

Govt. is considering merger of 4 public sector banks: Report

Courtesy - Moneycontrol News Mumbai, June 4.

The government is considering merging at least four state-run banks, including Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank Ltd, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Central Bank of India, according to a Mint report.

If the plan goes through, the merged entity will become the second-largest bank in the country after State Bank of India, with combined assets of Rs 16.58 lakh crore.

Over the last one year or more, the government has been indicating consolidation in the banking sector by reducing the number of banks by merging or closing down some of the loss-making smaller public sector banks. However, in March,

If the plan goes through, the merged entity will become the second-largest bank in the country after State Bank of India, with combined assets of Rs 16.58 lakh crore

Moneycontrol sources had ruled out any merger or consolidation plans during this year.

The four banks that are being proposed to be merged are under pressure with combined losses of Rs 21,646.38 crore in the year ended March 31, 2018.

The merger is an attempt by the government to help stem the rise in bad loans or non-performing assets (NPAs) in their books at a time when corporate demand is weak and banks are being cautious on further lending amid stricter central bank guidelines in

case of a default. The merger will also allow the weak banks to sell assets, reduce overheads and shut money-losing branches.

The department of financial services, under the finance ministry, is also simultaneously considering a 51 percent stake sale in IDBI Bank to a strategic partner, for Rs 9,000-10,000 crore, the report quoted citing unnamed sources.

"Dilution of (government) stake in IDBI Bank could also be achieved through stake sale to private equity investors," it added.

'Governor is a mentor, guide to State govt & important link in federal structure'

Agency New Delhi, June 4.

President Ram Nath Kovind has said Governors can help in shaping of a road map for the betterment of the people, who have not benefited as much as expected from the development journey. Addressing the 49th Conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan today, Mr Kovind said, there are approximately 100 million people in the country who belong to the Scheduled Tribes.

He said a majority of this population lives in regions that are covered under the Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. He said, Governor is a mentor and guide to the state government and an important link in the federal structure.

The President said, as per the Constitution, the post of Governor has an exalted place in the scheme of governance. Mr Kovind said, 69 per cent of all universities in the country come under the purview of state governments and Governors are the



Chancellors of most of the universities.

He said, the Governors can help in ensuring that admissions of students and appointments of teachers in state universities are completed well in time and in a transparent manner. He said, governors can also help to ensure that examinations, declaration of results and convocations take place as scheduled.

The President said, the Centre has decided to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi over a 24-month period commencing 2nd of October this year. He said, there will be no better way to cherish Gandhiji's memory than to strive for genuine and meaningful social transformation.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the conference.

Ex-IAS officer convicted on cheque bounce issue

Agency Silchar, June 4.

The Kamrup Metro court on Saturday convicted Bimalendu Bhattacharjee, a retired IAS officer, former member of Assam Public Service Commission, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Gauhati Municipal Development Authority allegedly for dishonour of a cheque of Rs 7 lakh which he had issued to Siddikul Islam, a resident of Hatigaon locality in Guwahati. According to sources, following a case (No. 2996/2010) filed by Siddikul, who had paid Rs 10 lakh to Bhattacharjee as loan, the Court announced the verdict penalising Bhattacharjee, a resident of Silchar to two months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. The Court asked Bhattacharjee to repay Rs 7 lakh as well.

Sources said that even as Bhattacharjee had paid Rs 3 lakh in cash to Siddikul and issued a cheque of the remaining Rs 7 lakh back in 2009, the cheque got bounced.

Guatemala volcano: Dozens die as Fuego volcano erupts



Courtesy: BBC Guatemala, June 4.

Twenty-five people have been killed and hundreds injured in the most violent eruption in decades in Guatemala.

The Fuego volcano, about 40km (25 miles) south-west of the capital Guatemala City, has been spewing rocks, black smoke and ash into the sky. A flow of lava hit the village of El Rodeo, killing people inside houses. The main airport in Guatemala City has been closed.

President Jimmy Morales has declared three days of national mourning.

In a statement issued late on Sunday, he spoke of the nation's "deep pain" caused by the "irreparable losses" in

human lives.

Sergio Cabañas, head of the country's National Disaster Management Agency (Conred), told a local radio station that a lava stream had changed course towards El Rodeo.

"Unfortunately El Rodeo was buried and we haven't been able to reach the La Libertad village because of the lava and maybe there are people that died there too."

This eruption is the biggest since 1974, according to local experts.

Mr Cabañas later said the dead included a member of his agency's staff.

Several children are among those confirmed dead. Videos published by local media show bodies lying on

top of a lava flow and rescuers attending to people covered in ash. One woman told the Diario de Centroamerica that lava had poured through corn fields and she thought more people may have died.

"Not everyone escaped. I think they were buried," Consuelo Hernandez said.

A total of about 1.7 million people have been affected by the eruption, officials say.

Officials have advised people to wear masks as protection against falling ash in four of Guatemala's regions.

The military is providing assistance, from rescue operations to setting up temporary shelters and clearing volcanic ash from the runway at Guatemala City's La Aurora airport.

CBSE declares NEET results

New Delhi, June 4.

The CBSE has declared the results of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, NEET 2018. The results are available on cbseent.nic.in. NEET is conducted for admission to MBBS and BDS courses.

With the declaration of results, the CBSE has brought an end to about month-long wait for over 13 lakh candidates who had appeared for the exam on the 6th of May.

Earlier today, the Supreme Court refused to stay the announcement of results of the NEET. It was hearing a plea filed by the CBSE challenging the stay on declaration of results.

On the 24th of May, the Madras High Court had granted an interim stay on publication of the results. It was hearing a batch of petitions filed by some students alleging that a uniform question paper was not given and that there was a vast difference between the one in English and Tamil.

12 civilians, 4 police personnel injured grenade blasts

Jammu, June 4.

At least 12 civilians and four police personnel were injured today after unidentified militants hurled a hand grenade towards a police party at Batapora Chowk in south Kashmir's Shopian district. A police spokesperson said two women, including a minor girl, are among the injured civilians.

Security sources told AIR the grenade missed the target and exploded on a road side. At least nine civilian pedestrians sustained splinter injuries.

The minor girl reported to have sustained grievous injuries has been shifted to Srinagar hospital for specialized treatment. Other injured persons were shifted to a local hospital for treatment.

Security forces launched a manhunt to nab the attackers. No militant outfit claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

India, US pledged to continue their strong bilateral strategic partnership: Pentagon

Agency NY, June 4.

The Pentagon has said India and the United States have pledged to continue their strong bilateral strategic partnership.

Referring to a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis in Singapore, Defence

spokesperson Captain Jeff Davis yesterday said in Washington that both Mr. Modi and Mr. Mattis discussed the importance of the US-India relationship.

They also discussed the role of both nations in cooperating to uphold international laws and principles, and to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. He said the two leaders

pledged to continue the strong US-India strategic partnership and affirmed their commitment to maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Mattis met the Prime Minister on the sidelines of the International Institute for Strategic Studies' 17th Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore last Saturday.

More State News

11 kgbv will be upgraded to high schools status from the next academic session

Imphal, June 4.

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam yesterday visited Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, (KGBV) Ukhongshang and the recently inaugurated Residential School, Lilong. Accompanied by the Engineering Wing of the Education Department, the Minister inspected the schools to look into the viability of the schools to be upgraded to High School by adding class IX and X.

Th. Radheshyam said that the Central Government has given approval for upgradation of the Residential school and KGBV to High School. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, (KGBV) Ukhongshang, has introduced class IX (nine) from this year's academic session. The Residential School and KGBV both built under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme have classes from VI

-VIII. He asserted that with the approval, all the 9 residential schools and the 11 KGBV will be upgraded to high schools from the next academic session of 2019-20. He also informed that for the time being the classes at KGBV, Ukhongshang, is being carried

out in a 'make-shift' having more than 100 students. The Minister also interacted with the teachers, students and the guardians.

The residential school and KGBV has been introduced by the Government focusing to let the children, belonging to the poor families and minority

sections of the society, get free and compulsory elementary education.

The Minister who is also the concerned MLA of the Heirok A/C also visited the construction site of the Litan thong, Heirok, with rainy season already approaching the state.



Contd. from page 2

Delusion in Self – The Cause of Worry

The worries and suffering which a party experiences are nothing more than interactions of his or her experiences selfish desires with changing worldly conditions. The failure to understand this fact is the cause of much suffering. But for a person who has trained his or her mind to realize the real nature of life and its characteristics, he or she had indeed made progress in overcoming his suffering. He or she realizes the departure or separation from pleasant experiences and those whom he or she loves are unavoidable. This can happen at time whether at the start of the career, at the middle or even at the end. So

a person who thinks he or she is indispensable or that he or she must be around to see what is to be done should consider what will happen when he or she is no longer around. He/she will miss and his/her absence will be felt perhaps for a short period of time. Since no one is indispensable in this world, the world will still go on as usual without him/her. If that be so then why should he/she worry himself/herself so much, harboring imaginary fears that only harm his or her health and eventually shorten the periods towards the end of life's journey – Death! The separation of togetherness also brings suffering. A person feels lost,

dejected, hopeless and frustrated when someone leaves him or her. This is a natural process. People experience suffering whenever they are rejected by those whom they love. But sometimes instead of learning to cope with the situation by allowing time to heal the wounds, they become paralyzed with dejection, pondering about it over and over in their minds, looking for ways and means to mend the broken hearts. Some even express their anger and frustration through violent methods.

(The writer is a lay Buddhist & Social Activist of People Who Use Drugs (PUDs))