

p2 US COVID-19 deaths top 70,000, cases cross 1.2 mn

p5 171 doctors providing online consultation in State

p11 Concern over coal mining in Dehing Patkai

NEWS Capsule

New COVID-19 case

GUWAHATI, May 6: Another person from Cachar district tested positive for COVID-19 today, taking the total active cases in Assam to 10. The total number of COVID-19 patients in the State now stands at 45. Thirty-four COVID-19 patients have been discharged till date and one died of the disease so far, tweeted health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. - Staff Reporter

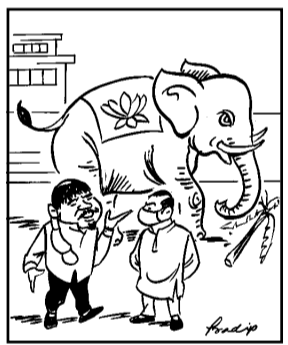
Grace period

GUWAHATI, May 6: The Assam government has allowed an additional grace period of 30 days in addition to the present 30-day grace period as per ATPPF & PF and DLI Fund Scheme Act for deposit of PF contribution from the date of its collection from the wages for the months of March, April and May. - Staff Reporter

COVID-19 lab

GUWAHATI, May 6: The Indian Council of Medical Research has recognised the Assam Medical College and Hospital at Dibrugarh as an accredited laboratory for testing COVID-19. With this latest accreditation, the total number of such labs in the State has now gone up to seven. - Staff Reporter

JOCOSERIOUS



Our elephant has been vaccinated.

» SEE PAGE 6



Passengers at the Afala ferry ghat in Majuli after relaxation of lockdown norms on Wednesday. - UB Photos

State govt to woo firms moving out from China

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: With companies from countries like the US, Japan and South Korea reportedly contemplating to shift their production base from China, Assam Government is trying to cash in on the opportunity by offering them attractive offers including land.

As part of its effort to woo them, the State Government has already vouched for setting up of a Japanese Industrial Township to attract investment from Japanese industries.

Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary while talking to mediapersons also said that the government is ready to offer land for setting up of such industries.

"It is going around that

many American, Japanese and Korean companies are contemplating to shift their production facilities from China to India. To woo these companies, we have already taken up the matter with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Invest India, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), US-India Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce to facilitate and advise those companies to set up their production facilities in Assam as the State has strategic locational advantage, vast natural resources, besides robust industrial infrastructure and reliable connectivity etc," Patowary said.

» SEE PAGE 6

Public transport may resume soon: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, May 6:

Public transport services may resume operations soon and the government is formulating guidelines for safe usage adhering to social distancing norms to check the spread of coronavirus, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

"Public transport is likely to resume soon... Guidelines will be there," Road Transport, Highways Minister Gadkari said while addressing members of Bus and Car Operators Confederation of India through video conference.

He said opening of transport and highways will go a long way in instilling confidence among the public and cautioned towards maintaining social distance and adopting all safety measures like hand wash, sanitizing, face masks, etc while operating buses and cars. - PTI

CM directs proper screening of people entering State

GUWAHATI, May 6: Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday directed the Kokrajhar and Dhubri district administrations to ensure proper screening of people entering the State through Srirampur and Chagolia-Boxirhat gates along the border with West Bengal to check the spread of COVID-19.

The Chief Minister visited a screening camp adjacent to Srirampur gate at Gossaigaon Sub-Division in Kokrajhar to review the measures taken to screen the movement of people from across the inter-state boundary.

"The civil and police administration should jointly keep a tab on every entry point of districts to ensure that nobody can enter Assam without going through COVID-19 screening protocols", he said.

Vigilance stepped-up at Srirampur and Chagolia-Boxirhat gates along the border with West Bengal

The Chief Minister also asked the police to keep a strict surveillance on some reported vulnerable points to thwart any design of unauthorised movement from the neighbouring state.

Dhubri Deputy Commissioner Anantlal Gyani apprised the Chief Minister about the existence of 15 such vulnerable points where CRPF, police personnel and village defence parties have

been deployed for round the clock surveillance.

The district administration has set up a quarantine centre at an area adjacent to Chagolia Gate with all facilities to quarantine around one thousand people.

Kokrajhar Deputy Commissioner Partha Pratim Mazumdar apprised Sonowal that the district administration has ensured constant monitoring along the Sonkosh river to prevent people from sneaking into the State by swimming across the river.

He also said that adequate arrangements have been made to screen the health status of drivers, handymen and others coming to the State through Srirampur Gate and maintained that strict instruction has been given to ensure that nobody can enter the State without going through mandatory screening. - PTI

Quarantine centre at Tezpur varsity campus opposed

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, May 6: The Tezpur University fraternity has expressed strong resentment over Sonitpur district administration's move to requisition the varsity campus for facilitating it as an institutional quarantine centre for the people stranded outside the State who are coming back to their native place. In order to contain the

spread of COVID-19 as per State health department's directions, the district administration has set up a zonal screening venue at Tezpur Central University, Napaam to screen all people belonging to Udalguri, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts who will be returning from outside the State.

» SEE PAGE 6

| COVID-19 STATUS | |
|------------------|-----------|
| WORLD | |
| Confirmed cases | 3,691,683 |
| Cured/Discharged | 1,210,440 |
| Death | 258,256 |
| INDIA | |
| Confirmed cases | 49,391 |
| Cured/Discharged | 14,182 |
| Death | 1,694 |
| ASSAM | |
| Confirmed cases | 44 |
| Cured/Discharged | 34 |
| Death | 1 |

Data as on Wednesday

State tea industry incurs Rs 600-cr loss



STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: The State tea industry has incurred a loss of nearly Rs 600 crore during the lockdown, with the decline in production estimated at 32 million kilograms.

In view of prevailing situation, the State government has already announced the waiver of the minimum fixed charge of supply of natural gas to the tea gardens which were closed during the lockdown period. This was informed by Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary talking to the media here today.

"Tea industry is the biggest industry in the State and being seasonal, the lockdown coincided with start of the new season. The tea industry has been hit hard as their major production period has been affected. The tea production in India during 2019

was 1,389.70 million kg. Tea production in Assam in 2019 was 715.49 million kg, i.e., 51.51 per cent of the total tea production in India," the minister said.

He also informed that tea auction has restarted in Guwahati and all tea warehouses have also been opened.

Patowary further stated that all the 15 gardens and factories of Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL) have been allowed to function in full capacity and that the State government has also ensured the payment of full wages to all 16,720 workers and employees of ATCL during the lockdown period.

The industries in Assam contribute 39 per cent to the State GDP and provide direct employment to approximately four lakh people and indirect employment to around 20 lakh people.

» SEE PAGE 6

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

ঘৰৰ বাহিৰলৈ নোলাব
বাৰে বাৰে হাত ধোৱক
মাস্কৰ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰক

সুৰক্ষিত থাকক, স্বাস্থ্যবান থাকক।

ঘড়ী

SITUATION VACANT

Required Businessman, VRS, Housewife work from home...

IN MEMORIAM



Remembrance with fond memories. Gayatri Arup, Kaveri Vedanta, Tribeni Pranab, Shashank Sanjogita, Atreji, Pranay

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Booking going on for 2/3 BHK near Guwahati Doordarshan @ Rs. 3800/- sq.ft. Contact: 8486407371, 9706526580.

Booking going on for 3 BHK at Ganeshguri near Dispur Poly Clinic @ Rs. 59 lakh. Contact: 8486407371.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT IHR IS GOING TO DESTROY MEDICAL RECORDS RELATED TO INDOOR PATIENTS PRIOR TO MARCH 2010. PERSON REQUIRING ANY INFORMATION OF INDOOR TREATMENT, OF ABOVE MENTIONED PERIOD, MAY CONTACT MRD WITHIN 15 DAYS OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

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US nCoV deaths top 70,000, cases cross 1.2 mn

WASHINGTON, May 6: The number of COVID-19 cases in the United States reached 1,201,337 as of 6 p.m. (2200 GMT) Tuesday, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.

The United States topped 70,000, representing over a quarter of all the virus deaths reported worldwide, as Americans gave negative marks for the federal government's handling of the outbreak.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, earned 74 per cent of positive rating and won widespread bipartisan consent, showed the poll.

businesses despite such measures are being taken in a phased manner in more and more states across the country.

Fauci debunks theory coronavirus originated in Chinese lab



WASHINGTON, May 6: Top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci said that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated.

That's why I don't get what they're talking about (and) why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument," he said.

According to the National Geographic report, Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country

does not blunt the infection rate by the summer. The United States needs to have not only an adequate supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them, Fauci said.

Antonio Bolivar, best known for Embrace of the Serpent, dies aged 72

LOS ANGELES, May 6: Actor Antonio Bolivar, who starred in Oscar-nominated feature Embrace of the Serpent, has died of coronavirus. He was 72.

According to a report in The City Paper Bogota, Bolivar was admitted to a hospital in Leticia, Colombia, last week with COVID-19 symptoms and passed away on May 1.

He was also a translator of indigenous languages, including Tikuna and Cubeo, which are spoken among the inhabitants of the Orinoco and Amazon region. Bolivar recently starred Netflix 2019 miniseries Green Frontier, which was also directed by Guerra. - PTI

China asks Pompeo to show 'enormous evidence'

COVID-19 originating from Wuhan lab

BEIJING, May 6: China on Wednesday dared US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to show the "enormous evidence" he has to prove that the novel coronavirus originated from a lab in Wuhan and asserted that the matter should be handled by scientists instead of politicians out of their domestic political compulsions in an election year.

"He (Pompeo) said 'enormous evidence'. Then show us," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here.

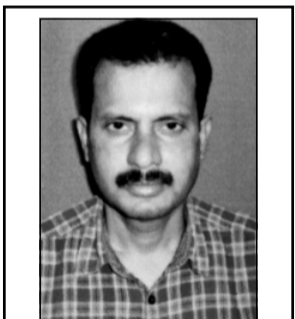
First Hindu youth joins Pakistan Air Force!

ISLAMABAD, May 6: In a first, a Pakistani Hindu youth has become the first person from the minority community to join the Pakistan Air Force.

Thar rocked again... Congratulations #RahulDev who hails from very remote village of Tharparkar has been selected as GD Pilot in #PAF.

said the induction showed that the PAF was breaking barriers. Last year, Kainat Junaid became the first woman from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province to have been selected for fighter pilot training, Junaid not only secured the top position in PAF's test for General Duty Pilot, but also became Pakistan's first female fighter pilot to serve the country alongside her father.

ACHIEVEMENT

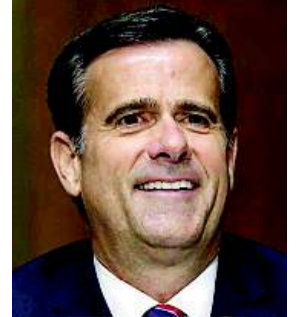


Rajib Baruah Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, A.D.P. College, Nagaon has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by Dibrugarh University for his thesis entitled 'Empirical Realities of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and Mid Day Meal Scheme in Nagaon and Morigaon Districts, Assam: A Statistical Investigation'. He has conducted his research under Dr. Sarat Chandra Kakaty, Professor, Department of Statistics, Dibrugarh University. He is the son of Mr. Chenirram Baruah and Mrs. Purabi Baruah, Pathari Kahali Gaon, Nagaon and Husband of Pinky Baruah, Assistant Professor in Statistics, Nowgong College.



Mr. Chandra Kant Pawe, Assistant Professor of Geography Department, Pragjyotish College, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Geography by Gauhati University for his thesis entitled 'Landscape Changes, Urban Sprawl and its impact on forest cover in the Guwahati Metropolitan Area'. He carried out his research work under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Anup Saikia of Geography Department, Gauhati University. He is the elder son of Padma Kanta Pawe and Sunmai Pawe of Nakari, North Lakhimpur and husband of Mrs. Lekha Borah. Achieve/P/SP000030/1

Trump's top spy pick on intel strategy



WASHINGTON, May 6: Republican John Ratcliffe, President Donald Trump's pick to be the nation's top intelligence official, was nothing if not consistent as he told lawmakers a dozen or so times that he wouldn't allow politics to colour information he took to the president.

agencies, without a single Senate-confirmed leader as the nation faces the COVID-19 pandemic, threats from Iran and North Korea, Russian disinformation campaigns to meddle in the US elections, and rising competition from China.

President strongly disagreed with it? "Of course," Ratcliffe replied. Even if it put your job in jeopardy? "Of course."

Two-month-old baby among 17 new cases in Nepal

KATHMANDU, May 6: A two-month-old baby was among 17 new COVID-19 cases reported in Nepal, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

As many as 14,096 coronavirus tests have been conducted so far in Nepal. Seventeen people, aged between two months and 66 years, from Birgunj city in Parsa district have been tested positive for the coronavirus, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country to 99, health ministry officials said.

The officials said three patients who were cured of the viral infection have been readmitted to the isolation facilities after they were tested positive for the virus in the follow-up tests.

A 58-year-old man from Kathmandu who was discharged on April 23 and a 19-year-old youth from Rautahat and a 44-year-old man from Parsa who were discharged on April 26 have been tested positive for the coronavirus again, they said.

Meanwhile, six Indian nationals, who had come to Nepal after attending the Tablighi Jamaat gathering in Delhi in March and were tested COVID-19 positive, have been discharged from hospital after they were cured of the disease, the officials said.

They will be kept in isolation for a week to monitor their condition before being allowed to return to India, the health ministry said. - PTI

CORRIGENDUM TO E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. TMC/USFD/2020-21; DATED: 11-03-2020

DRM(W), Alipurduar Jn. NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Bengal govt identifies thousands of respiratory, influenza-like illness cases

KOLKATA, May 6: The West Bengal government has identified over 92,000 cases of influenza-like illness and 870 people with severe acute respiratory illness across the State, findings that serve as "early warning signals" in the fight against COVID-19, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

Banerjee said the results were the outcome of her government's extensive door-to-door surveillance over the last one month, covering over 5.5 crore households, and the exercise will continue "till the virus is defeated".

"Massive door-to-door surveillance has been ongoing since past one month to identify severe acute respiratory illness and influenza-like illness cases across West Bengal.

"During the period from April 7 to May 3, over 5.57 crore household visits have been conducted. 872 cases of persons with SARI and 91,515 cases of persons with ILI have been identified and given necessary health advice," she said in a Facebook post on Tuesday. The effort has been undertaken by 60,000 specially trained ASHA and health workers for the past four weeks, she said.

"The surveillance gives us early warning signals and is an important proactive step in fighting COVID-19," Banerjee, who also holds the health portfolio, said.

She said during the period, 375 people were admitted to different health facilities in the State, of which 62 tested positive for COVID-19 and are undergoing treatment.

Till Wednesday afternoon, West Bengal reported 72 COVID-19 deaths and the total number of cases rose to 1,456. - PTI



Magical Museum

The Mayong Central Museum and Emporium, Assam is renowned for its relics that propagated mysticism and sorcery. The museum contains numerous mythological manuscripts and ancient texts of Black Magic and Ayurveda.



**** /apnedeshkojano | contribution@apnedeshkojano.com
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Disabled woman rides 18 hours to bring son home amid lockdown

MUMBAI, May 6: A distress call from her 14-year-old son forced a disabled woman from Pune to travel 1,200 km to Amravati on a two-wheeler to bring him home amid the COVID-19 lockdown.

An accountant with a private firm, Sonu Khandare had no idea that the lockdown would force her to make the journey of a lifetime. On April 25, the 37-year-old disabled woman rode her scooter for 18 hours to bring her son home from a village in Maharashtra's Amravati district.

"My son Prateek had gone to my in-laws' place at a village in Anjangaon Surji tehsil on March 17 and was stuck there after the lockdown was announced on March 22," Khandare said.

The Khandare couple was initially not worried about the boy's wellbeing, but when the lockdown was extended further till May 4, they got restless. Khandare approached district authorities, applied for a travel pass online and even considered hiring a car for the journey, which would have cost her an exorbitant sum of Rs 8,000. After none of these options seemed viable, she personally went to the police commissioner's office to get special permission.

"When I was granted a travel pass for 48 hours on April 24, I just headed home, packed some food and water and left on my two-wheeler with-

out thinking twice," the 37-year-old said.

"I kept riding my two-wheeler even at night, with no light except the dim one coming from the headlight and to make things worse, I was stopped and questioned at every check-post along the way," she said.

Khandare made a pitstop at night at a petrol pump along the highway near Khamgaon, where she slept on the sidewalk under the watchful gaze of a CCTV camera.

"When I noticed the CCTV cameras near the petrol pump, I decided to rest there on the open ground, as I believed that if anything were to happen to me, it will be recorded," she said.

She made an early start on April 25 and reached her in-laws home in the afternoon. "I hardly spent a few hours there, as I kept thinking about getting back home safely, before my travel pass expired," said the mother of three.

She managed to reach her home in Pune, with limited stops, at around 11 pm on April 26, just an hour before her travel pass expired.

The trip took a toll on Khandare, who is pursuing her post-graduation in commerce in a bid to get a government job. However, knowing that her son was under the same roof during these unprecedented times, made the journey worth it, she said. - PTI

India, EU need to act together on COVID-19 impact: EU envoy

NEW DELHI, May 6: India and the European Union need to act together to overcome the impact of COVID-19 by fostering research in innovation and coming up with coordinated response to deal with the economic consequences of the crisis, EU's Ambassador to India Ugo Astuto said on Wednesday.

Addressing a webinar on the EU-India cooperation in the post COVID-19 international environment, Astuto said the EU and India have converging interests and shared values and need to together unleash their full potential.

"We can succeed in overcoming this crisis if we act in a coordinated manner. We have to act together to meet the impact of the virus. We have to foster re-

search in innovation and vaccines and we have to share best practices, we have to ensure that knowledge and expertise are invested and information is transparently shared," he said.

"We will need a coordinated response in the wake of the crisis and also to face economic consequences of the crisis. We are all in this together and we must together address the situation," Astuto added.

Speaking at the webinar, Fabian Zuleeg, chief executive of the Brussels-based think tank European Policy Centre, said there are a number of areas where the activities will not return to where they were after the COVID-19 crisis and global cooperation might come under pres-

sure and there could be more challenges for multilateralism.

Shada Islam, director of Europe and Geopolitics, Friends of Europe think tank, said the coronavirus crisis has shown vulnerability of the global health system.

"In the post COVID-19 world, we need to build a massive health system. We need to work together for a vaccine and this crisis has shown the world the importance of migrants and health workers," Islam said.

Harsh V Pant, director, Studies and Head, Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation, said the crisis has exposed the vulnerability of the global order and taught India to be self-reliant. - PTI

COVID-19 infects 548 docs, nurses, paramedics across India

NEW DELHI, May 6: Coronavirus has infected around 548 doctors, nurses and paramedics across the country so far, according to data maintained by the Centre, official sources said on Wednesday.

The figure does not include field workers, ward boys, sanitation workers, security guards, lab attendants, peons, laundry and kitchen staff among others.

According to an official source, it has not been ascertained from where these doctors, nurses and paramedic staff have acquired the infection.

The figure includes doctors, nurses and paramedics from Centre-run and State government-run facilities across States and Union Territories.

"No epidemiological investigation of the cases were done. So there is no clear segregation on how many contracted the disease at workplace and how many got it from the community," the official source said. - PTI

IN LOVING MEMORY

Born: 01.02.1944 **Died:** 07.05.2013

Shri Jomin Tayeng, IAS [Retd]
Formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya and MLA, Dambuk Assembly Constituency.

Fondly remembered on seventh death anniversary.

Mrs. Gum Tayeng, MLA,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Mr. Makpel Tayeng, Mrs. Etel & Mr. Raju Tayeng,
Mrs. Yatel & Mr. Bolin Tayeng, Mrs. Mimum & Mr. Tokbom Lego,
Mrs. Jennifer & Mr. Abu Tayeng,
Linnyung, Ayang, Angul, Mingge, Lenong, Aman, Angki, Aseng,
Leni, Alina, Leyi, Mitom and Anya.

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অসম চৰকাৰ
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Assam Community Surveillance Programme

Government of Assam has taken a pro-active step for conducting Community Surveillance Programme at Village level across the state

- In view of the current Covid-19 outbreak and to further check its spread in the community, our health workers will visit your houses to identify minor flu like cases/respiratory infections.
- It's our earnest request to all to co-operate with our health workers and provide them with specific health details while they visit your homes.
- Let us make Assam Community Surveillance Programme successful & fight against COVID-19 together

To know more contact your ASHA/ANM/DC control room or call 104

NHM/19-20/02/21
NEYP/HH/472

WEATHER GUWAHATI
LOCAL FORECAST:
 Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 30°C & 21°C respectively on Thursday.
TEMPERATURE:
 Max 31.2° C
 Min 21.8° C



NOVEL CAMPAIGN: Artists make use of their brush to convey a relevant message against coronavirus to the masses, as seen in Guwahati on Wednesday. – UB Photos

Guv extends Buddha Purnima greetings

GUWAHATI, May 6: Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi has wished the people, particularly Buddhists, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

In a message, Prof Mukhi extended his warm greetings to all sections of people, especially those belonging to Buddhist community, and said Lord Buddha was one of the greatest spiritual religious teachers of the world and his teachings are universal and ever relevant. He urged all to avoid community worship and pray in their homes for a healthy tomorrow. – Staff Reporter

Article contest

GUWAHATI, May 6: The Dept of Tourism Management, Pragjyotish College is holding an online article contest for tourism students on the topic 'Five Potential Strategies for Strengthening the Tourism Industry Post COVID-19'. Participants can send their writings within 1,500 in English or Assamese to tourismmanagement@pragjyotishcollege.ac.in before May 30. – Staff Reporter

171 doctors providing online consultation in State

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 6: As many as 171 State doctors have volunteered to join the long-distance patient-doctor communication platform eSanjeevaniOPD – India's largest public sector teleconsultation service.

While Assam was slow to come on board the national teleconsultation service, around 140 patients from various places of the State were offered online consultation through video conference since its launch three days back.

"It took some time because we had to provide the training to the doctors. The training is also conducted online by the Mohali-based Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a research and development organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology," Additional Director of Medical Education Dr MK Choudhury told *The Assam Tribune*.

Even today, around 40 patients were provided the free consultation. The doctors operate from rooms provided in the medical colleges.

"The services are provided between 10 am to 2 pm. Most of the doctors remain online, whether at the institutions or through laptops," Dr Choudhury said.

Even though the State has registered specialists from different departments, currently on consultation general medicine is being provided as per directions of the Central government. The specialists' consultation will take some time.

Nationwide, over 600 doctors from 13 states have been trained through video conferences to use the portal, and so far 2,953 patients have been given online consultation through the platform rolled out on April 13. The majority of states on eSanjeevaniOPD portal are currently only providing general consultations.

The eSanjeevaniOPD can be accessed smoothly by anyone with a computer with internet connection. A patient has to register on the portal, generate a token, wait for the turn and soon he or she gets connected to a doctor. A patient can upload health records and is sent an ePrescription at the end of the session. The optimal use is not possible through a smartphone, but C-DAC is planning to launch a mobile phone application soon.

The flow of patients in the State hospitals, particularly in OPDs, has dropped by more than half during the lockdown. In a bid to discourage people from visiting hospitals – where the chances of coronavirus contraction is high, the hospitals have also deferred the elective surgeries.

Ferry services to resume today

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: The Inland Water Transport (IWT) Department will resume passenger ferry services between Guwahati-North Guwahati, Guwahati-Madhyamkhanda, Rajadwar-Guwahati and Guwahati-Kuruwa from Thursday.

In this connection, Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary has directed the officials concerned to follow all the COVID-19-related regulations like social distancing, sanitization measures, etc., at the terminals (*ghats*) and vessels during the operation in the ferry services.

Ex-Kalakshetra secretary ill

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: Gautam Sarma, former Secretary of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, has been critically ill and facing great financial hardships. Sarma, who had made substantial contribution in building up the Kalakshetra as an ideal and robust organisation, needs public empathy and financial help from the Government of Assam.

Stating this, a joint statement by senior journalist DN Chakravarty, former parliamentarian Arun Sharma, actor Pranjal Saikia and social activist Ranajit Sutradhar urged the State government to arrange for Sarma's proper treatment at the earliest.

'No vaccine yet, so social distancing only option'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi while taking stock of the COVID-19 situation in the State, advised the health department to effectively implement 'contact tracing' to arrest the rise of novel coronavirus infection in Assam.

Reviewing the mitigation measures adopted and led by the health and family welfare department in close coordination with other line departments at Raj Bhavan here today, the Governor said with the detection of two more positive cases, – one each in Goalpara and Kokrajhar districts – concerted efforts should be made to aggressively implement contact tracing to arrest the chain of transmission.

Prof Mukhi said since the State was allowed to ease restrictions from May 5 and because of an anticipated further relaxation in days to come to strengthen its sluggish economy, an asymptomatic positive person may spread the infection to several others before he or she is detected as COVID positive. "So, we need to aggressively implement contact tracing to halt further progression of the dreaded virus and break the chain of transmission," he said.

Prof Mukhi asked the Chief Secretary, the Director General of Police, the Principal Secretary

Health and Family Welfare and other senior officers of different line departments to sustain their series of good work in the next few months to keep the virus at bay. He also maintained that the situation in Assam in the next 14 days or so would be very crucial in the face of eased restrictions. At such a time, surveillance by the government would be of paramount importance. "Our response of mitigation adopted during the lockdown period will have to be replicated and actively exercised during the present times also to track every potential infection and its likely outbreak," the Governor added.

Governor Mukhi reviews COVID-19 scenario

He also said in spite of the best efforts of the scientific community across the globe, since no vaccination has been developed as of now, social distancing remains the one and only protective tool to keep the virus away. He emphasised the need to enforce social distancing norms in letter and spirit.

During the meeting, the Governor also said that every department should follow the advisories set by the government for adding teeth to the administrative mechanism to win over the virus and save

humanity from the threat.

Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna gave a detailed report to the Governor about the COVID-19 situation in the State and about activities of different departments to mitigate the hardships being faced by the people. He also stated that 880 industries have started functioning following full social distancing protocol.

Principal Secretary H&FW Samir Sinha briefed the Governor on the treatment management of COVID-19 and the health infrastructure and safety equipment pressed into service for the frontline personnel engaged in treatment and other allied activities.

Principal Secretary Agriculture Rajesh Prasad said the department has taken steps to reach out to the farmers to mitigate their woes. He also apprised the Governor of another epidemic, the African swine fever, that has hit many districts of the State and of steps taken by the veterinary and animal husbandry department to deal with the situation.

DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta drew the Governor's attention to different activities carried out by Assam Police. Strict actions are being taken against lockdown violations. Video conferences with all the SPs are being conducted to ensure strict compliance with lockdown norms, he added.

IIT-G steps up e-learning activities

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati has stepped up activities of its online educational facilities.

"During the lockdown, the institute is continuing its online classes for all the theory courses, numbering more than 350, and aims to complete them by May 15. The annual progress seminars, synopsis and viva-voce examinations of PhD students are also being conducted on an online mode to continuously monitor their progress as well as ensure that

this unexpected lockdown does not delay their career growth," said an official of IIT-G.

He said the Electronics & Information and Communication Technology (E&ICT) Academy of IIT-G aims to enable the scientific community by organising online courses of both short and long duration, besides free three-months-long online summer internships, interactive sessions and webinars.

The existing e-classroom facilities at IIT-G's Centre for Educational Technology (CET) are being used for recording lectures on various subjects, besides holding stu-

dent-teacher interactions, and interactions with remote students through video conferencing.

"These lectures are later edited for redistribution. In addition, the CET has three recording studios for recording the video content of various projects. The video lab is divided into two parts. They are basically for pre-production and post-production. For the lectures, the CET has developed a new video conferencing room having modern features," said the official, adding that the institute is seeking to utilise all the online facilities available.

3-day blood donation camp at GMCH

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 6: The Junior Doctors Association of GMCH and Asom Thalassaemia Society are organising a blood donation camp on May 6, 7 and 8 at GMCH.

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown, there are people in need of regular medical

assistance. Especially the transfusion-dependent thalassaemias who require a regular supply of fresh blood transfusion every 15-30 days. The already burdened blood banks are running dry due to the shortage of voluntary donors coming in to make donations, the society said in a release, requesting interested persons to participate in the camp.

Pijush Hazarika, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the event as chief guest along with other dignitaries and urged the JDA to continue with the blood donation campaign in the future as well.

Dr Anup Kumar Barman, Director of Medical Education; Dr Ratna K Talukdar, Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, GMCH;

Dr Ramen Talukdar, Superintendent, GMCH; Dr Tirtha Chaliha, in-charge, Model Blood Bank and Dr Jina Bhattacharya, HoD, Dept of Haematology were among the distinguished guests present on the occasion.

Archana Borthakur, founder of NGO Dinabandhu also attended the function and promised to collaborate with the JDA, GMCH in their activities.



Be Aware of Dengue in advance

Steps to prevent Dengue

- Don't allow water to stagnate in and around your house in open containers, coconut shells, flower pot etc.
- Use mosquito net (LLIN) while sleeping, even during the day. Dengue Mosquitoes bite during the day.
- Wear long sleeved clothes to protect yourself from mosquito bites.
- As soon as dengue like symptoms occur consult a doctor. Don't take medicine without consulting a physician.



Symptoms of Dengue

- High Fever
- Headache
- Pain behind eyes
- Muscular pain
- Joint pain
- Redness of the eyes
- Rash on skin
- Bleeding from gums etc.



NHM/19-20/D/243

NEYP/NHM/474

Prevent Breeding of Mosquitoes inside and outside of your home, save yourself from Dengue

Treatment for Dengue is available in all Govt Hospitals and lab facilities for testing is also available free of cost

For more information contact your nearest Health Centre or dial 69133 47771/2/3



Forecast for North Eastern States: Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura...

Table with 3 columns: Location, Max (°C), Min (°C). Lists weather data for various cities like Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Silchar, etc.

Tripura Govt seeks report from BSF IG

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 6: Taking serious note of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the headquarters of the 138th Battalion of the BSF based at Jawaharnagar in Dhalai district of Tripura...

COVID-19 outbreak at BSF Bn HQ

subsequently discharged from hospital. The entire Dhalai district has been notified as a Red Zone following the outbreak and a three-km radius each in three localities has been marked as containment areas...

would be shifted from the GB Pant Hospital to the BSF Tripura Frontier Headquarters Hospital at Salbagan on the outskirts of the State capital as early as possible.

venience during their shifting from Ambassa to the GB Pant Hospital on Tuesday. The ambulance in which they were travelling, stopped at Mungiakami and then at Champaknagar...

Mizoram Govt employees take pay cut to fight COVID-19

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 6: Mizoram Government employees have decided to donate 5 to 10 per cent of their salaries to the State's exchequer to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

at least 75 associations were present in the meeting. Group A, B and C employees will forego 10 per cent of their basic pay...

impact on the economy is yet to be known. Due to the nationwide lockdown, tax revenue has considerably declined.

Arunachal CM greets people on Buddha Purnima

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, May 6: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has greeted the people of the State on the occasion of Buddha Purnima...

A devout Buddhist himself, Khandu said Buddha Jayanti is an important day in the lives of Buddhists...

He called upon the people, irrespective of their religious affiliations, to take time out to reflect on Lord Buddha's teachings of compassion, peace and honesty...

Drugs seized

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 6: A joint team of Mizoram Police and Young Mizo Association seized a huge quantity of heroin and methamphetamine from the residence of one Lalchhungnunga...

Police sources said they recovered 24 'hawngs' (one hawng is equal to 15 grams) heroin, 9,000 methamphetamine tablets and about 1 kg of methamphetamine powder.

Arunachal Dy CM meets traders, entrepreneurs

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, May 6: In order to discuss the economic hardships faced by small traders and entrepreneurs following the nationwide lockdown since March 25...

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed: "Amid the pandemic, we have to carry out our day-to-day activities like office work, agriculture and industrial works, etc., in order to thrive."



Residents of Meghalaya registering themselves at the entry point in Ri-Bhoi district for medical tests, following their return from other North Eastern States, on Wednesday. - UB Photos

Focus on agriculture: Rio to people

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 6: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today asked the people of the State to focus on agriculture and allied sectors, and progressive entrepreneurship.

He was addressing a joint meeting of district officers, members of civil societies, church leaders and NGO representatives...

Rio clarified that the COVID-19 cess on fuel prices in the State has been levied to reinforce medical facilities and equipment.

posed a six-rupee cess on petrol and a five-rupee cess on diesel from the midnight of April 28.

Appreciating the hard work of frontline and other workers in the ongoing fight against COVID-19, Rio gave details of the video conference held with the Central Government...

Later, along with Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change CM Chang and Health and Family Welfare Minister S Panguy Phom...

hospital in Tuensang.

He congratulated the people and the Tuensang Chamber of Commerce and Industries on setting up an ICU in the hospital. Rio asked government departments, civil societies, churches and NGOs to work together for the safety of the public.

"As elderly people are more vulnerable to COVID-19, we will continue to take care of them on the basis of the guidelines to contain the infection even though we do not have any positive case in Nagaland till date," Rio said.

Deputy Chief Minister Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, asked Tuensang DC Kumar Rannikant to direct all villages to open their entry points...

Health Minister Phom, responding to a memorandum on installation of a ventilator at the Tuensang District Hospital...

"It may be mentioned here that a meeting of the State Consultative Committee for COVID-19 held on May 5 discussed the arrangement of community quarantine centres in the State.

Main Manipur markets to remain closed

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 6: The Manipur Government today decided to continue the lockdown in the State. The main markets in Imphal, including women's markets, will remain closed.

State Chief Secretary Dr J Suresh Babu today issued an order to this effect following a Cabinet decision on continuing with the lockdown till May 17 with exemptions for

essential services. Today's order supersedes the order issued on May 3.

The essential services/activities which are permitted during the lockdown period (May 6-17) in the State include supply of essential goods, movement of cargo, health-related activities, public utilities, agricultural and allied activities, fisheries, animal husbandry, finance sector, social sector, online teaching, MGN-ERGA works, commercial

and private establishments, construction activities, offices of Central and State Governments, etc.

Earlier, Chief Minister N Biren Singh chaired a Cabinet meeting and reviewed the prevailing situation in the State after relaxation of the lockdown and discussed issues related to bringing back Manipuri people stranded in other parts of the country.

The meeting resolved to

bear train fare for stranded people of the State. It also decided to provide Rs 200 per head per day along with medical items and support to the stranded persons during their stay at the community quarantine centres.

Principal Secretary (Finance) to find out a feasible policy to tide over the existing situation in conformity with the Central Government's directives, if any.

ACCi secretary general Toko Tatung, while submitting a proposal to the State Government for COVID-19 working capital gap funding for business enterprise as relief, said that this sector provides maximum employment to the unemployed youths of the State...

Principal Secretary (Finance) AC Verma, Commissioner (Planning and Investment) PS Lokhande, Finance Secretary YW Ringu, Planning and Investment Secretary Himanshu Gupta, Agriculture Secretary Bidol Tayeng and Director Among Lego, Lead Bank Manager S Ranjit Singh and ACCi president Tarh Nachung attended the meeting.



hering to other government norms and guidelines in order to contain the further spread of the disease."

utilisation of technology and through innovative ideas. While giving emphasis on agriculture and allied activities to make the State self-sufficient in food and vegetables, the Deputy Chief Minister called for optimum utilisation of the vast land resources of the State.

He also made a case for reviving the Arunachal Pradesh Marketing Corporation to market farm produce and regulate the flow of fruits and vegetables from the districts into the State capital region.

During the meeting, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of the

955 stranded persons return to Meghalaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 6: Altogether 955 stranded persons entered Meghalaya from different parts of the North East till 6 pm on Wednesday.

According to figures available, the maximum number of 557 people entered through the Byrnhat check gate in Ri-Bhoi district, followed by 277 people who entered through the Bajengdoba check gate in North Garo Hills district.

As many as 76 persons entered through the Ratacheraga gate in East Jaintia Hills district and 45 people through the Tikrikilla gate in West Garo Hills district.

The Meghalaya Government started to take in the people belonging to the State, who are stranded in other North Eastern States, from Tuesday. The returning persons are being screened and tested, if necessary, at the check gates.

Meghalaya Govt warns of stern action against hunting incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 6: The Meghalaya Government has warned of taking stern action against those who killed a bear in an East Khasi Hills village recently. Pictures of villagers trying to burn the fur of the killed animal have surfaced on the social media.

According to netizens, the bear, probably an Asiatic black bear, was killed some days ago by villagers at Mawpyrthuh under Pynursla civil subdivision. Meghalaya Police said that "appropriate action would be initiated" against the perpetrators of the crime.

The Asiatic black bear is an endangered animal found in many Asian countries including Bangladesh, which lies on the foothills of Pynursla.

Meanwhile, the State Government has placed advertisement in local newspapers for identification of those involved in the killing of the barking deer.

Advertisement for North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) inviting bids for supply of 400 Nos. of MS Windows Server CAL...

Advertisement for Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL) inviting tenders for supply of 400 Nos. of MS Windows Server CAL...

Advertisement for Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) regarding a shut down notice for renovation works of 33KV and 11KV line infrastructure...

Advertisement for Northeast Frontier Railway regarding cancellation of train services during the third phase of lockdown...

Advertisement for Gauhati University regarding an extension notice for tendering for LED street light with pole through UG cable...

Advertisement for SBI Infra Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd. regarding a notice inviting tender for commercial/office space required on lease...



Porn pandemic

1 in 2 employees watching porn on device being used for work from home

Amid coronavirus pandemic that has pushed office work inside home boundaries globally, half (51 per cent) of employees admitted watching more adult content on the same devices they use for work-related purposes, a new report said on Wednesday.

Nearly a fifth (18 per cent) of workers watch porn on devices provided to them by their employers, with 33 per cent admitting to watching adult content on their personal devices that they also use for office work.

"This can though potentially lead to malware infections if employees do not pay attention to the resources and websites they visit," according to the report from cybersecurity firm Kaspersky.

Nearly a third (31 per cent) of workers said they are spending more of their time working than they did before.

However, 46 per cent said they have increased the amount of time they spend on personal activity.

The report revealed that it has become harder for workers to separate work and personal activity, especially when it comes to IT.

Additionally, 55 per cent of workers say they are reading more news now than they were before they started working from home, 60 per cent of this activity is done on devices that are used for work.

Workers are also developing a habit of using their personal services for working purposes - increasing the potential risks from shadow IT, including the disclosure of sensitive information.

For instance, 42 per cent of employees use personal email accounts for work-related matters, and 49 per cent admit their usage has increased when working from home, said the report.

Meanwhile, 38 per cent use personal messengers that have not been approved by their IT departments, with 60 per cent of them doing it more often in their new circumstances. (Source: IANS)

Workers are also developing a habit of using their personal services for working purposes - increasing the potential risks from shadow IT, including the disclosure of sensitive information

GN Kids TV schedule listing shows like Ogy And The Cockroaches, Bandbudh Aur Budbak, Roll No. 21, etc.

Entertainment TV schedule listing shows like Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, Wanted, My Name Ij Lakkhan, etc.

Movies section listing shows like Tom Cruise Jack Reacher, HBO 19:00 Jack Reacher, etc.

Infotainment TV schedule listing shows like Tiger's Revenge, World Wild Web, Wild Families, etc.

Regional TV schedule listing shows like Pratham Xongbad, Bioril Headline, Assamese news, etc.

Movies section listing shows like Mawali Raaj, Dhruva, Singham, etc.

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, May 7, 2020:

Aesthetic and devoted you loves beauty, so this year will be a challenge, although you will succeed in having a luxurious lifestyle. You will enjoy all that you have rather than lament what you lack.

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) Money matters will certainly be on your mind, and you rethink financial commitments and investment strategies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Expect partners to be particularly irritable. Arguments might be easily provoked by nagging and could deteriorate into sarcastic mud-slinging.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Skip domestic decision-making, as any decision made will be subject to change. Besides this, you will find that you do not have all the facts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Crab is the birth sign of more millionaires than any in the zodiac. Dedicated effort allows you to join their ranks in years to come.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) There is nothing small or petty about the way you usually decorate or entertain, Leo, and especially not today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today brings financial assistance or ideas from another. There will be a great deal of commotion and many short outings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Finances are volatile this year. Develop an awareness of shifting economic conditions in the world around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your professional sphere is widening. There is opportunity, but many demands are placed on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today finds the lone wolf part of your nature surfacing. Spend part of today in solitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Friends suggest new goals and projects. Membership in an organization might prove invaluable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A job or project might be ending. Do not try to struggle against the inevitable. If one door closes, another will open.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Emails and conversations lead to really important learning experiences. Ambitions will stir and your path will be especially important to you.

Thought for the day: Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being. - SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

LOCKHORNS comic strip panel with dialogue: "THIS IS THE DEN, SINCE ALL LEROY DOES HERE IS HIBERNATE."

LOCKHORNS comic strip panel with dialogue: "DENNIS HAD TO GO TO THE BATHROOM... GO I'M PINCH-SITTIN' FOR HIM..."

THE PHANTOM comic strip panel with dialogue: "MISTER, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?" and "THE CHIEF METERS OUT WAMBESI JUSTICE."

THE PHANTOM comic strip panel with dialogue: "YOU TWO MIGHT WANT TO HOPE FOR JUNGLE PATROL!"

BLONDIE comic strip panel with dialogue: "DO YOU STILL HAVE RECESS AT SCHOOL, ELMO?" and "SOFT RUBBERIZED PAVEMENT, MULCH UNDER THE SLIDE AND NO MORE SCARY SEESAWS"

BLONDIE comic strip panel with dialogue: "WE CAN'T EVEN FLY OUR DRONES IN THE CLASSROOM ANYMORE!"

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE comic strip panel with dialogue: "WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB, DR. ZOOK?" and "BUCKETS OF MONEY!"

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE comic strip panel with dialogue: "WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEAST?" and "VIKINGS!"

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6887 grid with numbers 1-37.

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6887 with Across and Down clues and answers.

HEALTH CAPSULES by Bron Smith with text about Black Seed and JUMBLED WORDS puzzle.

Will need at least one month of training: Rahane MCC to offer Sangakkara 2nd term

NEW DELHI, May 6: India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane on Wednesday said cricketers will need at least a month of training before resumption of competitive games...

Rahane also said that in a coronavirus-scarred world, the lifestyle of cricketers will undergo a change as far as pre and post-match routines are concerned. "We would be needing three to four weeks of proper practice before playing any kind of competitive game..."



We would be needing three to four weeks of proper practice before playing any kind of competitive game (domestic or international). - Ajinkya Rahane

whether there should be a ban on the use of saliva to shine the ball... "I would like to wait and watch. You will only get a fair idea about revised rules once play resumes." A couple of months back there were discussions about trying Rahane in white ball cricket because of his experience and IPL would have been a great platform for him to re-affirm his status as a quality white-ball player.

LONDON, May 6: The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) on Wednesday announced that it would recommend a second term for its President Kumar Sangakkara owing to the global disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The disruption to the global cricketing landscape caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 has led the committee to recommend that Sangakkara, who began his term of office on October 1, 2019, be invited to serve as President of the Club until September 30, 2021," the club said in a statement.



During the two World Wars, Lord Hawke (1914-18) and Stanley Christopherson (1939-45) had served as president for longer than a year. The coronavirus outbreak has caused all international and domestic cricket around the world to be either cancelled or postponed. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has suspended all forms of professional cricket till July 1 due to the outbreak, which has wreaked havoc globally but more so in the United Kingdom. - PTI

'Transfer spending expected to fall'

LONDON, May 6: The transfer value of players in 10 of Europe's top leagues could plummet by up to 10 billion euros due to the economic crash caused by coronavirus, a study from accounting firm KPMG said on Wednesday.

Transfer spending is expected to fall dramatically, with clubs across the continent facing huge losses as a result of football's shutdown. The top divisions in England, Germany, Italy and Spain remain committed to trying to finish the 2019/20 seasons so they can honour huge TV contracts and minimise the financial hit.

KPMG estimates that Europe's top five leagues, including France, where the season has ended, could lose four billion euros (\$4.3 billion) if the campaigns cannot be completed. Those leagues are also the main drivers of the European transfer market. - AFP

Sepak takraw workshop

GUWAHATI, May 6: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Sepak Takraw Federation of India, in collaboration with the Asian Sepak Takraw Federation organised an online 11-day coaching workshop from April 25 to May 5. This programme was initiated by the SAI and Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India from Delhi during the lockdown period where 700 players and coaches from 28 states took part.

Dato Abdul Halim Bin Kader, president, Asian Sepak Takraw Federation inaugurated the coaching workshop while Boon Hai Lorhpiat, secretary general, Asian Sepak Takraw Federation was present in the closing ceremony yesterday. Informing this in a release, Bishnu Ram Nunisa, joint secretary of the Tawkwondo Federation of India and secretary of the Assam Sepak Takraw Association stated that the online programme was organised in order to keep the players all over the country applying latest techniques.

Barca, Real players begin virus testing

MADRID, May 6: Players at Barcelona and Real Madrid started to undergo coronavirus tests on Wednesday as La Liga clubs planned to return to restricted training ahead of the proposed resumption of the season next month.

Barca captain Lionel Messi and France international Antoine Griezmann were among players pictured arriving one by one in their cars at the club's training centre early on Wednesday morning.

Players at Madrid, including Eden Hazard and Karim Benzema, also underwent health checks at Real's training base on the outskirts of the city.

Results from the coronavirus tests are typically known within 48 hours. The testing is part of the league's strict medical protocol with which teams must comply before a return to training.

Atletico Madrid, who will also carry out tests on Wednesday, are aiming to resume training immediately once the results are known if all goes to plan.

The first of a four-phase de-escalation programme announced by the Spanish government last week would allow players to initially train alone, with a maximum of six players allowed on the pitch.

Players will be expected to arrive on club premises already in their kit and wear a mask and gloves when not training. After each session they will be given a bag with clothes for the next day.

La Liga's programme will then permit training in small groups before a return to larger team sessions. - AFP

Bayern agree to sign Sane: report

BERLIN, May 6: Reigning Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich have reportedly agreed a transfer with Manchester City winger Leroy Sane on a five-year deal, according to a report.

Sport Bild claim the 24-year-old has agreed terms with Bayern, but the fee is still to be negotiated.

According to the magazine, Bayern's director of sport Hasan Salihamidzic and board member Oliver Kahn want to pay 40 million euros (\$43 million) - half of Sane's estimated market value.

However, the Germany international has not played for City's first team since tearing his right knee ligament last August in the FA Community Shield match win over Liverpool at Wembley.

Having joined from Schalke in 2016 for a reported fee of 37 million pounds (42.5 million euros, \$45.8 million), Sane is under contract in Manchester until 2021.

A transfer fee of around 100 million euros had been reported last summer when Bayern were trying to sign him before injury struck.

According to Sport Bild, a few factors could help Bayern sign Sane for a lower fee, especially as he has been sidelined for most of the season.

Bayern could sign him for the price they want as the transfer market is deflated by the uncertainty over the coronavirus with all major European leagues currently suspended. - AFP

SU DO KU puzzle grid with numbers and a solution for the last problem.

Advertisement for Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Assam, featuring a list of instructions for pig rearing in Assam, including health and safety protocols.