

Professor Abul Lais passes away

By NJ Thakuria
Guwahati, June 17,

Eminent educationist and translator Professor Abul Lais passed away on Saturday (16 June 2018) at his ancestral home at Machkhowa locality in the city. Prof. Lais, 85, died just before the Eid Namaaz at 9.30 am leaving behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relative & well wishers. His last rites were performed at Athgaon in the evening hours.

Soon after completing his master in English literature from Gauhati University, Prof Lais joined the prestigious university in 1959. Later, he pursued his master in linguistics and English language teaching from the University of Leeds. After retiring from Gauhati University in 1994, Prof Lais also served Tezpur University



for two years.

Widely regarded for his brilliant translation of How Green Was My Valley (by Richard Llewellyn) into Assamese, the soft spoken gentleman also tried his hands in translating some other classics like Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, Erich Maria Remarque's Three Comrades, James Hilton's Good Bye Mr. Chips, RK Narayan's Swami and Friends etc.

17 die in NE flood; situation grim in Assam, improves in 3 states

Agency
Imphal, June 17,

The flood situation in Assam worsened today as four more people lost their lives, taking the death toll in the region to 17, officials said.

Although the situation improved marginally in Tripura and Mizoram in the past 24 hours, one more person died in Manipur from flood-related incidents.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), four persons lost their lives in flood and landslide related incidents during the last 24 hours.

While one person each died at Sadar and Lakhipur revenue circles in Cachar district, one person lost his life at Lanka in Hojai, it added.

Heavy rainfall triggered landslide at Mahur, Harangajao and Maibang under Haflong revenue circle in Dima Hasao, where one person lost his life, the ASDMA said.

With this, the total number of persons losing their lives has gone up to seven in the first wave of flood this year.

The ASDMA said over 4.25 lakh people have been affected in Assam's Hojai, Karbi Anglong East, Karbi Anglong West, Golaghat, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar districts. Karimganj has been the worst-affected with over 1.95 lakh people, followed by Hailakandi with almost 1.89 lakh people.

Currently, 716 villages are under water and 3,292 hectares of crop areas have been damaged, the ASDMA said.

Due to landslide between the Bandarkhal and Damchra station, rail movement continued to remain suspended in the Lumding-Badarpur section, Northeast Frontier Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Pranav Jyoti Sharma said.

The ASDMA said authorities are running 213 relief camps and distribution centres in five districts, where 1,00,010 people have taken shelter. Nearly 350 people have been evacuated to safer places

during the last 24 hours by the SDRF and NDRF personnel from Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar.

Landslides have taken place at three locations in Guwahati city, but no casualties has been reported so far.

Currently, Brahmaputra at Nimatighat in Jorhat, while Barak at AP Ghat in Cachar and Badarpurghat in Karimganj are flowing above the danger marks.

Other rivers like Dhansiri at Numalgarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at NT Road crossing in Sonitpur, Kopili at Kamrup in Nagaon, Katakhal at Matizuri in Hailakandi and Kushiara at Karimganj town are flowing above the danger marks.

In Manipur, 1 person died in Imphal West district, official sources said. Unofficial source said as many as 5 died in Flood affected valley area.

The intensity of rainfall decreased in Imphal this morning, but the situation was yet to improve in the valley districts of Thoubal, Imphal West and Bishnupur, they said.

A fisherman drowned in a swollen river in Imphal West district yesterday, a report issued by the Relief and Disaster Management Department noted, adding that more than 1.8 lakh people have been affected by the floods.

The number of damaged houses across the state has increased to 22,624 yesterday from 12,500 on Thursday, necessitating the setting up of 48 new relief camps, it said.

The flood situation has slightly improved in Tripura even as over 40,000 people continue to remain stranded in 189 relief camps across the state, the sources said.

The flood situation also improved in Mizoram today with the water level of river Tlawng and Langkai receding, officials said.

Disaster Management and Rehabilitation department officials said though the water level of Tlawng and Langkai river in Lunglei district has started receding, but 500 families were displaced and a number of houses were still under the water.

YACPIP elaborates on Systematic Clash and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

IT News
Imphal, June 17,

Youths Action Committee for Protection of Indigenous People (YACPIP) has expressed about the disharmony being prevailed in the North East region since the mid of May, 2018. In a press communiqué the Committee said that a communal hatred messages was spread out across the nation through the social medias that Bihari in the state of Manipur are being chased out by the Manipuris. On 2nd of June, 2018 yet another incident broke out in Meghalaya wherein the Dalit

Sikh had been targeted by the locals under the influence of some political leaders of the state. It could be further learned that on the 9th of June, 2018, 2 youth from Assam was beaten till death in Karbianglong which created an environment of hatred among different communities inhabited in Assam.

The committee term such incident as systematically planned by the state to divert the issue of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), 2016 which has been opposed by the people across the region as it talks about granting citizenship to

persons belonging to minority communities namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, etc.

"Opposing the CAB is utmost important for the indigenous people inhabited in the region and the government of India also knows that the Indigenous people will continue to raise the voice against the CAB, therefore, we suspect that the state have adopted a plan to erupt communal clash in nook and corner of the Region", a statement by L Gulshan, President of the

Committee said.

"We fear that finalizing of the head count under the CAB, 2016 by the government of India for their political gain or vote banks for the upcoming planning 2019 election", the statement added.

The committee also appealed the state government not to apply the Divide and rule policy of the British in the region to dump the Illegal Migrants from the neighboring countries and warn the people of the region to understand the dynamics of game being carried by the state and not to get carried away under such influences.

Army conducts motivational lecture cum career counseling

Imphal, June 17,

Tulihal Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a Motivational cum Career Counseling lecture at Imphal Valley School, Ghari in Imphal West District on 14 Jun 2018. A total of 200 students and teaching staff were present during the lecture and were informed regarding the career prospects in the Armed Forces. The students and school authority expressed their gratitude to Army personnel for organizing the event for educating the youth.

Assam Rifles celebration Lai Ekoukhatpa Festival

Imphal, June 17,

Phundrei Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised and assisted in Lai Ekoukhatpa Festival at Battalion HQ Khongjom, Thoubal District on 14 Jun 2018. The Battalion provided all assistance in terms of ceremonial Pooja setup and preparation of traditional lunch for the devotees. A total of 500 locals participated in the festival.

Rohingyas greet Eid with dismay

By- Siam Sarower Jamil,
Dhaka, June 17,

There is but little life to be seen in the Rohingya camp at Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya, even on Eid.

Most Rohingyas are disappointed as they do not have new clothes or provisions for the holy occasion, with some also upset that their Eid is unlike how they celebrated it back home.

Financially able Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya and Teknaf did their Eid shopping from marketplaces near their camps, but most Rohingyas are dismayed that they have had to leave many desired items out of their shopping list due to a lack of resources. Some were also worried they would not have sufficient space to perform their Eid prayers.

Balukhali camp resident Ayub said: "No NGOs or

international organizations provided any extra support on Eid this year, leaving a lot of people disappointed. Most of the 2,500 Rohingyas in my camp block were unable to buy new clothes or vermicelli for their children." On the other hand, Abdur Rahman, a resident of the same camp, said: "Eid? Back in Rakhine the army did not even let us perform our daily prayers in peace. We would always be terrified during Eid. We may not be completely happy here, but at least we are not living in fear."

Kutupalong refugee camp resident Mariam said: "My husband was murdered by the Myanmar army. I am eking out a frugal existence with my four children. Let alone new clothes or vermicelli, I do not even have sugar to give my children."

"Back in Rakhine, my husband used to work at other people's houses to earn



for Eid, but as that is not possible here, we are having trouble celebrating Eid the way we used to," said Sobura Khatun, a resident of the same camp.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md Kamal Hossain said to the Imphal Times, "The district administration has been giving Rohingyas every

possible facility. WFP, UNHCR, RRC, and other NGOs have been distributing special Eid supplies at the camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf, with weekly rations also being distributed. Moreover, mosques in the area have been outfitted with special arrangements so that they can perform their Eid prayers."

Thirty Indian Railways trains will not run for 42 days; ticket cancellation refunds on offer

Agency
New Delhi, June 17,

In a bid to improve infrastructure under its ongoing exercise to facilitate smooth services, Indian Railways has cancelled over 30 trains on different routes for about 42 days. The traffic block has been imposed from June 15 to July 26 on the Lucknow Division due to construction at Varanasi Railway Station's platform number eight. The cancellation of these trains is temporary, and the services for these trains will be restored after July 26, said an official statement from Railways, adding that platform number 24 of Mail and Express Trains will also be shifted for the said period from June 15 to July 26. **The train cancelled under Lucknow Division's Varanasi Railway station are:**

1. Varanasi-Vadodara Mahamana Superfast Express (20904): Train journey beginning on June 15, 22, 29 and July 6, 13 and 20.
2. Vadodara-Varanasi Mahamana Superfast Express (20903): Train journey starting on June 13, 20, 27 and July 4, 11 and 18.
3. Varanasi-Ahmedabad Sabarmati Express (19168): Train journey starting o-n June 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29 and July 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27.
4. Ahmedabad-Varanasi



5. Sabarmati Express (19167): Train journey starting on June 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30 and July 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24
6. Varanasi-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Kamayani Express (11072): Train journey starting from June 15 to July 27 will remain cancelled.
6. Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Varanasi Kamayani Express (11071): Train journey commencing from June 13 to July 25 will remain cancelled
7. Varanasi-Gwalior/Khajuraho Bundelkhand Express (1108-21108): Train journey commencing from June 15 to July 26 will remain cancelled.
8. Gwalior/Khajuraho-Varanasi Bundelkhand Express (1107-21107): Train journey commencing from June 14 to July 25 will remain cancelled.
9. Varanasi-Maysore Express (16230): Train journey starting

- o-n June 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 and July 05, 07, 12, 14, 19, 21, and 26
10. Maysore-Varanasi Express (16229): Train journey commencing o-n June 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 and July 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 will remain cancelled.
11. Varanasi-Hubli Express (17324): Train journey beginning o-n June 10, 17, 24 and July 1, 8, 15, 22
12. Hubli-Varanasi Express (17323): Train Journey starting o-n June 8, 15, 22, 29 and July 6, 13, 20
13. Sealdah-Varanasi Express (13133): Train journey commencing o-n June 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30 and July 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25.
14. Varanasi-Sealdah Express (13134): Train journey beginning o-n June 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30 and July 2, 3, 5,

- 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27
- Cancelled passenger trains:**
- 54255 - Varanasi-Lucknow passenger train: Journey starting from June 16 to July 27 will remain cancelled.
- 54256 - Lucknow-Varanasi passenger train: Journey beginning from June 15 to July 26.
- 54261 - Mughalsarai-Jaunpur passenger train: Journey commencing from June 14 to July 26.
- 54262 - Jaunpur-Varanasi passenger train: Journey commencing from June 15 to July 26.
- 54267 - Mughalsarai-Varanasi passenger train: Journey starting from June 15 to July 26.
- 54268 - Varanasi-Mughalsarai passenger train: Journey beginning from June 15 to July 26
- 54270 - Varanasi-Mughalsarai passenger train: Journey starting from June 15 to July 26

63553 - Asansol-Varanasi MEMU train: Journey commencing from June 14 to July 26

63554 - Varanasi-Asansol MEMU train: Journey beginning from June 15 to July 27 will remain cancelled

Traffic block in Ambala Division

The Ambala Division of the Northern Railways is also imposing three Mega traffic blocks at 6 am each for the provision of three Limited Height Subways on the Sirhind-Nangal Dam section June 10, 17 and 24. It would include cancelled/ partially cancelled trains given below:

Cancellation of trains from June 10:

64517/64518 - Ambala - Nangaldam -Ambala MEMU 64564/64563 - Amb Andaura-Ambala- Amb Andaura Passenger train

Cancellation of trains on June 17 and 24:

64563/64564 Ambala - Amb Andaura-Ambala Passenger train

Partial cancellation of trains on June 10:

64511/64512 Saharanpur - Nangaldam -Saharanpur MEMU will remain partially cancelled between Ambala - Nangaldam-Ambala. 64515/64516 Ambala - Nangaldam -Ambala Passenger train will remain partially cancelled between Sirhind-Nangaldam-Sirhind.