

Forge signature found in the case taken up by Lokayukta against MSPCL; files another petition to the High Court

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

With the case challenging the recommendation by the Lokayukta Manupur in connection with the MSPCL case, at High Court of Manipur being underway, various attempt to mislead the Lokayukta beside defaming the integrity of Managing director MSPCL, N. Sarat have been traced out. Following that the MSPCL have filed more cases to the High court challenging the recommendation. Interestingly, even signatures of the petitioner have also been found to be forged.

As per a petition filed to the High Court of Manipur, it has been stated that on September 5, 2020, Thiyam Nirosh, s/o Thiyam Ningthemjao of Singamei, Chingamaka Meisnam Leikai, filed a complaint with the Manipur Lokayukta against 12 MSPCL employees and turn-key. A RTI application dated 17th November, 2018 filed by Thiyam Nirosh was also enclosed as a reference to the complaint in the aforementioned complaint.

What is interesting about this case is that the complainant Thiyam Nirosh's signature in the complaint letter to the Manipur Lokayukta differs from his signature in the RTI application he filed earlier to

the MSPCL. A mobile number 8974002604 belonging to one Manihar Sarangthem as identified by truecaller was written in a complaint application to the Manipur Lokayukta, which differed from the mobile number 9862206077 written in an RTI application.

As the signature in the name of Thiyam Nirosh is found dubious, Staffs of the MSPCL filed an application Cril. Misc. Case No. 11 of 2021 u/s 340 of Cr.P.C read with section 195 of Cr.P.C and section 4(3) of Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014 for filling a complaint of the Hon'ble Lokayukta against the complainant for punishing u/s 211, 417, 419, 463, 464, 465, 468, 469, 471 & 34 IPC read with section 46(1) of Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014 coupled with a prayer for proceeding against Manihar Sarangthem who appear to have committed the offence of forgery and impersonation u/s 319 of Cr.P.C before the Lokayukta.

It may be mentioned that under Section 46 of the Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014, a person filling false, frivolous or vexatious complaint can be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and with fine which may extend to Rs. 100 lakh.

Even though the filing of the above said application u/s 340 of the Cr.P.C, the Lokayukta

did not take up the proceeding alleging that the application is being filed without the knowledge of the Deputy Registrar, Manipur Lokayukta. The Dy. Registrar has not yet given the Misc. Case number of the application. Thus, the MSPCL filed a petition to the Manipur High Court in this regard.

Having no alternative, staffs of MSPCL filed a complaint Cril. Misc. Case no. 203 of 2021 against Manihar Sarangthem and Thiyam Nirosh before the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West, Manipur. On 10-11-2021 the Ld. CJM, Imphal West passed an order and also taken cognizance u/s 200 of Cr.P.C on the observation that "it seems that the material disclosed after the examination of the complainants have some prima-facie material for taking cognizance. Hence, cognizance is taken. However, matter requires more material facts for further proceedings/trial. Accordingly, O.C. Imphal P.S. is directed to investigate the matter u/s 202 of Cr.P.C. the O.C. Imphal P.S. shall submit report of the inquiry within a month from the date of order passed."

Thereafter on 17th November, 2021 the OC Imphal P.S. issued police summon u/s 160 of Cr.P.C. to Thiyam Nirosh Singh to appear before him on 19th

November, 2021 at 3.00 pm and another summon also sent to Manihar Sarangthem to appear before him on 20th November, 2021 at 10.30am in connection with the inquiry endorsed by the Ld. CJM Imphal West.

On November 19, 2021, in view of the order dated 10 November 2021 passed by the Ld. CJM Imphal West in Cril. Misc. Case no.203 of 2021 the MSPCL had filed an application being Misc Case No. 10 of 2021 before the Lokayukta for passing an appropriate order.

On November 19, 2021, Hon'ble Lokayukta passed an order in Cril. Misc. Case no. 10 of 2021, without giving an opportunity to be heard, that the proceeding of Complainant Case No. 2 of 2020 should not be interfered with by adopting different dilatory tactics, and that other courts should not interfere with the proceeding of Complainant Case No. 2 of 2020 and barred Police from summoning Manihar and Nirosh.

Surprisingly, the Lokayukta filed a revision petition to the Manipur High Court in connection with the aforementioned order dated 19th November 2021 passed by the Lokayukta itself. The revision petition was withdrawn after the High Court refused to hear the petition. The Manipur Lokayukta withdraw the case.

Election petition filed to quash the election of MLA Sorokhaibam Rajen of Lamsang AC

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

National People's Party (NPP) candidate Pukhrambam Sumati Devi has filed an election petition to the High Court of Manipur pleading to declare the election of MLA Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh as void and to set aside and quashed his election for submitting false affidavit. Sorokhaibam Rajen, the BJP candidate got elected as MLA from 17-Lamsang Assembly Constituency by defeating his nearest rival NPP candidate P Sumati Devi with margin of 400 votes.

The Election Petition filed under Sections 80, 80-A, 81 and 84 read with Section 100 (1) (d) (i) (iv) and 101 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 challenged the election of Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh as an elected member to the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly from 17-Lamsang Assembly Constituency, Manipur in the election held on 28.02.2022 and the result which was declared

on 10.03.2022.

The petitioner challenged the said on the ground of improper acceptance of nomination of the Respondent No. 1 by the Returning Officer of 17-Lamsang Assembly Constituency in as much as the Respondent No.1 has also filed a false affidavit thereby wrongly stating his Highest Educational Qualification as B.A. passed in the year 1988 from the Manipur University in the affidavit filed under Form 26 on 07/02/2022 and also for not disclosing the details of the brick farm namely, M/S SR Construction Materials (Brick Field) under registration No. 324 /Fact/ Brick Type of Factory Brick Field located at Thaoorjiam Maning Leikai covered by C.S. Dag No. 306 Patta No. 106/203 (old) belonging to Respondent No.1 and immovable properties belonging to him and his dependents and the source of income of himself and his wife at the time of filing of nomination paper and affidavit under Form 26. -11- That, the improper acceptance of the nomination by the Returning

Officer despite vehement protest from the petitioner and the non-compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of India / and rules / orders made under the Representation of Peoples Act. by the Respondent at the time of filing of nomination and affidavit under Form 26, for which, the election of Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh to the Manipur Legislative Assembly Constituency from 17-Lamsang Legislative Assembly Constituency is liable to be declared as void.

The Election Petition is filed to set aside and quash the election of Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh to the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Constituency from 17-Lamsang Legislative Assembly Constituency under declaring the same as void on the ground of improper acceptance of nomination paper and for filing false affidavit under Form 26, and thereby declare the petitioner as the Returned Candidate from 17-Lamsang Assembly Constituency for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2022.

AMMSO submits memorandum to Union MoS Education for removal of MTU Vice-Chancellor

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

The All Manipur Student's Organization (AMMSO) has demanded a removal of Manipur Technical University (MTU) Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Bhabeswar Tongbram) alleging of wrongful appointment.

In a release, the student's Organization stated that a memorandum was sent to the Union Minister of State for Education, Dr. R.K. Ranjan in

the connection. The memorandum mentioned that the Dr. Tongbram Bhabeswar was recently appointed as a Vice-Chancellor of MTU despite the fact that he does not fulfill the required criteria to become the VC.

Dr. Tongbram Bhabeswar was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Manipur Technical University on November 8, 2021 by the Governor of Manipur La Ganesan.

The memorandum said, under the UGC regulation,

section 7.3 Dr. Tongbram Bhabeswar was not eligible to become the Vice-Chancellor as he neither have experienced as a Professor in any University for 10 years nor he was a Leader of any Academic Administrative Organizations.

The student body further urged to the people of Manipur to support their demand in the interest of the student community of Manipur in particular and the Nation in general.

USBA warns blockade on national Highways over failure to clear MGNREGA pending

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

United Senapati Block Association has warned the state Government of indefinite blockade along the two national highways connecting Imphal with Dimapur and Imphal with Jiribam from April 28 midnight if the State Government fails to clear the pending MGNREGA liabilities.

Speaking at Manipur Press club at Majorkhul here in Imphal,



Hesho Lorho, Member of the USBA said that the central Gov-

ernment has already released grants-in-aid amounting to Rs.

230,02,00,000/- (Rupees two hundred thirty four two Lakh only) for clearance of old pending liabilities (wage and material and administration liabilities).

He said that if the state government failed to clear the pending liabilities of the MGNREGA by April 27, the association will launch series of agitation including indefinite blockade on both Imphal-Jiribam and Imphal-Dimapur National Highways.

PREPAK to observe 9th Indian Colonialism Resist Day

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

The proscribed group People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) is all set to observe the ninth Indian Colonialism Resist Day tomorrow.

A statement of the rebel group said that the day will be observed at its CHQ, GHQ, THQ, Transit Camping, Training Centre and other departments of the outfit.

The outfit recalled the incident of Patsoi-Langjing Khunou 1980, at which civilians including women and children were tortured, raped and

molested by the troops of CRPF.

On that day some red army of the PREPAK killed two CRPF personnel around 9.15 am and recovered two arms from them.

The PREPAK statement called on the people of the region to stand united against the colonial day on the day. On that day the CRPF had killed a pregnant lady at Patsoi Langjing. Further many civilian and innocent public were brutally tortured leaving many handicapped.

The PREPAK statement also recalled on how the CRPF

had mercilessly murdered 13 civilians on March 14, 1984, while enjoying a volleyball match at Heirangoithong Volley Ball ground. On November 21, 1980 the Indian security force had killed 4 civilians at Pishum Oniam Leikai. On July 12, 2004 Thangiam Manorama was captured by the Assam Rifles and on July 13 she was raped and killed.

The killing does not end there the statement added. On January 7, 1995, the Indian security force CRPF captured 9 civilians including a medical student of RIMS from Arunachal Pradesh and shot them to death in cold blood inside the RIMS complex. On

February 19, 1995, 127th Bn of CRPF killed 3 civilians at Basikhong Lamlong and seriously injured 9 others. On July 21, 1999, the CRPF killed 5 civilians at Churachandpur.

The statement said that the kinds of killings are being conducted under hidden agenda to suppress the people of the region and to eliminate the people.

In remembrance to the Patsoi incident, the outfit has been observing the Indian Colonialism Resist Day on every April 26. Tomorrow is the ninth time that the organization has been observing the day, the statement added.

KYKL observes 28th Raising Day

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

Proscribed group Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) observes its 28th raising day today. The raising day function was held at GHQ-1st Bn, CHQ, 2nd Bn, 3rd Bn, units, and sections.

A statement of the KYKL said that the main function was held at GHQ-1st Battalion, where Lt. Col Adjutant Ingba, "Meeyam gi Yawol Lanmee" (MYL) of Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), presided over the event, while Ibomcha, the chief of the army staff, Miyam gi Fangang Lanmi (MFL) of Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) graced the function as chief guest. Comrade Robin, G3, MFL, KCP has also attended the function as Guest of Honour.

The statement added that the observance began with the chief guest lighting the ceremonial lamp and the functional

president hoisting the party flag. During the ceremony, floral tributes were offered to revolutionary cadres who had sacrificed their lives in the course of the revolutionary struggle, along with a two-minute condolence salute in their honor.

The reading of the chairman's annual message, which emphasizes the importance of critically examining the revolutionary movement's dwindling situation and the necessity to launch a discourse on ideology and tactics, is a prominent feature of the function. Captain Tamba of MYL, KYKL read the message.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lt. Col Ingba made the point that it is critical to unite all revolutionary groups in Kangleipak to fight Indian colonialism's ever-growing cultural invasion, which includes imposing the Hindi language on people of WESEA region. Also, he emphasized that the best way to

lead the people to victory over Indian colonialism would be to unite all revolutionary organizations under a common political ideology.

H. Ibomcha, the army chief, MFL, KCP, speaking at the celebration, stressed that even before we have liberated Kangleipak from the colonial yoke of Indian imperialism, we, the Kangleichas must establish our own economy not relied on handouts from mainland India. All of our means of production are taken away from us by the Indian colonial process, leaving us fully reliant on them in order for them to maintain colonial dominance in the region. In line with the chairman's message, he stressed the urgency of beginning an ideological debate to re-energize the revolutionary struggle and the necessity of moving beyond factional politics, which has become a culture among the Kanglei revolutionary class.

Limits of US Human Rights Report on Bangladesh

By: Jubeda Chowdhury



The United States recently released a report on the human rights situation on 198 countries in 2021. The country's state department made various allegations of human rights violations against Bangladesh.

The US State Department's annual global report on human rights was launched on April 13, 2022, by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. In Bangladesh, there have been claims of widespread impunity for security force abuses and corruption, according to the report.

According to the 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Bangladesh report, "significant human rights issues included credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings; forced disappearance; torture or cases of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by the government or its agents on behalf of the government."

Rejecting the report, the state minister, Shahriar Alam has already said in a briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last Sunday. Shahriar Alam said the report was given without verifying the information. The US ambassador to Dhaka will be summoned for this.

In an official response, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that the US report is far from the reality of Bangladesh. The state minister also claimed that information was taken from weak sources in making it. He said that in Bangladesh, there are issues that are far from reality, which we are excluding from outside. Which Bangladesh will never be able to entertain? Especially the rights issues of homosexuals that have been mentioned. There is a big problem with the quality of research that has been used. The sources from which the information was taken are weak. It is a clear political agenda.

The state minister said the United States needed to hold talks with Bangladesh before releasing the report. The information mentioned in the US report will be verified by the concerned ministry and the US ambassador will be summoned in this regard. "We hoped they would share the matter with us first," he said. It also falls within a rule. We have decided that we will talk to the United States about every issue. Shahriar Alam said the government does not expect anyone else to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

"The government took little means to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption, abuse, and murders by security officers," according to the report.

Bangladesh's government said on April 17, 2022, that the United States' human rights country report "heavily underplayed" Bangladesh's existing system of accountability over law enforcement agencies, while Dhaka remains "intensely engaged" with the UN mechanism and US recommendations to protect human rights.

The report appears to urge the creation of a lawless society in order to destabilize society and the government," the foreign ministry stated in a statement. It goes on to say that the Bangladeshi legal system forbids killing by indiscriminate use of firearms.

Mr Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that the government will seek an explanation from the United States noting that there are fundamental flaws in the report.

There are many limits of the reports published by the US state department. The report is based on the results of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the majority of which are supported by donors. They do not fund such programs out of their own pockets. Because these NGOs, particularly those in Western countries, are supported by donors, they feel compelled to collect negative news, fearing that if there is just positive news, their financing will be cut off. Politics may or may not play a factor in this.

They are naturally loyal to whichever country provides the funds because they are supported by donors. Even large NGOs rely on donations, and they struggle if they do not receive the funds they require. During the pandemic, this is exactly what happened. During the pandemic, NGOs were largely inactive. Because the western world was also hurting from the pandemic's consequences, the NGOs were unable to contribute much funding. In this sense, there is a constraint.

The US, like Bangladesh, did not delegate this obligation to the UN. Who entrusted them with the task of compiling reports about other countries? What is the law in this regard? It is their own set of rules. Is this report credible in the eyes of the world community? No country, neither Bangladesh, India, or China, has entrusted them with this task.

Whatever they are doing may be logical, but it would have been great if they had done so after consulting Bangladesh. By making and publishing the reports, The US always tries to interfere into some internal affairs of other countries. Human rights are a universally accepted term. Bangladesh is also working to promote human rights, law, peace and harmony in the country. Bangladesh has own human rights commission. The legal codes of Bangladesh ensure the protection of human rights in Bangladesh.

Because we have a strategic engagement with them, they may have brought this up during those meetings. Bangladeshis must also be informed about human rights violations in the United States, or this endeavor will lose credibility. There are numerous examples of human rights violations in the United States.

contd. on page 3

Politically Bulldozed Polity



By: M.R. Lal

India in the recent days witnessed and discussed violence aplenty. No country, for that matter, would appreciate the enormity of violence into which it sinks. What makes India the most vulnerable is its multitude of cultural expressions which are, if not often, but in conflict at different levels these days. Multiple religious ideas are sure to remain a reality in a secular country like India. What makes them conflicting is the way we approach them. With different religious ideas weaving the garment of diversity in India, we must have enough space for a hearty laughter and a reason for congenial coexistence. What derails such a coexistence is the exclusive ideals that we hold on to be true and deliberately authorize to mar the essence of collective humanitarian wellbeing. India has a long story to tell about invasions and their inimical scars that are still engraved in the minds of generations. Its acrimony, mistrust and gruesomeness stay for long and take generations of efforts to eradicate completely. Post-independence, the political warfare with which the country moved taking a one-sided appeasement approach also contributed to the collateral damage. India was communally divided and emotionally dampened, which was an outcome of a colonial intervention that, when the British vacated the country, left it with deep cuts and bleeds. Religious affinity in India was a personal matter for a long period. But it came to the forefront recently as a political tool capable of collectively enticing a large cohort for electoral gains. The role of religion in a person's life is spiritual upbringing at a personal level. What made it acrimoniously outrageous was when it was tightly tied to the ugly intentions of politics. Of course, the communal violence erupted in different states at small localities should make us ponder seriously on the damage that it can cause to what we call, the national conscience of the country. We have umpteen historical evidences for small skirmishes subsequently turning into volatile riots causing severe damage and bloodshed.

Exclusive behavior of religions has always caused danger to societies. Bloodshed in abundance across the globe was not only due to the hostile behavior of politics, but the politics in religions or religions being made into political tools. This was also due to certain religions being incapable of either abandoning or renovating their exclusive ideals in the direction of strengthening humanitarian values. Friction to the level of severe commotion and destruction was the result of such ideals. Constantly questioning the reliability of other religious views and being in scrimmage with them, exclusive religious beliefs always made the human endeavor of spiritual progress calamitous. Certainly, no religion holds the spiritual power to claim to be completely apolitical without a dark spot in its integrity. Bulldozing the dreams of ordinary people may be a temporary solution to the tumult that the repulsive elements in each religion creates. But such administrative actions are incapable of stopping the fire of hatred. Of course, bulldozers may temporarily douse the discontent. Political parties have probably under-

stood that religious belief is the weakest chain link that in India the societies are impulsively fastened on. And to break the link by divisive political intentions is the easiest task and the only solution is to go beyond the self-styled unambiguous exclusive mindset and the confinements of religions. Situation in India is so precarious that a person with an impartial perspective on the current social atmosphere is sure to get perplexed, unable to distinguish between a religious and political procession in the streets. This is because the slogans raised in all these processions are almost the same, putting religion and politics in the same basket. Undoubtedly this trend needs to change. Names of Gods dragged into political platforms appears to be the easiest way to get public support.

Violence becoming a new normal with religion and politics accelerating discontent among people is horrific. Processions in the name of religious ceremonies with names of deities shouted should not be disputed with acrimony. India has a variety of religious forms offering multiple practices significantly capable of diluting disagreements. Unlike the Islamic republics in our neighborhood, India offers a congenial impetus to everybody to be appreciably expressive. This does not mean that religions motivated by radicalized beliefs can pounce on one another aggressively with sufficient political patronage jumping into their rescue. The distance with which the Indian state has drifted

from the universal spiritual ethos that it once preserved and propagated is ghastly irrevocable. The question relevant at this juncture is, can India survive and progress as a powerful nation when trifling frictions easily shake the country with volcanic violence erupting across the length of it. Bigotry of religions is probably hijacking the collective conscience of people. The Sanatana Dharma which has nothing to do with the saffronised political motives of the BJP, is purely inclusive and that held the power to bind the country together when it was shattered by the brutality of invasions. Political ideologies intellectually invade the people's mind by moulding them to be submissive to their dubious intentions, undoubtedly define the present context of political discourse. It is time for India to decide the course that it has to take helping the diversity to remain unified and unperturbed. But unfortunately, it seems to be a tough task. Political parties need to stop the euphoria that they have so far been successful in injecting in the polity. Instead of bulldozing the fortunes of people, the administration should find ways to curb aggressive agitations. It appears that a trend of political bulldozing in the BJP ruled states is politically countered by the same bulldozing in the Congress ruled states. The only difference is that the communities that got bulldozed were different. Parties politically strategize to satisfy the vulnerability into which the polity is plummeting and the dividend is sure to bounce into their electoral exchequer. But does the nation have the patience to suffer more?

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

New births of children in Rohingya Camps rage controversy in Bangladesh

By: Ashis Biswas

Bangladesh government internationally seen as the saviour of the much persecuted community, on the same footing as successive Burmese administrations — there was a general agreement that the Rohingyas bred faster than others, no matter the type of government in charge!

Recently attending a routine meeting to review the Rohingyas's security, administrative coordination and related issues of their settlement, Mr Khan hinted that food supplies through rations may be reduced to ensure that birth rates among the Rohingyas did not spiral out of control. Bangladesh had always followed strict family planning norms for its citizens stringently. In the process the Government earned the opprobrium of hardline Muslim fundamentalist organisations.

There was a suggestion that similar steps be introduced among the Rohingyas as well. However the fact that the stateless ethnic group originating from the Rakhine province in Myanmar were not Bangladeshi citizens also meant that any direct intervention was out of the question. Larger issues were involved.

According to sources in Bangladesh, the number of stateless Rohingyas was now around 1.2 million. There has been no census in recent years. The biggest exodus from Myanmar came in the wake of the anti-Muslim violence unleashed by Myanmar troops in 2017. Over 750,000 people crossed over in batches.

During the last 4/5 years according to some estimates, over 100,000 children had been born within the displaced community putting up at an island (Bhashan char) and various camps. However, estimates vary. Some UN affiliated agencies and HR people assert that there have

been around 75,000 births, not more during the mentioned period.

Whatever the actual figure, there was no arguing that the situation was alarming: the emergence of a new generation of Rohingyas born stateless in temporary settlement camps where living conditions despite the best official efforts undertaken were far from ideal, carried its ominous warning regarding the future of the community as well as the reluctant host country.

In this context, Mr Khan according to Dhaka-based media accounts, spoke the dreaded words: referring to the higher births figure, he articulated the controversial notion of reducing existing ration supplies as a means to reduce the mounting number of child births. The government claimed that on average 35000 children were born every year among the Rohingyas.

Media reports stated that at present, children and adults received the similar quantities of food items under the rationing system. The financial allocation for each ration card every month was around Taka 1100 or thereabouts. Each individual card holder, adult or child, was assured of receiving around 14 kilos of rice, and 20 other items including fish, meat, veggies, sugar and so on. After Khan's announcement, a fresh debate has started.

Many argue that a monthly supply of around 14 kilos of foodstuff was hardly princely, rather the quantity should be supplemented if anything. The stateless Rohingyas had it tough: they could not undertake local work normally, and at best could work only as part time labour on a casual basis. Even the small shops some of them opened in their camps could not run for long. The community was totally dependant on the Government for its physical survival.

To even think of curtailing existing supplies would be truly draconian. Further, it would seriously hurt women and children and affect future generation of Rohingyas.

The counter argument ran, it was common for Rohingyas to sell part of their rice and other supplies informally among locals, which suggested that there was often a surplus. Further the quantum consumed by children and adults could not be equal at any level. The 30,000 figure was an obvious exaggeration. Some experts were certain that the actual number of births annually was around half of that or less.

The debate will continue even as most settled Rohingyas as well as Bangladeshi officials remain engaged with how the Myanmar army rulers respond to their urgent demand to accelerate the process of repatriation and rehabilitation of lakhs of stranded Rohingyas back to the Rakhine province.

Bangladesh has long been complaining of endless delaying tactics adopted by Naypitaw authorities on the critical question of the return of the Rohingyas. It also proposed that with so many children being born annually in the camps, the Myanmar authorities were asked to declare their position on the status of the new batches of children.

Senior Rohingya community leaders in Bangladesh feel that the new born children according to all existing laws and conventions should all be counted as Burmese citizens. But they acknowledge, whether the army authorities ruling Myanmar or even other political parties and civil groups would be willing to accept these children as Burmese citizens at all, anytime soon, is a question nobody can answer for now.

(IPA Service)

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Active COVID-19 cases in country rise to 16,522

Agency
New Delhi, April 25:

With 2,541 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,30,60,086, while the active cases increased to 16,522, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The death toll climbed to 52,223 with 30 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded as 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 649 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.84 per cent

and the weekly positivity rate as 0.54 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,21,341, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 187.71 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 10 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on

June 23 last year.

The 30 new fatalities include 24 from Kerala, two each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and one each from Delhi and Mizoram.

A total of 5,22,223 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,834 from Maharashtra, 68,843 from Kerala, 40,057 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,167 from Delhi, 23,505 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,201 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

107 fresh COVID-19 cases in Mizoram

Agency
Aizawl, April 25:

Mizoram reported 107 fresh COVID-19 cases on Monday, 30 more than the previous day, taking the state's tally to 2,26,886, a health official said.

The death toll rose to 695 as an 88-year-old woman from Mamit district succumbed to the infection on Monday, the official said.

She was diagnosed with COVID-19 on April 22, he said.

The state now has 700 COVID-19 active cases, he said.

44 Assam Rifles organises cleanliness drive



IT News
Imphal, April 25:

To commemorate National Panchayati Raj Day yesterday, 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector AR/ IGAR (East) organised a two day cleanliness drive at Chahwa Vil-

lage of KPI district.

The day is celebrated to honour the efforts and contributions of various village panchayats in the socio-economic development at the grass-root levels. The main aim of the cleanliness drive in Chahwa village was to motivate the local population about the importance of cleanliness and give a push to Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan.

The event was organised in close coordination with the village authorities of Chahwa. School going Children and the locals along with village authorities took an active part in the cleanliness drive alongside their brothers in uniform and took a pledge to continue working together for the development of the area.

PM Narendra Modi Receives First Lata Mangeshkar Award

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 25:

The first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award, was conferred upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan Charitable Trust, on the 80th death anniversary of Deenanath, an actor, musician, and a vocalist, in a function at Shanmukhananda Hall in Central Mumbai on Sunday.

A trophy and a citation were presented to Modi by the Mangeshkar family members-Meena Khardikar, Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosale, and Adinath Mangeshkar. Modi was awarded for his selfless service to the nation. The award has been instituted in memory and honour of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who passed at the age of 92 years, on February 06 this year.

In his speech, Modi paid rich tributes to India's nightingale Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar saying that her soulful voice unified the country and her contribution to "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat" (One India, Best India)



was immense and she would continue to inspire generations to come. She was a true example of Goddess Saraswati. Her songs contributed tremendously to the celebration of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (celebration of 75 years of India's independence) and the nation would always remember them.

Her variety of songs in over 30 languages including the immortal patriotic song "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo", Tulsi Das's famous poem "Ranchhori Manas", songs in praise of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, were a guiding force to the society. Her father Deenanath had sung an anti-British song written by great freedom fighter Veer Savarkar in front

of the then viceroy in a function organized in Simla (Himachal Pradesh) during the pre-Independence day, Modi said.

"I was introduced to Latadi by veteran music director late Sudhir Phadke. After that, there has been a strong bond between me and Latadi and the entire Mangeshkar family. She was my elder sister. Unfortunately, she will not be with us during the ensuing Raksha Bandhan.

I generally keep myself away from such felicitations ceremonies. But when an award was named after an elder sister Lata Mangeshkar, it became an obligation for me to accept it because of the affection and right of the Mangeshkar family over me",

Modi said.

Lata saw many transitions... gramophone records, cassettes, CDs, DVDs, Pen drives, and online music. Her voice was divine and she was very devoted to god. She could be described as advait (Brahma/Vishnu).

She was removing her footwear outside the recording room since the singing was a sadhana (spiritual exercise) for her. She always used to say that a person becomes great by his deeds and not by her thoughts. I dedicate this award to all Indians since Latadi belonged to all people.

Modi received the award in presence of Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Maharashtra Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis, and others.

Adinath Mangeshkar, a son of Lata's brother Hridaynath, gave a brief account of the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan Charitable Trust and Lata Mangeshkar Medical Foundation, based in Pune, engaged in social work, including giving financial assis-

tance to martyrs, defence personnel and the general public. He described Modi as a leader who had raised the image of India to dizzy heights in the world.

"The Trust has been honouring every year an individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to our nation, its people, and our society, Narendra Modi was the most dedicated, self-less person and was emerging as the most dynamic leader on the planet", Adinath added.

Lata's sister versatile singer Asha Bhosale narrated how Lata at the age of 13 years, after the demise of Deenanath, looked after all the siblings. She also narrated how Lata once worked despite suffering from a 104-degree fever. Lata ensured that the names of playback singers were mentioned on the discs and also ensured that they were given royalty.

Asha Bhosale also recited a few lines of Lata's evergreen hit Hindi song "Aayega Aayega, Aayega Aanevala Aayega Aayega" from Hindi film-Mahal for which the music was scored by Director Khemchand Prakash.

Indian Army distributed books and stationery to local students at Tamei

IT News
Imphal, April 25:

Tamei Battalion of Red Shield Division under aegis of Spear Corps organised a book distribution and awareness program for local students of Tamei at Sharon Hostel on World Book and English Language day.

More than 90 students of various hostels of Tamei participated with full enthusiasm and were handed over books and stationery.

Students demonstrated their skills and talent in musical and cultural events. The event was appreciated by the locals and village authorities.

Contd. from Page 2

Limits of US Human

Extrajudicial killings are committed by US police. In the United States, roughly 1,000 such occurrences occur each year on average. In addition, there was the Black Lives Matter movement. In fact, not only Bangladeshi students, students from the whole Indian subcontinent face hate crimes. Let's talk about the human rights situation in the USA. recent 918 people have been shot and killed by police in the USA in the past year. This isn't my data. This is the data of the 'Washington Post'. Protests over the 2020 Black Lives Matter, revived by the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd by three Minneapolis police officers, indicate the largest protest movement in U.S. history. The US should look at the human rights situation in its territory first.

On February 26 this year, UN human rights experts called on the US government to end police torture and racial discrimination in the United States. According to reports of Western media outlets such as The Guardian, BBC, there are serious violations of human rights in the USA. Shouldn't US look at the human rights situation in its territory first?

The constitution of People's Republic of Bangladesh clearly spells out the fundamental principles of state policy. The Constitution explicitly articulates the protection and promotion of human rights (art. 11). It obliges all branches of government to respect and ensure the rights it enunciates.

There are might have some

separate incidents but Bangladesh Police aims to enhance the capacity and willingness of all its members to contribute in a collaborative manner to the creation of a safer and securer environment based on respect for human rights, equitable access to justice, and rule of law in accordance with the spirit of our constitution and the principles of the universal human rights. It is true that there might have some separate incidents but the US authority shouldn't evaluate the whole scenario by a single framework. In the case of Bangladesh, Security forces may fire several times to save lives when terrorists fire their weapons. There might have been some separatist incidents.

We (Bangladeshi citizens) shouldn't spark any new controversy and worry based on this recent human rights. US-Bangladesh bilateral relations wouldn't affect. We have recently had the US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue where we discussed several important topics ranging from military cooperation. condition based on This is not the first time the US has produced a study like this in recent years. There isn't much of a difference between those and the latest report. It is the natural habit of the US to make such kind reports every year.

(The author is a female teacher in Dhaka city. She is a freelance writer. She has completed her honors and Master's degree in the International Relations department of the University of Dhaka)

Career Guidance

Children get many benefits from the habit of reading books



By: Vijay Garg

Today everything has gone digital. From bank to studies, everything has been reduced to one phone. Technology has its advantages, but it also has disadvantages. Due to this, the habit of reading books in children is almost ending. Children are spending most of their time in online games or classes. In such a situation, their language, understanding of pronunciation and knowledge of words are becoming limited, which is not right for them. Also, not only do we get information and knowledge from books. Reading books also develops patience, thinking ability, hand-

writing and memory power in the child. With this, the child also learns to make and write stories on his own. Reading books increases concentration in children and also helps them to sleep well. So as a parent you should develop the habit of reading books in your child. For this, you can adopt these easy measures and can also make the child aware to read the book.

1. Start from Home

The first school for a child is his home and the first teacher is his parents. If you read books, your children will also follow this. They will also be interested in reading the book. Therefore, create an environment for reading and writing in your home. If you read books on your bed instead of mobile phone, then the child gradually learns the same habits. He also gets interested in books. However, you should allow your children to read books according to age so that they feel comfortable in it.

2. Tell the things of literature

The simplest way to make your child aware of reading books is to tell them new stories and also to tell some interesting stories from Gita-Ramayana so that the child gets excited about reading the book. For example, when you tell the story of a rabbit and a tortoise to your child, keep the book open in front of them so that they can make a habit of reading the book through the pictures. Apart from this, always ask them to tell the story. With the help of this, children remember any thing for a long time.

3. Read a book with baby

Sometimes we put extra pressure on children to read the book. Instead of doing this, read a book with your child. This will also make them feel like reading and will create enthusiasm for books in them. If you read a story with him on one day, then the next day he himself brings a book that he starts reading the other story. With the help of this activity, you spend more time with your child. He

also enjoys reading books.

4. Do homework

Teach the children to sit together, then ask them to read a small chapter or paragraph every day. This develops the habit of reading books on their own. Also, ask them to tell that story while sleeping. This will enable him to speak his point better. Apart from this, the child will also have the ability to choose words, the style of speaking and the way of communication.

Also read- There can be many reasons why children are not interested in studies, learn easy ways to deal with it

5. Must take to the library

To inculcate the habit of reading books in your child, you must take them to the library. Library is a place where a child can read his favorite book. You can also read a book in the library for some time and ask the child to read his favorite book. By reading books, he is able to express himself better in front of others.

Keep these things away from children

1. The child's mind is very fickle. In such a situation, they feel very little in reading books, so keep their mobile on silent or off so that their attention is not disturbed when the phone rings.

2. Sitting position is correct. Many times we are teaching children sitting in the wrong way, due to which they get tired quickly and do not want to read.

3. Set small targets. Do not force children to read too much in a day. Due to this, the child's mind will not be engaged in reading books.

4. Always ask the child to repeat the story while reading the book. Due to this their pronunciation is also correct and the hesitation of speaking is also removed.

5. Always make the child curious about reading books. Talk to them about what will happen next in the story so that their mind will be engaged in reading books.

Delhi logs over 1,000 Covid-19 cases for 3rd straight day; PM Modi asks people to 'Stay Alert'



Agency
New Delhi, April 25:

Daily Covid-19 cases in India crossed the 2,500-mark for the second consecutive day on Sunday. India on Sunday logged 2,593 cases in the last 24 hours ending, marginally higher than 2,527 infections recorded a day before on Saturday. As many as 44 deaths were reported Sunday, taking the death toll to 5,22,193. The total number of active cases in the country now stands at 15,873.

Here is a look at the Covid situation in India:

The daily cases in India stayed above the 2,000-mark for the entire week except on Tuesday. India added 15,538 new Covid-19 cases this week. 2,527 virus cases were reported on Saturday, 2,541 cases on Friday, 2,380 on Thursday, 2,067 on Wednesday, 1,247 on Tuesday, and 2,183 on Monday. This is a sharp rise from the number reported in the previous week ending April 17.

Delhi logged in 1,000 plus cases for the third consecutive day on Sunday. Delhi on Sunday reported 1,083 fresh Covid-19 infections with a positivity rate of 4.48 percent, while one person

died due to the disease, according to the health department.

Maharashtra on Saturday reported 194 fresh Covid-19 cases, the highest rise in one day after March 25. One fatality was also reported, taking the death toll to 1,47,832, a health official said. On March 25, Maharashtra reported 272 Covid-19 infections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Mann Ki Baat Radio address on Sunday urged people to "stay alert" and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. In view of the rising tide of Covid-19, PM Modi will also hold a meeting with chief ministers on Wednesday through video conference, official sources said on Saturday. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan will make a presentation on the matter, they said.

The Serum Institute of India has requested the Centre to make use of the available 10 crore doses of Covishield offered free of cost by GAVI under COVAX facility in view of rising Covid-19 cases in the country to prevent their wastage. The Pune-based firm has written to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHF) that if these 10 crore free doses of Covishield are not taken by the Indian government timely,

it will lead to wastage of the life saving vaccines amid the pandemic outbreak.

The total number of Covid-19 cases at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), skyrocketed to 60 on Sunday as against 55 a day earlier. In view of the situation, the Health Department has urged the district authorities to be "prudent" and not let the guard down in controlling the spread of the virus.

An experimental treatment from Shionogi & Co Ltd has shown rapid clearance of the virus that causes Covid-19, according to new data, the Japanese drug maker said on Sunday.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on Sunday informed that the cumulative Covid-19 vaccination coverage of the country has exceeded 187.67 Crore (1,87,67,20,318) through 2,30,29,745 sessions, as per the provisional reports till 7 am. As many as 1,04,04,725 (1st Dose), 1,00,12,053 (2nd Dose), and 46,94,892 (Precaution Dose) have been administered to the Health Care Workers (HCWs) whereas 1,84,14,942 (1st Dose), 1,75,32,038 (2nd Dose), and 73,40,412 (Precaution Dose) have been jabbed to the Front Line Workers (FLWs) in the country.

Bengal CPI(M) gets a chance for emerging as second party behind Trinamool

By Ashis Biswas
New Delhi, April 25:

Despite flickering signs of a revival of lost support for the CPI(M) in West Bengal, observers are not yet sure that the party is about to turn the corner in the short term. By no means unsympathetic to the CPI(M) or the Left in general, they refuse to view the party's recent impressive recovery in the Ballygunge Assembly by-poll as the clinching evidence of a long-awaited upturn.

Within the CPI(M)'s Bengal unit, especially among the ranks of youth cadres who have been waging a hopelessly one-sided battle against the ruthless Trinamool Congress (TMC) party machinery there is no marked enthusiasm for a national anti-BJP struggle, partnering with their tormentors.

There are two major reasons for the hardening of the Bengal CPI(M)'s stance against the TMC: first the prolonged sufferings faced by party cadres and their families in the unequal struggle to protect their minimum existential rights. Despite their best efforts, state Left leaders could not help them very much, facing a politically ruthless ruling party. The politicization of the state administration and the police reached unprecedented levels. Even common supporters and sympathizers faced cooked-up charges, police repression and legal harassment in and out of jails! In Bengal, however, this was nothing new, as during the 34 years of the CPI(M) led rule in the state, the local CPI(M) secretary controlled the police station.

The Left's own political agenda makes it more difficult to align at any level with the TMC on even major political issues outside Bengal or Kerala, as suggested by Party Secretary Sitaram Yechury recently. One explanation: the CPIM affiliated DYF is about to hold its all In-

dian conference shortly.

As a youth leader explained, 'All state delegates would attack and condemn the TMC for its corruption, opportunism and its autocratic method of functioning. Visiting delegates from other states would be informed in detail about the gruesome situation in Bengal. They would find it difficult to urge upon their state leaders to work in unison with a party like the TMC on any major issue'.

It was the Bengal CPI(M)'s sustained agitations in recent times against the TMC that had helped the left regain some of its lost ground. Their struggles strongly resonated with the harassed people of the state. Popular support had been evident for the widely acclaimed campaigns by the Red Brigades in running subsidised food canteens and free medicine among the needy in urban and suburban areas. The same could be said about the unstinting Left support for the aggrieved job seekers on the verge of starvation who had been deprived of employment in schools and colleges, because of corruption involving TMC Ministers! The Left also took the lead in providing legal and other assistance provided to poor families' victims of rapes and murders and poor peasants terrorized by pro TMC elements in the villages.

The growing support among the people was reflected in by-election or civic poll results. After the 2021 Assembly polls, the Left was recapturing its earlier runner-up position to the ruling TMC, ending the BJP's brief period of glory. Even the worst excesses committed by TMC musclemen and the hostile police force, there was a noticeable rise in the Left votes again.

However the significance of the CPI(M)'s relatively spectacular showing at Ballygunge Assembly seat by-poll a few days

ago should be assessed judiciously in the present context. Most left leaders from CPI(M) state Secretary Mohammad Salim downwards were carried away by a few positive signs at Ballygunge.

They pointed out that the winning margin for the TMC had declined from over 70,000 to just over 20,000, within a space of five years. And the percentage of votes polled by the CPI(M) had risen from 6% to over 30% (approx) this time. The demotion of the BJP from runner-up to the third position was an added sweetener.

It is common knowledge that on polling day only 41% of the voters turned out to vote at Ballygunge, a somewhat unusual phenomenon in Bengal especially where Muslim voters constitute 52% of the electorate.

Clearly, one reason the CPIM put up such a close fight against the TMC was that the latter did not win as many Muslim votes as before. Much of the Muslim vote went not to the Congress, but to the Left. The candidature of former BJP Union Minister Babul Supriyo had cheered the pitch for the TMC. Many Muslim voters did not conceal their anger over what they alleged to be anti-minority speeches in the past.

However, CPI(M) leaders lost no time in claiming that the tide had turned and that the TMC's days of speaking as the sole political force in Bengal for the Muslims were over. Left supporters even brought out processions celebrating the 'moral victory' at Ballygunge in some places.

This is where the post-poll reactions of Bengal-based Muslim leaders assumed special significance that the Left should not ignore.

A spokesman of the Bengal Imam Association claimed that the Left had no reason to celebrate during a TV interview. The

CPI(M), he insisted, could not claim that the Muslim opinion was turning in its favour.

He reasoned that Muslims in Bengal were increasingly upset with the TMC Government which had made the community many false promises. It had promised new modern schools, colleges and universities to help the backward minorities. Government jobs, better roads and hospitals had been promised.

Actually very little had been done. Only Imams were given a measly allowance, which no one had asked for. TMC Ministers resorted to cheap gimmicks like sponsoring Ifar parties and resorted to cheap symbolism. But there were hardly new jobs or opportunities! The nomination given to Babul for Ballygunge seat was the final straw that broke the camel's back.

There was indeed a broad agreement among Muslims not to vote for him. Even repeated visits and requests made by Kolkata Mayor and TMC Minister Firhad Hakim made no difference. As for the Left, they never contacted us. Even so the steep decline of the TMC's winning margin has sent a clear message to the ruling party: said the Imam.

Others pointed out that Mr Hakim could not visit the aggrieved family of late Anis Khan, the youth victim of violence allegedly carried out by local police at Amta in Howrah district some days ago. Angry protesting demonstrators drove out the Minister and his team of police and other officials.

As for the Left bringing out rallies to celebrate the Ballygunge results, other Muslim leaders said, the winning margin at one area could not be seen as a general anti-TMC trend among the minorities. Muslim leaders at Furfura Sharif felt that Left leaders were celebrating too soon.

Sports

Lucknow captain scores unbeaten 103 in a 36-run win against Mumbai Indians



Agency
Mumbai, April 25:

KL Rahul played a captain's knock to guide his team to a 36-run win over Mumbai Indians in the IPL here on Sunday. This is Lucknow's fifth win in eight matches this season, while five-time champion Mumbai is yet to get off the mark losing eight games on the trot.

Mumbai struggled in its chase with Ishan Kishan struggling to get going in his laborious innings of 8 (20b). Devald Brevis and Suryakumar Yadav perished cheaply leaving Rohit Sharma with an uphill task. Sharma scored 39 (31b, 5x4, 1x6) but got out with his team still needing in excess of 100 runs. Krunal Pandya was the pick of the bowlers taking three for 19.

Rahul, who had scored a century against Mumbai a few days ago, smashed an unbeaten 103 off 62 balls with the help of 12 fours and four maxi-



mums but he didn't get enough help from the other batters. Manish Pandey had a 58-run stand with Rahul but he lacked intent during his run-a-ball 22, while Marcus Stoinis (2), Krunal Pandya (1) and Deepak Hooda (10) paraded back to the hut in quick succession.

Later, Rahul added another 47 off 25 balls with young Ayush Badoni (14) to take Lucknow to a competitive score.

For Mumbai, Australian Daniel Sams, who had snapped four wickets the other day against Chennai Super Kings, had a forgettable

evening as he conceded 40 runs in his four overs.

Kieron Pollard pulled things back a bit as he snapped two wickets in two overs, while Riley Meredith accounted for two but conceded 40, with Jasprit Bumrah once again displaying his brilliance as an all-format great.

After deciding to bowl, the Mumbai bowlers were on the money at the start with Bumrah dealing the first blow, removing Quinton de Kock (10) with Rohit Sharma taking a low dipping catch at short cover.

Rahul and Pandey struggled to up the ante as

pressure was maintained from both ends.

Rahul then sprung into action with a maximum over deep mid-wicket off Unadkat, while Pandey deposited Meredith into the sightscreen.

The skipper then pulled one across the deep mid-wicket, before cutting the next ball over point for successive boundaries as the Lucknow team racked up 17 runs to reach 72 for one at the half way stage.

Brief scores: Lucknow Super Giants 168/6 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 103*) bt Mumbai Indians 132/8 in 20 overs (K Pandya 3/19)

Over 1500 people participate in IIT Guwahati's annual Guwahati Half Marathon

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, April 25:

Stepping into its 24th year of unflappable technical celebration, Techniche - IIT Guwahati, in association with UNICEF Assam, organized the **Guwahati Half Marathon**, a running event organized to promote a better social and human interaction amongst the residents in and around Guwahati. One of the largest events of its kind to be managed entirely by a student body, the marathon has evolved coherently over the years since its inception in 2009 to become the largest half marathon in northeast India. This year the marathon witnessed the participation of over 1500 people from different walks of life to come and spread their cognizance and sense of concern for a better society. The 12th edition of the marathon was successfully organized yesterday with its theme **"Run for Child Protection, Stand up with #YouthSuraksha"**.

The Guwahati Half Marathon

thon'22 appealed to people to be a part of the change for the prosperity of society. It urged people to become more responsible for prevalent issues in society, like child labour, child abuse, child trafficking, cyber crimes against children, illiteracy, hunger, and lack of development. Guwahati Half Marathon'22 gave everyone a platform to think about these issues and brought a little bit of change in the general public's perception.

Ashok Kumar Bharali, the General Secretary of Assam Athletic Academy, was the marathon's Formal Guest of Honour. He was joined by Dipak Kumar, Regional Director of NSS, who was the Guest of Honour in felicitating the winners during the prize ceremony. The event was also graced by the presence of the special guest Shri Nibedan Das Patowary, ACS, Govt of Assam.

Among the runners for the 21 km run was Mr. Munna Prasad Gupta, an Ex-IPS commissioner. Keeping in mind the vast

participation we get from various walks of life, The Guwahati half Marathon was conducted as three events:

Glory Run- The flagship race of the half marathon, The Glory Run was a 21 km race meant mainly to quench professional runners' thirst. Participants from all around India participated in this category.

Spirit Run- It was a 6 km race specially designed for the citizens of Guwahati. People from all age groups participated in this event, encouraging all citizens to come together and run a race for the cause.

General Championship- This was an event exclusive for schools and colleges, where the battle was out for that one trophy of the General Championship. The top three institutes carried home the trophy and exciting goods.

The event started with the professional marathon of 21KM run in the morning at ABITA Stadium Guwahati, Gandhi Basti. This was soon followed by the 6KM run for the general public.