

## Photo talks: Protestors at Khuyathong and police picking up protestors



### International & National News

## 88% works completed under Swachh Bharat Mission in Assam

**Guwahati, July 23**

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on the 2nd of October 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of country's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas. The objectives of the mission include to achieve an Open Defecation Free India by 2nd October 2019 to

commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by constructing 90 million toilets in rural and urban India. In Assam more than 88% works have been completed under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Altogether 13,992 villages have been declared open defecation free so far in the state covering 244 Blocks. Here is a ground report from AIR Dibrugarh

correspondent.

In Assam, over 94,500 toilets have been constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission and 601 villages are declared ODF under 18 Gram Panchayats in Dibrugarh District alone. Prabin Gogoi, a marginal farmer of Jockai area of Dibrugarh said that after getting independent toilet with the help of this mission, his health has improved a lot.

Another beneficiary Rajib gogoi said that with the construction of independent toilets in each houses, there is a huge relief for women in the area as they have stopped defecating outside and living a life with dignity. These independent toilets are not only providing great relief to each households but also considered as a success in achieving better sanitation for rural population.

## PM Modi to embark on 3-nation visit to Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa today

**Rwanda, July 23**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leaving for Rwandan capital Kigali Monday afternoon on the first leg of his five-day three-nation visit to Africa. This will be first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda. During his stay, Mr Modi will hold delegation-level talks with Rwandan President Paul Kagame and interact with the Indian community. He will also visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial and

participate in an event on GIRINKA, a national social protection scheme of Rwanda. On the second leg, Mr Modi will visit Uganda which will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in over 20 years. During his two day stay in capital Kampala, Mr Modi will hold talks with the country's leadership, and deliver the keynote address at the Ugandan Parliament, the first Indian Prime Minister to do so. On the final leg, Mr Modi will

reach Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the 10th BRICS Summit. The core agenda of the summit is inclusive growth, sustainable development, health and vaccine, peacekeeping among others. On the sidelines of the Summit, Mr Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings with the leaders of the participating nations. AIR correspondent, covering the Prime Minister's visit, reports that Africa has been a top priority area of India's

Foreign Policy and over the last few years, engagement in various fields with African countries have intensified significantly. During this visit, a number of agreements and MoUs in Defence, trade, culture, Agriculture and Dairy co-operation are expected to be signed. India shares warm and friendly relations with Africa and Mr Modi's visit will further strengthen New Delhi's relations with the African continent

### Sports News

## Govt selects 734 athletes for Khelo-India scholarships

**Agency  
New Delhi, July 23,**

A total of 734 youngsters were shortlisted for scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme. The scheme is a unique programme to nurture sporting talent. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore said transformational changes have been introduced into Indian sports. He pointed out that Catch Them Young is no longer a slogan but visible in

government's action. Col Rathore said his Ministry is trying to develop a sports system that connects local potential to global podiums, and encourages every Indian to have sports as a part of their lives for entertainment, education or excellence. AIR correspondent reports, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has cleared 734 athletes for the scholarship. Through this programme, the athletes will get training at government-accredited residential academies. An annual stipend of Rs.

1,20,000 will be given to each player on a quarterly basis to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses. Various private, state and SAI academies have been accredited for the first time to create a strong ecosystem for nurturing talent. A High Powered Committee accredited 21 non-SAI academies as well. The plan is to develop more such academies so that young athletes can get access to the best training without having to travel long distances.

## Lakshya wins Asian gold; BAI announces Rs. 10 lakh cash reward

**From our contributor  
New Delhi, July 23,**

India's Lakshya Sen took just 46 minutes to beat top-seeded Kunlavut Vitidsaran 21-19, 21-18 in the final of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships on Sunday to win his maiden gold in a major tournament at Jakarta Saturday.

In the process, the six-seed not only upset the Indonesian appercat but went on to win several hearts amidst the initial local support for the Indonesian in a near-packed hall.

The difference between the two finalists was very minimal and it could be because of the two were meeting each other for the first time. But by the time they began the first game, the vociferous crowd behind Kunlavut it was evident that the 17-year-old Indian will have a tough time.

"I am really happy with my performance. I got a very good support from team members as well. This Asian Junior gold is precious to me," said Lakshya after the medal ceremony.

"The win against second-seed Chinese the other night helped me. I carried my confidence further and beat the fourth-seed in the semi-finals. And today, I played my natural game to beat Kunlavut. Since it was our first meeting, I played freely without any pressure," he added. An Asian Junior gold in men's singles have come India's ways after 53 years. The last Indian to win gold was Gautam Thakkar in 1965.

An elated BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma promptly announced a cash reward of Rs. 10 lakh for the shuttler. "Lakshya has done the country proud. We have been investing on youngsters and we are happy seeing the dividends," said the BAI chief, who lauded Lakshya's historic feat.

Understandably, Lakshya was cautious in his approach and started trailing by a few points



in the first game before he caught up at 9-9 and then used his customary dropshots and half-court smashes to keep the top-seed shuttler back and forth. In the process, the Indian went ahead 13-11 and from there he never looked back despite his rival coming close to him at 16-15. After that the Indian just allowed him four more points even as he maintained a comfortable lead to pull it off, much to his relief.

In the second game, Lakshya led with a slender margin but managed to maintain a two-point lead almost all the time. However, midway through Kunlavut inched closer to his opponent and was trailing by

a mere single point at 10-11. Yet, there was no real threat to the six-seeded Indian who upped the ante and forced Kunlavut into errors at the net, gaining a four-point lead. Not to be outdone, the Indonesian reduced the margin but it was too late in the day for him stage a real recovery.

Ajay K. Singhania, General Secretary, congratulated the shuttler's efforts. "It was a great occasion for all of BAI family and officials to celebrate. Winning a medal in Asia is always good, but winning gold is even better. We are really proud of the teenager," said the BAI Secretary-General.

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