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India, US stand together in fight against terror: Trump speaks to PM Modi



Abhijit Kalita, Guwahati: At least 26 people, two foreign tourists among them, were killed by a group of terrorists who emerged from the dense forests around the trekking paradise of the Baisaran meadows in the upper reaches of Pahalgam on Tuesday afternoon. A number of others were wounded, including with critical injuries, and the death toll is likely to rise, official sources told, though there is no official casualty data from the government as yet. PM Modi, who had taken stock of the situation earlier in *see page 7*

(তবুসাত মেলা)
তাবিজ্য ও আতন্দ মেলা
 স্থান : মেহকালা, নগাঁও (অসম)। তারিখ : ১২-০৪-২০২৫ বা পূৰ্বা ১৪-০৪-২০২৫ তাই।

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Rongali Bihu Celebrated in Newcastle, England



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : Bihu flows eternally in the hearts of Assamese people. Proving this yet again, Assamese individuals living across the seas celebrated Rongali Bihu abroad. Residents of Newcastle, England celebrated Rongali Bihu recently. The event, held at the Drama Hall of John Spence Community High School, was inaugurated with the lighting of lamps by Mrinalini Devi, former Vice-President of Asam Sahitya Sabha. Following a recitation of 'Ghokha', the event was formally opened. Primarily aimed at

building bridges between communities, a special feature of this Bihu celebration was the exclusive screening of the Assamese film 'Goodbye Guruji', produced by Arunjeet Bora. Notably, guests from France also attended the event to enjoy the film. Among them was Mary, the mother-in-law of Parthapratim Hazarika, who plays the lead role in the movie. She traveled all the way from France to watch the film. Special guests for the event included Tim Meron and Deva Meron from England. After the mesmerizing film screening, sev-

eral captivating performances followed. Bengali woman Karabi Choudhury danced to the tunes of Zubeen's Bihu songs. Several children also took part in the event. Given the shared timing with Punjab's Baisakhi, young Brinda Bora performed a Bhangra dance. This was followed by a Bihu dance performance by five-year-old Tiana. Fourteen-year-old Niyara played the flute while Arush played the piano, performing the tune of "O Mor Aponar Dekh." The main coordinator of the entire cultural program was Dr. Bhaskar Dutta. Various participants enhanced the vibrancy of the event with one performance after another. Among them, Tamali Chakraborty performed a Bengali song, Prarthana performed a Bihu dance, and Bengali resident Biswajit Chakraborty enthralled everyone with four Bihu *see page 7*



The earnest prayer

O the victorious Rama, Paramananda, I drink the fragrant- honey of Your feet.
O Rama-Krishna, Narayana,
Let my mind immerse at Your lotus- feet.
O Rama, Niranjan, You are the God, the pleasure-giver to the devotees.
O Rama -Krishna, You are the master of virtues,
Free from the three properties, Endowed with noble qualities. O
Rama, Krishna, Hari, Shri Rama, the master of the Roghus,
I salute You by bowing my head.
O the offspring of the Roghus'
O victorious Gopal, Govinda, Rama,
Beyond Your feet, I have nobody else.
O Hari Gopinath, I worshipped Your fearless feet,
Take me as your slave.

Morigaon District Administration
Directs BLOs to Raise Awareness
on Polling Centre Changes

Lipika Bora, Morigaon : With the upcoming second phase of the Panchayat elections scheduled for May 7, the Morigaon district administration has issued a directive to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to raise awareness among voters regarding changes in polling centres. The directive aims to address the confusion that may arise due to discrepancies between Panchayat and Legislative Assembly polling stations. The official notice, signed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Nitisha Bora, specifically calls on BLOs from the 52-Jagiroad (SC), 53-Lahorighat, and 54-Morigaon Legislative Assembly constituencies to carry out voter awareness activities in collaboration with Panchayat secretaries. The goal is to ensure that voters are well-informed about their correct polling locations to prevent any difficulty on the day of voting. According to the notice, Morigaon district will witness polling at a total of 972 polling stations, with 339 in Jagiroad, 364 in Lahorighat, and 269 in Morigaon constituency. The administration emphasizes the importance of localized outreach to avoid any last-minute confusion and ensure smooth electoral participation. With the elections nearing, the Morigaon district administration is taking proactive steps to ensure voters are not misled or inconvenienced due to changes in polling centre assignments, especially in rural areas under the Panchayati system.



Mukoli Bihu Celebrated
in Bilasipara with Cul-
tural Competitions

Bilashipara : Under the aegis of the Manjura Rani Memorial Trust, Mukoli Bihu was observed at Bilasipara on Sunday. A “Mou” competition was held at the auditorium of the Bilasipara Sub-divisional Public Library, while the Bihu Maina and Bihu Kuwari competitions took place at the Bilasipara Public Field. The programme was attended by Jibesh Roy, Chief Executive Member of the KAC; Sudhir Chandra Roy, Executive Member of the KAC; and Arup Dey, Executive Member of the BTC. They, along with other dignitaries, were felicitated with phoolam gamocha, japi, and bouquets. Jibesh Roy, Arup Dey, and Mithun Roy addressed the gathering with short speeches, congratulating Dr. K.L. Das, the author and founder of the Trust, for undertaking such a venture. Following this, the Mukali Bihu competition commenced. Six Bihu dance troupes from Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Abhayapuri, Dhubri, Gouripur, and Futkibari participated in the event. The people of Bilasipara congratulated Dr. K.L. Das for successfully organizing the programme without any untoward incident.

Dikhowporiya Yuva
Sangha concludes vibrant
Basanta Utsav in Sivasagar



Sibsagar : The Dikhowporiya Sanmilita Yuva Sangha, known for its active role in social and cultural activities in Sivasagar, concluded its annual Basanta Utsav with a day-long programme filled with competitions, tributes, and cultural performances in Sunday. The celebrations began with the hoisting of the flag by acting President Jehiruddin Khan. This was followed by a remembrance ceremony inaugurated by the group’s Advisor Khirod Nath Das. Another tribute programme was held in memory of the departed members of the Sangha, opened by Advisor Trailokya Das. Veteran community member and president of the Sanmilita Byabasayee Santha Bakul Borthakur inaugurated the main stage and praised the Sangha’s past developmental efforts. He called upon all Assamese people to uphold the traditions of Rongali Bihu and preserve its essence. The santha then held popular Koni Juj and Bihu Kuwori competitions, which saw participation from over a hundred contestants. In the evening, the Sangha honoured 35 individuals for their contributions to society, including founding members Trailokya Das and Juna Das, as well as several journalists. The cultural evening, titled ‘Basantar Enixa,’ was inaugurated by Dr Sabyasachi Mahanta, Principal of Gargaon College and President of Sibsagar Press Club. In his speech, Dr Mahanta reflected on the deep cultural and emotional roots of Bihu in every Assamese household. He also noted that some Bihu organizing committees today focus too heavily on cultural shows, drifting away from Bihu’s traditional values. Veteran journalists Atanu Bora, Dr Utpal Dutta, and senior district administrative assistant Bhaskarjyoti Das addressed the audience, along with other notable guests including District Development Commissioner Samiran Bora and Executive Officer of Sivasagar Municipal Board Debabrata Sharma.

Advantage Assam 2.0: Charting a Path to Address Unemployment

■ **Yahia Ahmed**
Marigaon

Assam, a state rich in culture, natural resources, and strategic geographic positioning, has long stood on the brink of transformative economic change. Amid persistent challenges such as unemployment, the introduction of initiatives like Advantage Assam 2.0 brings renewed hope while raising critical questions about the future of work and prosperity in the region. This essay examines whether Advantage Assam 2.0 can provide a viable solution to Assam's unemployment problem by exploring its potential, identifying challenges, and considering its broader socio-economic implications.

■ **The Context of Unemployment in Assam**

Unemployment in Assam is not a new phenomenon. The state—predominantly known for its tea gardens, oil resources, and agriculture—has experienced significant structural shifts in its economy over recent decades. Although traditional sectors remain vital, they have not always generated enough jobs to support a rapidly growing and increasingly educated population. Additionally, factors such as geographical isolation, limited industrial diversification, and skill mismatches have compounded the unemployment issue. In this context, a comprehensive and forward-thinking policy framework is both urgent and essential.

■ **Understanding Advantage Assam 2.0**

Advantage Assam 2.0 represents a strategic initiative designed to catalyze economic growth through enhanced infrastructure, investment incentives, and human capital development. Building on previous efforts, it focuses on modernizing key sectors, promoting entrepreneurship, and leveraging Assam's unique assets to attract both domestic and international investors. Central to this initiative is the belief that a holistic approach—combining policy reforms, technological integration, and targeted skill development—can transform the state's employment landscape.

■ **Potential Pathways to Reducing Unemployment**

1. Infrastructure Development

and Industrial Growth

A major component of Advantage Assam 2.0 is the emphasis on upgrading infrastructure, including roads, rail connectivity, and digital networks. Enhanced infrastructure reduces the cost of doing business and makes the state more attractive to industries seeking well-connected regions for operations. By fostering industrial clusters and establishing special economic zones, the initiative can stimulate job creation in sectors ranging from manufacturing to information technology. Improved connectivity may also bridge the urban-rural divide, ensuring that economic benefits extend to peripheral areas.

2. Skill Development and Educational Reforms.

A critical element of the initiative is its focus on human capital. Establishing targeted training programs and skill development centers can help address the prevalent mismatch between the skills of the local workforce and the demands of emerging industries. Collaborations with educational institutions and industry experts will ensure that training programs are tailored to employers' needs, thereby enhancing employability. By equipping youth with skills in digital technology, modern manufacturing, and service sectors, Advantage Assam 2.0 could transform the unemployment challenge into an opportunity for building a dynamic workforce.

3. Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support.

Encouraging entrepreneurship is essential for creating sustainable employment opportunities. Advantage Assam 2.0 is expected to offer incentives for start-ups and small businesses through financial support, mentorship programs, and streamlined regulatory processes. This approach can spark innovation and open new job avenues, especially in sectors such as agro-processing, tourism, and handicrafts, where Assam already holds significant potential. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can serve as engines of economic growth, providing resilience against global economic shocks and promoting localized development.

4. Leveraging Natural and Cultural Assets

Assam's rich natural heritage and cultural diversity are unique ad-

vantages that can be harnessed under this initiative. Tourism—particularly eco-tourism and cultural tourism—holds significant promise for generating employment. By investing in sustainable tourism infrastructure and promoting Assam as a premier travel destination, the state can create jobs not only in the hospitality sector but also in ancillary services such as transport, retail, and entertainment. Moreover, developing niche markets like organic agriculture and indigenous handicrafts could boost employment in rural areas and help reduce urban migration.

■ **Challenges and Considerations**

While the vision of Advantage Assam 2.0 is ambitious, several challenges could impede its success:

- **Implementation and Governance:** Effective execution of policies is paramount. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, or political instability could derail even the best-intentioned plans. Robust transparency and accountability mechanisms are necessary to ensure that projects are completed and deliver the promised benefits.
- **Skill Mismatch and Labor Market Rigidities:** Despite improved training programs, there is a risk that the local workforce may not immediately meet the technical demands of modern industries. A phased and adaptive approach—where continuous feedback from industry informs educational reforms and training curricula—is required.
- **Balancing Traditional and Modern Economies:** Assam's economic fabric is woven from both traditional sectors, such as agriculture, and emerging industries. Policymakers must strike a balance to ensure that modernization does not disrupt the livelihoods of those dependent on traditional sectors. Bridging this gap is essential for maintaining social stability and ensuring inclusive growth.
- **External Economic Factors:** Global market fluctuations, trade policies, and external investment climates can also impact the success of local initiatives. Building resilience

through diversification and adaptive economic policies will be critical.

■ **A Blueprint for the Future**

If implemented effectively, Advantage Assam 2.0 has the potential to significantly reduce unemployment by creating a more vibrant, diversified, and inclusive economy. Its multi-pronged approach—from infrastructure upgrades and industrial promotion to education reforms and entrepreneurial support—offers a comprehensive strategy that addresses both the symptoms and root causes of unemployment. However, the initiative's success depends on the commitment of both the government and private stakeholders to collaborate and ensure that policies remain responsive to the evolving economic landscape.

While Advantage Assam 2.0 is not a silver bullet that will instantly eradicate unemployment, it represents a promising blueprint for long-term economic revitalization. By addressing structural challenges, investing in human capital, and leveraging its unique assets, Assam can gradually transform its unemployment woes into a narrative of growth and resilience. The journey ahead will require sustained effort, adaptability, and a shared vision of progress—a vision that could ultimately pave the way for a more prosperous and equitable Assam.

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I Will Not Write for You

■ **Sidharth P K**
Kochi

I will not write for you,
As the stars' fall
Into the bliss
And moon be the same.

I will not pray for you,
Even the skies mourn
And the tears rage
Among the heart silences.

I will not sing for you,
The music is over
And birds stop to recite
Your verse and life.
I will not cry for you,
As you are left into
The no-where of destiny,
Silent and motionless.

Successful Conclusion of Upper Assam's First Stage Bihu in Dibrugarh



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : VLike every year, this year too, Upper Assam's first stage Bihu—the culturally rich “Dibrugarh Rongali Bihu”—was celebrated with a three-day program. The festival was held on the playground of Bagmibor Neelamoni Phukan Higher Secondary School (formerly George Institution) by the banks of the Brahmaputra, featuring a vibrant cultural procession and various traditional games and performances. On the first day, the event began in the morning with the flag hoisting by the president of the celebration committee, Anil Duwara. Simultaneously, women and girls from Amaraguri village, led by Padma Das (renowned for his Borgeet singing), performed the flag-hoisting song “Shreemoyi Asomir Sheetal Bukut Uthe Utsavar Madhu Aloran.” The event, anchored by Jesim Ahmed, also featured a lamp-lighting ceremony and homage to departed souls by social worker Ashok Das. A lamp was lit and a garland offered at the bust of Sudhakantha Dr. Bhupen Hazarika near the memo-

rial area by Dibrugarh Mayor Dr. Saikat Patra, who conveyed his greetings and urged the celebration committee to conduct the three-day event gracefully. Coinciding with the birth centenary of the late retired principal of the school, Tonkeshwar Baruah, his family inaugurated the “Tonkeshwar Baruah Memorial Mandap.” His former student and retired principal of the same school, Chehir Ahmed, paid tribute by speaking about Baruah's legacy and recited the timeless poem of Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, deeply moving the audience. The Bihu stage was formally inaugurated by Padma Das, a government-recognized artist pensioner. Following this, a grand cultural procession flagged off by Dibrugarh Municipal Councillor Shravan Kumar Das saw participation from nearly 400 individuals, including elephants from Lengeri Changmai village, invited musicians from Barbari, and several Bihu groups. Distinguished guests included veteran Bihuwati Dilip Das, Anatar artist Mirza Niyamuddin Ahmed, CWC department

assistant director Dilip Baruah, social worker Baliram Das, retired headmistress Lekhni Das Baruah, and Nilabh Nayan Bardoloi, among others. In coordination with the rally, Dibrugarh Forest Department distributed saplings to the public. Various competitions were held afterward. The evening cultural program on the first night was inaugurated by the celebration committee's working president, Brajen Bhuyan. On the second night, the cultural evening was opened by Manjit Bora, president of Greater Dibrugarh Press Club and chief editor of “Asom Aditya” newspaper, who gave an inspiring speech on preserving Bihu's true tradition. He was accompanied by Press Club vice-president Bibhash Duwara, secretary Ratul Gohain, and others including student union president Tanuj Haloi, Avinash Dutta, Papu Saikia, and Daulat Das, all of whom were invited to the Bihu venue. Local artists performed solo and group events. On the final day, winners of the Bihuwati, Mou Kuwori, Bihu Dance (Group A & B), Bihu Naam, Borgeet, and Creative Dance competitions were awarded. Notably, since its inception, the Dibrugarh Rongali Bihu Celebration Committee has preserved traditional games like egg fights, tekeli bhonga, tug-of-war, Cock fights, and more.

Spring Festival celebrated at Government Model College, Deithor

Numaligarh : In a vibrant celebration of Assam's rich cultural heritage, the Students' Union of Government Model College, Deithor, organized the ‘Spring Welcome Festival’ marking the arrival of the season of blossoming, Basant. The event, held under the open sky beneath the shade of trees, reflected the unity and harmony among diverse communities through traditional performances. The festival was inaugurated by college Principal Dr Deepak Kumar Bora who commended the students for

their efforts in preserving and promoting traditional culture. Highlighting the spirit of the season, the event featured a colourful array of traditional dance performances, including Bihu, Karbi, Bodo, and Jhumur dances, showcasing the rich cultural diversity of the region. One of the most heartwarming moments of the day was the symbolic gesture of unity as teachers and students came together to perform the Bihu dance, reflecting the true essence of Guru-Shishya tradition and cultural coordination.

Capacity Building Activities at Tolaram Bafna Civil Hospital



Rangia : To achieve the desired goal of Maternal and Child health, Tolaram Bafna Civil Hospital, Amingaon, Kamrup embarked upon capacity building activities of health professionals of the district for the financial year ended on March 31. Under the leadership of Superintendent of the Hospital and guided by District Health Society and District NHM team, training of Comprehensive Abortion Care was provided for Doctors and Nursing Professionals to reduce maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion. Likewise, to cater to the unmet need of family planning, different training modules like Intrauterine Contraceptive device training for Staff Nurse and CHO, Post Abortion Family Planning Method, Modules for Injectable Contraceptives and Medical Method of Abortion for Staff Nurse and MO were provided. Newer training programmes, envisaged by the then joint director of health service Dr Mahotosh Benerjee to improve the service delivery system for pregnant and parturient women, were also started for the MO and Staff Nurse engaged in labour room, like Dakshata and Skilled Birth Attendant Training, which are crucial for quality certification like LaQshya or NQAS. Another new training programme for medical officers and CHOs was concluded recently in relation to reproductive tract and sexually transmitted infection, to improve the reproductive and sexual health of the community.

Book Titled ‘Chupahi’ Released at Borpathar

Bokakhat : On Saturday, a book titled ‘Chupahi’ was released at Borpathar in the Komargaon region. A public meeting, organized at the Milan Kala Kristi Bikash Kendra in Borpathar, was presided over by Maheswar Saikia, former president of the Golaghat District Literary Society. Retired veterinary doctor Dr Ranjit Bora attended as the keynote speaker and praised Author Suren Bora's efforts, calling them truly commendable and admirable. ‘Chupahi’ is the first book by the Borpathar resident and Author Suren Bora. The book was formally released by Bina Saikia, retired principal of Srimanta Sankardev Higher Secondary School, Tamulipathar. The event was graced by the presence of notable individuals, including Parag Saikia, President of Milan Kala Kristi Bikash Kendra, Amritjyoti Bora, Secretary; retired teacher Jiten Bora, Pranab Saikia, Secretary of the South Mahura Primary Teachers' Association, Social Worker Atul Saikia, and others like Prafulla Dutta and Jeevan Bora.

Triranga Cricket Coaching Centre Wins by 32 Runs in U-19 Tournament

Guwahati : Triranga Cricket Coaching Centre registered a 32-run victory over Cricket Coaching Academy, Noonmati in the 10th Sitaram Chhawchharia Memorial U-19 Cricket Tournament at the NFRSA Ground in Maligaon on Sunday. The match, reduced to 20 overs per side due to early morning rain, saw Triranga bat first and post 102/7. Dipankar Paul top-scored with 27 runs, while Rajesh Ray



(2/14), Rohit Dhobi (2/20), and Bishal Nag (2/22) shared the wickets for Noonmati. In response, Cricket Coaching Academy Noonmati were bundled out for 70 in 17.2 overs. Vikram Rai offered

resistance with 24 runs, but lacked support from the other end. Priyangshu Paul (3/9) and Anirudh Rai (3/10) were instrumental in Triranga's win with their disciplined bowling.

Senior Gold Medalist Rodali Barua selected for Target Asian Games Scheme



Guwahati: National Taekwondo 2016 Senior Gold Medalist Rodali Barua is the first of Guwahati to be shortlisted in the prestigious Target Asian Games (TAG) scheme, a new initiative under the TOP (Target Olympic Podium) initiation aimed at preparing athletes for upcoming Asian Games competition. Rodali Barua, who began her Taekwondo journey in

2012 as an extracurricular activity during school, quickly progressed to competitive levels after being spotted by coaches from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) during state championships. After successful trials, she was selected to train at SAI Guwahati, marking the beginning of her professional career in Taekwondo. Sharing about her positive outlook at school and how it encouraged her to begin her journey of becoming one of the most renowned Taekwondo athletes, Rodali shares, "I started Taekwondo in school as an extracurricular activity. I remember participating in State championships where SAI coaches saw me and invited me for trials. I got selected in SAI Guwahati and from there my Taekwondo career professionally started," she recalls.

Elite Cricket Academy Beat BNCCA by 6 Wickets in U-19 Tournament

Guwahati : Elite Cricket Academy secured a comfortable 6-wicket win over BNCCA in the 10th Sitaram Chhawchharia Memorial U-19 Cricket Tournament, held at the NFRSA Stadium in Maligaon on Friday. After electing to bat first, BNCCA struggled to put up a competitive total and were bowled out for just 91 runs in 25.4 overs. Beer Oniket Prasad was the top scorer with 26 runs. Elite's bowlers delivered a disciplined performance, with Shreyansh Agarwal (2/5), Dyutimoy Nath (2/9), and Jashwant Deka (2/15) picking up two wickets each. Chasing a modest target, Elite Cricket Academy reached 92 for 4 in just 19.1 overs to seal the win. Dipumoni Bordoloi led the chase with an unbeaten 38. Despite a strong effort from BNCCA's Aditya Barman, who claimed all four wickets for 34 runs, Elite cruised to victory.

Assam Wins 6 Medals in Thang-Ta at SGFI National School Games



Guwahati : Assam bagged six medals in Thang-Ta event in the SGFI 68th National School Games held in Imphal on Friday. Among the six medals three are silver which were won by Laba Kumar Deka, Parag Hazarika and Minal Singha. Smita Narzary, Jasline Baruah and S Sanathoi Singha collected bronze medals.

Placement Day of Royal Globle University



Guwahati: Placement Day 2025, provided a platform to over 75 national companies and MNCs to actively recruit a bankable workforce armed with the latest, refined, industry-specific skill set. Organized by The Assam Royal

Global University on the 22nd of April 2025, this initiative held on campus for the final year Graduate and Postgraduate students of the varsity was marked by participation from an overwhelming number of students across differ-

ent departments. The Students utilized this platform to capitalize on their skill set and expertise, appearing in interviews for substantial positions at reputed organisations. Placement Day 2025, that aimed to bridge the

gap between academia and industry and further met genuine needs of recruiters and candidates, resulted in numerous candidates securing their offer letters while a large batch of their peers are awaiting theirs.





Sanjay Dutt starrer The Bhootnii gets postponed, to now release on May 1



The makers of the much-awaited horror action-comedy The Bhootnii have officially announced a new release date for the film. Originally slated for an earlier launch, the Sanjay Dutt-led entertainer will now storm theatres on 1st May 2025. The decision to reschedule comes in light of the film’s extensive VFX work, which promises to deliver a visual spectacle like no other. The team remains dedicated to offering a top-notch cinematic experience,

pushing the envelope in horror and comedy with state-of-the-art effects and high-octane action. The Bhootnii has already generated significant buzz, especially after the trailer received a thunderous response from audiences across platforms. With Sanjay Dutt headlining the cast, the film also features Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Palak Tiwari, Beyounick, and Aasif Khan in key roles. Presented by Zee Studios, Soham Rockstar Entertainment, and Three Dimension Motion Pictures, The Bhootnii is a Soham Rockstar Entertainment production. It is produced by Deepak Mukut and Sanjay Dutt, with Hunar Mukut and Maanayata Dutt serving as co-producers. The film will be released worldwide by Zee Studios. The new release date sets the stage for a summer blockbuster, and fans can expect a thrilling blend of chills and laughs when The Bhootnii hits cinemas on 1st May 2025.

Emraan Hashmi starrer Ground Zero to have a red-carpet premiere in Srinagar



Excel Entertainment’s upcoming action thriller Ground Zero, starring Emraan Hashmi, is set to achieve a rare milestone as it becomes the first film in nearly four decades to have a red-carpet premiere in Srinagar, Kashmir. Scheduled for April 18, the premiere will take place ahead of the film’s nationwide re-

lease on April 25, 2025. The decision to hold the premiere in Srinagar holds symbolic significance. The screening will be dedicated to the soldiers and officers of the Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) stationed in the region. The makers have expressed that showing the film first to those who

serve on the frontlines is in line with the story’s patriotic themes. Directed by Tejas Deoskar and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under the banner of Excel Entertainment, Ground Zero stars Emraan Hashmi in the lead role along with an ensemble cast. Inspired by true events, the actor portrays BSF Commandant Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey, who led the operation to eliminate Ghazi Baba — a senior commander of the terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed. The mission, which forms the core of the film, is regarded as one of the most notable BSF operations in the past 50 years. Ground Zero has been shot entirely in Kashmir, offering a realistic depiction of the region’s terrain and military activity.

Hrithik Roshan USA Tour hit by fake impostor allegations

Organisers respond with proof and clarification



Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan’s ongoing USA tour faced unexpected controversy after a blind item surfaced on Reddit, alleging that the tour was a scam and that the actor making appearances was an impostor. The post, shared under the guise of anonymity, quickly gained

traction on social media, sparking confusion and backlash from fans and eventgoers. However, the claims were soon countered by attendees who had been present at the event. Multiple users took to social media to share photos and videos of Hrithik Roshan interacting with fans, participating in meet and greets, and performing on stage, debunking the viral misinformation. The images clearly showed the actor at various venues, disproving the theory of an impostor. Reddit has since flagged the original post as “exaggerated” and “unverified,” and subsequently banned it for violating the platform’s policy on spreading misinformation. Despite the damage caused by the viral claim, event organisers have strongly condemned the rumors and reiterated their commitment to delivering a well-executed and legitimate tour.

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran headline Meghna Gulzar’s Daayra

Director Meghna Gulzar and Junglee Pictures are set to reunite for their third film together, Daayra, a crime-drama thriller starring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran in lead roles. The project follows their past collaborations on Raazi and Talvar and is currently in pre-production. Described as a hard-hitting narrative that explores crime, justice, and the grey areas in between, Daayra brings together actors from different industries to depict the complexities of contemporary society. Marking her 25th year in Hindi cinema, Kareena Kapoor Khan shared her thoughts on the new project and said, “As I celebrate 25 incredible years in Hindi cinema, I’m thrilled to announce my next film, Daayra, with the incredible Meghna Gulzar in the director’s chair. I’ve long admired her work, from Talvar to Raazi, and to be directed by her is a dream come true. The opportunity to collaborate with the talented Prithviraj is also a highlight, and I’m drawn to the film’s bold, thought-provoking narrative. Daayra promises to be a cinematic experience that challenges and inspires, and I look forward to working with Meghna, Prithviraj, and the team at Junglee Pictures on this powerful, timely film.”



From page 1

India, US stand together in fight against terror

the day, will be cutting short his ongoing visit to Saudi Arabia to return to India soon. “The death toll has not been officially announced, which the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had said is still being ascertained. “This attack is much larger than anything we’ve seen directed at civilians in recent years,” he said on X. He met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Srinagar for a review meeting. “It may be stated here that the United States President Donald Trump has extended “full support and deepest sympathies” to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India in the wake of the terrorist attack in Kashmir.” “Deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir,” President Trump wrote on Truth Social. “The US stands strong with India against Terrorism. We pray for the souls of those lost, and for the recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Modi, and the incredible people of India, have our full support and deepest sympathies. Our hearts are with you all.” “White House Spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told reporters that President Trump has been briefed on the incident by the national security adviser Mike Waltz.

Rongali Bihu Celebrated in Newcastle, England

songs. A highlight of the event was the Marathi couple Dr. Sanjay and Dr. Savita performing 'Phul Phulise Bosonto', adding a golden touch to the celebration. However, the most delightful moment was the unique Assamese song performed by Scottish doctor Dr. Craig Nunn. He sang Bhupen Hazarika’s 'Manuhe Manuhor Babe' and also explained its significance, making the performance deeply meaningful. Additionally, Dr. Bhaskar Dutta sang Dipen Baruah’s -'Ga Ga Aji Gai Ja Ei gitoke' with his wife Pallabi Bhuyan and the audience joining in dance. Everyone was enchanted by his magical voice. The event was successfully organized through the collective efforts of Amlan Bora, Tribeni Bora, Pallabi Bhuyan, Arunava Chakraborty, Kalpashree Bhowmik, Dr. Anil Medhi, Dr. Jayanta Bijoy Sharma, Elora Medhi, Nilam Medhi, Dr. Rituparna Bhattacharya, and Dr. Bhaskar Dutta. Special honors were extended to guest Mary from France and filmmaker Arunjeet Bora, a native of Dibrugarh. Although renowned Khol player Arunavajyoti Malakar of Guwahati was invited, he couldn't attend the event. However, a video of his Khol performance was showcased. Additionally, his disciple Dr. Bhaskar Dutta demonstrated the Dharamyati taal, giving the audience a taste of traditional rhythm.

Demise of Rupeshwar Bora in Komargaon Area

Bokakhat : Rupeshwar Bora (73 years), a veteran businessman and resident of Bachapathar village in the Komargaon area, passed away today around 11 AM while undergoing treatment at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital. He had been battling a complex illness. His death has cast a pall of sorrow over the region. He is survived by his wife, one son, and two married daughters.

Alumni Meet of Biswanath College of Education held with a Day-Long Programme

Biswanath Chariali : The alumni meet of Biswanath College of Education was held on Saturday with a day-long programme. The meet commenced with flag hoisting by President of the reception committee Dwijen Mahanta while the smriti tarpan was conducted by Umacharan Borah, former joint secretary of the management committee of the college. Dr Beauty Hazarika, Principal, Biswanath College of Education, delivered the welcome address in the open session chaired by Dwijen Mahanta. Nipu Borthakur, Joint Secretary, Alumni Meet Reception Committee, moderated the session while Bidyut Bodo, Assistant Teacher, Chariali Adarsha Vidyapith, explained the objectives. Former secretary of the College Management Committee Kusha

Koch recalled the history of the college to the trainees. Retired professor of Biswanath Chariali DIET Bipul Khaund highlighted the importance of B Ed courses among teachers. It was also attended by Headmistress of Chariali Adarsha Vidyapith Babita Hazarika and Brijlal Sharma as invited guests. The felicitation programme was conducted by Professor of Tyagbir Hem Baruah College Sumanta Rajbanshi, in which more than fifty former students were felicitated. As a part of the meet, an interaction session among the former students was held in the afternoon, conducted by former general secretary of the students’ union of the college Ripunjay Bordoloi. The former students and faculty members performed various cultural programmes on the occasion.

Kendriya Rongali Bihu Sanmillan Demow 2025 concludes



Demow : Under the patronage of different local organizations of Demow and in association with the people, the Kendriya Rongali Bihu Sanmillan Demow 2025

was organized in Demow Public Playground on April 20 and April 21 for two days. On April 20 morning, the flag was hoisted, and a smriti tarpan was offered. As

per the schedule, drawing competition, pithapana competition, egg fight competition, Bihu dance competition, and Gabharu bihu competition were organized and in the evening, the invited husori team performed. On April 21, the second day, dhol badan, pepa badan, and bihuwati competitions were organized. The prize distribution ceremony was held and the winners of the different competitions were given prizes.

District Road Safety Committee meet held in Sonitpur

Tezpur : The monthly meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ankur Bharali, in the Conference Hall of the DC’s Office, Sonitpur. The meeting was attended by Superintendent of Police Barun Purkayastha, Additional District Commissioner Twahir Alam, Additional Superintendent of Police Moushumi Kalita, and other concerned members of the DRSC. Opening the meeting, the District Commissioner reiterated the importance of the meeting in implementing road safety measures and emphasized its core objective of minimizing road accidents in the district. The committee reviewed the monthly iRAD

data on road accidents and discussed strategies for mitigation. Addressing the Joint Director of Health Services, the DC instructed the department to ensure the training of designated officials from health centres and hospitals within two days. These officials will be responsible for uploading and updating data on the iRAD and other relevant platforms. The meeting also included a discussion on the effective implementation of the Hit and Run Motor Accident Compensation Scheme 2022. The representative from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was directed to identify and report accident-prone spots and vulnerable zones within their jurisdiction in the district.

Chabipul Chariali Renamed As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk



Guwahati : The Assam government has officially decided to rename the historic Chabipul Chariali in Guwahati as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk. This was announced by Assam's Public Health Engineering Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah during the celebrations marking the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Bhimrao Ambedkar. This move

is seen as a fitting tribute to arguably one of India's greatest reformist who fought for the marginalized sections of the society. The renaming act highlights Ambedkar's lasting legacy as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and also emphasizes the crucial role played by him as a tireless crusader for social justice. The name change was announced by the minister during a formal event in a day when Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated across the nation. It may be noted that Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated every year on April 14 to recall the values of equality, liberty, and fraternity that Ambedkar championed throughout the course of his illustrious life. Grand processions, community programs, and tribute are held across the country on this day, particularly in states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh.

Silver Jubilee of Shri Hanuman Janmotsav Celebrated at Doomdooma

Doomdooma : The seven day-long Silver Jubilee of Hanuman Jayanti Mahotsav 2025 was observed at Doomdooma Hanuman temple premises from April 6 to April 12 at Shri Shri Hanuman Mandir situated at Kaliapani, Doomdooma with solemnity and devotion. The programme got underway on April 6 with inauguration of the programme of Kalah Jatra (Pitcher procession) jointly by MLA-cum-Minister Rupesh Gowala and Jugal Kishor Lahoti, one of the seniormost founders of the Shri Hanuman Janmotsav Samiti. The pitcher procession was taken out by the women after collecting water from Doomdooma River at the Kamarpatti area of the town in old AT Road and then they paraded through the main roads of the town to the Hanuman temple. It was followed by Shri Ram Katha from 2.30 PM to 6.30 PM on every afternoon from April 6 to April 11. The programme was



inaugurated by Arjun Baruah, former president, Tinsukia Zila Xahitya Xabha (TZXX). On April 9, Doomdooma Nagara Nam Samiti performed Nagara Nam in the evening. Senior journalists Dhiren Deka and Dinesh Goyal, President, Shri Hanuman Janmotsav Samiti Kamal Lahoti, joint secretaries Sanjay Agarwal and Mukesh Raju, social activist Dilip Prasad, and Arjun Baruah, former president TZXX, took part in lighting of ceremonial

lamp. Mulendra Moran, MP's representative, spoke briefly on the occasion besides lighting the ceremonial lamp. On the concluding day i.e. April 12, a large cultural procession was taken out which marched along the main thoroughfares of the town. In the evening, the Bhajan Sandhya took place in presence of a large number of devotees. A souvenir 'Veeranjali' published on the occasion under the editorship of Senior Journalist Dinesh Goyal was also released.

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Maggi
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