাৰ ভাগৱতী, ডঃ হৰিচৰণ দাস, অনন্ত নাৰায়ণ বৰঠাকুৰ, অৰুণলোচন দাস, কুমুদ তালুকদাৰ, কমল কুমাৰ ভাগৱতী, দীপাংকৰ কৌশিক, আলতাপ হুছেইন আহমেদ, সুদক্ষিণা ভূঞা, প্ৰাঞ্জল ৰাজগুৰু, ডাঃ বিজিতা চুতীয়া আদিয়ে।

Ashwin recalls IPL reality check

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

SU DO KU

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. 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.

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 ES-PNCricinfo, 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



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 '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-

"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

al Challengers Bangalore in

Bengaluru where Robin

Uthappa and Mark Boucher

took him to the cleaners.

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.

Tamil Nadu tweaker 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

It felt like a hard slap," the

Fleming "didn't talk to him" was like a slap in the face like Printed and published by Ganesh Ch. Das on behalf of Assam Tribune Pvt. Ltd. at the Tribune Press, Tribune Buildings, P.O.- Assam Tribune, M.R.D. Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003. Tel. 0361-2661360, 0361-2661360, 0361-2668807 (News Desk), FAX 0361-2666396. E-mail: