



WEATHER GUWAHATI

Fog or mist in the morning and mainly cloudy sky later. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 26°C and 12°C respectively.

TEMPERATURE:
Maximum 26.0°C
Minimum 12.0°C

One more held in Boragaon gang rape case

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: Gor-chuk police arrested Krishna Barman, one of the prime accused of the Boragaon gang rape incident, on Sunday. The person was apprehended from Golokganj of Dhubri district. Krishna is a daily wageer and a resident of West Boragaon area here. The court today sent him to three-day of police custody.

Altogether, seven persons have been arrested in connection with the case so far.

Anti-corruption day observed

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the West Guwahati College of Education organized an event on International Anti-Corruption Day at the college hall recently.

The event was attended by students and faculty members of the college who staged various dramas on the relevant topic. It was organized to raise awareness among the students about the harmful effects of corruption and to promote integrity and accountability. — Staff Reporter

Artist felicitated

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: Asudev Art Foundation, a city-based organization, has honoured artist Jyotismriti Bordoloi with the Asudev Art Scholarship-2024 recently.

Hailing from Golaghat, Jyotismriti Bordoloi is now pursuing a Master of Fine Arts (Painting) degree in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

The scholarship consisted of a memento, a citation and one-time financial grant of Rs 50,000. The event was held to mark the 107th birth anniversary of artist Asu Dev on the premises of Asudev Art Foundation located at Ulubari here.

Artist Noni Borpujari, Udayan Biswas and many others were present at the meeting, chaired by sculptor Biren Singha. Asudev Art Foundation is a non-profit trust, established in 2016 in memory of veteran artist Asu Dev by his family members. — Staff Reporter

All Assam girls' quiz competition

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: Nari Saraswat Mancha is going to organize the 6th edition of the Khiroda Choudhury Memorial Quiz Competition for girls on December 29 at the Alumni Hall of Cotton University, said a press release.

The topic of the quiz competition is "Woman achievers in the world". The competition is open for the girls of Class IX to research scholars.

Cash prizes with trophies and certificates will be awarded to the six teams. Willing participants are requested to register their names before December 27, it added.

GMC mulls tax rebate for cleanliness

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) is considering a proposal to give tax rebate to citizens who help the apex civic body to keep the city clean.

In its move to make extensive mass awareness on cleanliness and garbage management among the masses, the GMC is also planning to organize a competition "Swaccha Poduli" among the city households.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, GMC mayor Mrigen Sarania said that in a bid to tackle the challenges of solid waste management, the apex civic body is plan-

ning to launch various innovative steps in the days to come. The proposed tax rebate plan, competitions etc., are part of such initiatives, he said. Guwahati produces 700-800 tons of solid waste on daily basis and managing the same is a major challenge for the apex civic body, Sarania informed.

"The decision regarding tax rebate is yet to be finalized and we are studying different aspects of the proposed move," Sarania said.

Meanwhile, to keep the city clean, the GMC launched the Guwahati Swacchata Abhiyan on Saturday.

Mayor Sarania informed that under the new initiative, altogether 37 task

forces will carry out extensive cleanliness drives in every nook and corner of the city for the next three months. Similarly, members of the task force will also organize awareness meetings and interaction programmes among common people in every locality to raise awareness on the importance of cleanliness.

"The members of the task force will cover every corner of the city. Thereafter, they will create awareness among the masses on the importance of maintaining cleanliness. If local people, organizations, NGOs and others come forward to join the initiative, it will make a difference soon," Sarania added.



Ahead of Christmas, people buying Santa Claus attires from a roadside vendor at GS Road in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

Many join Asom Gana Parishad in Sonapur

CORRESPONDENT

JORABAT, Dec 15: In a significant political development ahead of the upcoming Panchayat elections, over 100 individuals, including former members of AASU, AAP, and Congress, have joined the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) during an induction programme held this evening at the party's Dimoria Legislative Council headquarters in Sonapur.

The event was presided over by Dimoria Legislative Council president Srikanta Deka, with AGP general secretary Dr Tapan Das welcoming the new members with certificates. Addressing the gathering, Dr Das stated that the AGP's core ideology of regionalism continues to attract individuals committed to the protection of Assamese identity and interests.

The newly inducted members, in their addresses, expressed their faith in the AGP's leadership and policies, citing the party's regionalist vision as the key motivator behind their decision. They also took an oath of allegiance to the party principles and vowed to work towards strengthening its grassroots network.

Prominent party leaders, including Dimoria AGP vice president Bidhan Deka, general secretary Ramen Deka and others were present at the event, which also discussed strategies for the upcoming elections.

It is noteworthy that the newly-formed Dimoria constituency comprises 14 panchayats — 12 from Dimoria and two from Chandrapur. Additionally, the region is represented by three Zila Parishads in Dimoria and one in Chandrapur.

Foundation day of KVS

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: Kendriya Vidyalaya IOC Noonmati celebrated the 62nd foundation day of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) with great enthusiasm and grandeur recently, said a press release.

The celebration began with the hoisting of the school flag and ceremonial lamp lighting by the chief guest Dr Dolly Das, principal of the school. The students showcased the significance of KVS through a series of vibrant cultural performances that reflected the organization's values and legacy. A special highlight of the event was an exhibition, featuring artistic posters created by 75 students, beautifully blending literature and creativity, it added.

The event was attended by the presence of all the teaching staff and students, who collectively made the celebration memorable and meaningful.

TMC gearing up for polls

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress is gearing up for the 2025 Panchayat polls in Assam as well as elections to the BTC.

A meeting of the TMC Assam State committee was held in the city on Saturday. It was presided over by TMC State unit president Romen Chandra Borthakur.

During the meeting, the party prepared a calendar for conducting various programmes across the State.

Different organizational activities will be undertaken in various districts from December 15 to December 24. TMC will hold a workers' meeting and an induction programme in Guwahati on December 27. — Staff Reporter

APCC eyes on young guns to strengthen party hold

Congress will give priority to youths below the age of 40 years while allotting tickets for the Panchayat polls

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: The political affairs committee (PAC) of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) met here on Sunday.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of APCC president Bhupen Kumar Borah. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in-charge of Assam, Jitendra Singh and other senior leaders were present on the occasion.

The PAC deliberations

focused on the forthcoming Panchayat elections and on strengthening the Congress party's organization in the State.

A decision was taken during the meeting to constitute PACs at the district level within the next week.

The district PACs have been tasked to submit reports to the APCC regarding the party's organizational activities.

The district-level PACs of the Congress party will put forth their views on the selection of the new Block Con-

gress Committee (BCC) presidents post-delimitation.

Another decision taken during today's meeting was that the new BCC presidents will be party members below the age of 50 years. However, those above 50 years of age who have already been appointed will continue in their posts.

A monitoring committee comprising Lok Sabha member Rakibul Hussain, former MP Ripun Bora, former State minister Pranati Phukan, and APCC general secretary Sanju Bar-

ah was constituted to review the Congress party's preparedness for the Panchayat elections.

The district units of the Congress have been authorized to explore the feasibility of local-level tie-ups with other Opposition parties for the Panchayat elections.

Congress will give priority to youths below the age of 40 years while allotting tickets for the Panchayat polls.

Today's meeting also decided to change some district unit presidents of the Congress party.

Pragjyotishpur Literature Awards-2024 presented

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Dec 15: On the final day of the Pragjyotishpur Literature Festival-2024 today, the Pragjyotishpur Literature Awards-2024 were presented.

The awards were conferred during the festival's closing ceremony held at the Madhavadeva International Auditorium of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalashetra.

The event, attended by esteemed academic and literary figure Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury as chief guest, saw veteran Nepali-language writer Bidyapati Dahal receiving the Pragjyotishpur Literature Award-2024.

Dahal, a Sanskrit scholar and expert in grammar, Vedanta, and literature, has made significant contributions to Nepali and Hindi literature,

earning widespread acclaim. His mastery of language shines through his works, which reflect the lives of ordinary people.

In his acceptance speech, Dahal said, "The Pragjyotishpur Literature Festival brings a message of hope for the fields of language and literature. Receiving this award has filled me with joy and motivation."

The Pragjyotishpur Young Literature Award-2024 was conferred on Suprakash Bhuyan, a young writer from Dikhowmukh, Sivasagar. Born in 1990 to parents Santiram Bhuyan and Ranu Bhuyan, Suprakash has made his mark through stories published in prominent literary magazines like *Prakash*, *Prantik*, *Gariyoshi*, and *Satsari*. He has also written thought-provoking essays on socio-political topics, establishing his intellectual identity.

"Recognition inspires and binds individuals to new responsibilities. I feel motivated to continue my work after receiving this award," Suprakash said after receiving the award.

Chief guest Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury, in his address, highlighted the significance of the festival, stating that the organization of the Pragjyotishpur Literature Festival by the Sankardev Education and Research Trust was an innovative step.

"This festival, organized in the quest for roots, has opened doors to new ideas. It is especially essential for the younger generation. The discussions covered themes of heritage, tradition, society, self-awareness, and pride. The works of Sudhakantha Dr Bhupen Hazarika reflect a sense of national responsibility, harmony, and universal philosophy, which is, in es-

sence, the vision of our society and culture. The younger generation must be encouraged to realize these aspects, and I am confident that the Pragjyotishpur Literature Festival will foster such an environment," he added.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent figures, including Dr Smriti Kumar Sinha, vice chancellor of Pragjyotishpur University; Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author and renowned journalist Anuradha Sharma Pujari, and Soumyadeep Dutta, executive president of the Pragjyotishpur Literature Festival-2024.

The event was anchored by Hiraikyoti Sharma, while the vote of thanks was offered by Dr Yogesh Kakoti, registrar of Pragjyotishpur University.

IFM, Rani turns into a white elephant!

ANN SERVICE

AMINGAON, Dec 15: Despite having adequate manpower and other necessary infrastructure, the Institute of Farm Management (IFM), Rani has failed to fulfil the expectations of the masses.

Situated on a sprawling campus of over 80 *bighas* of land, the IFM was established in Rani to address the challenges in the livestock sector and to provide effective services to the farmers.

The institute has sufficient manpower strength of over 50 staff members, including a director (in-charge), three deputy directors (one post is reportedly lying vacant),

three assistant directors and one officer-in-charge equivalent to sub-divisional officer among others.

Sources alleged that no departmental farm training programme has been organized here for the past two years. The last training event held here was an institutional training programme for veterinary field assistants in September 2023.

"It was a theory session of nine months, which was held in the institute. But after this, no training programme has been organized here till date," official sources said.

"It's a sheer case of failure of manpower utilization in the institute. Lack of work culture is very much evident



at IFM, Rani. A unique institute of its kind in the entire Northeast, it aimed to train about 5,000 farmers and 2,000 odd professionals every year," sources alleged.

The four demonstration

farms here, which were earmarked for providing hands-on experience to the trainees such as dairy, goatery, duck-cum-fishery, are gathering dust. The poultry farming provision is there but it

is yet to be functional.

The institute is also equipped with a library with a sitting capacity of 100, and three hostels of national standard for boys, girls and professionals.

Notably, for the revival of the IFM, a fund was allotted during 2009-10 under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna. The financial projection was reportedly about Rs 40 crore for civil and logistic works. The government also renamed the institute as Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship & Management, Assam after the revival of the institute in 2009-10. But the new name is yet to be notified for reasons best known to the authorities concerned.

Encroachment hits Adabari Tiniali-Pandu Port Road



Letters (within 150 words) on issues concerning Guwahati may be sent to the email ID: tribune.citymail@gmail.com for publication on the City page.

Sir, — The large-scale encroachment at the Adabari Tiniali-Pandu Port Road, specifically the stretch commencing from the bus stand

towards Pandu, by an assortment of vendors, has created havoc in the area. The inadvertent consequence of this encroachment is the perpetual harassment of pedestrians, who are forced onto the main carriage-way, thereby exacerbating traffic congestion and posing significant risks to public safety. The resultant chaos not only inconveniences the local populace but also undermines the sanctity of public spaces. Furthermore, this phenomenon is not confined only to the aforementioned area. Similar encroachments are insidiously taking root beneath the Maligaon overbridge, threatening to burgeon into a larger menace if left unattended. I request the authorities concerned to undertake decisive and corrective measures to eradicate this issue at the earli-

est. Yours etc., Ajoy Bhattacharjee, Maligaon

Street dog menace

Sir, — Street dogs with a proclivity to bite humans have recently made their habitat near the Beau Mansion Apartment on Naharani Path, Hatigaon. These dogs are extremely dangerous and have already bitten some people in the locality injuring them severely. Residents in the nearby areas are having a difficult time dealing with this issue. Besides, the nocturnal cacophonies of these street dogs are annoying and sleep-disturbing. I would like to request the authorities concerned to shift these animals somewhere. If any regulations prohibit this arrangement, they can take action such as sterilizing and vaccinating these ani-

mals properly against rabies so that the dogs remain harmless while their population is checked. Yours etc., Jamwan, Naharani Path, Hatigaon.

Defunct traffic lights

Sir, — Following the installation of new traffic lights in the Borbari area of the city, people in the locality expected a hassle-free movement of vehicles and commuters. But to our utter surprise, the system is not functioning for the last six months causing chaos in traffic movement along with frequent road accidents. We urge the authorities concerned to look into the matter urgently. Yours etc., Babul Borah, Borbari.

Survival of transplanted trees

Sir, — I wish to highlight the

alarming depletion of green cover in Guwahati due to the rapid infrastructure development, including the cutting of trees for flyovers and roads. While development is necessary, the survival of transplanted trees must be a priority. A recent tree relocation project on the Khanapara-Jalukbari highway witnessed the survival of less than 30 trees out of 45, indicating the challenges of transplanting 'older' trees. Proper care and monitoring are crucial for their survival. I urge the authorities concerned to integrate environmental conservation processes with development plans to ensure the future sustainability of Guwahati's ecosystem. Yours etc., Sangeet Borpujari, Gauhati University.

