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HEADLINES:-

- India announces to keep its borders open round-the-clock to facilitate safe entry of Indian nationals and citizens of other countries stranded due to ongoing unrest in Bangladesh; seven students return to Meghalaya via Kolkata on Sunday.
- Budget Session of Parliament will begin today; Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sithraman will present Union Budget 2024–25 in Lok Sabha.
- Golaghat district administration lifts restrictions on movement of commercial trucks during daylight hours in Kaziranga National Park area in view of improving flood situation in Assam.
- Nagaland Madrigal Singers representing India wins two gold medals at World Choir Games, 2024 in New Zealand.
- Inaugural edition of Meghalaya Youth Football League, 2024 kicks off successfully at different venues across the state.

BORDERS:

In response to the escalating violence in Bangladesh, India has announced to keep its borders open round-the-clock to facilitate safe entry of Indian nationals and citizens of other countries stranded due to ongoing unrest in the neighbouring country. This decision came as part of a coordinated effort to ensure the well-being and safe passage of individuals affected by the turmoil across the border. BSF sources have confirmed that the border will be accessible 24 hours a day, allowing continuous movement of students and others seeking to return to India. The protests, triggered by a contentious quota system for government jobs, have caused widespread disruption and instability in Bangladesh over the past three weeks. Meanwhile, another seven students have returned to Meghalaya from Bangladesh yesterday. The students arrived in Kolkata by Biman Bangladesh flight and later took an Indigo flight from Kolkata to Guwahati.

BUDGET SESSION:

The Budget Session of Parliament will begin today. The Session which will conclude on August 12, will have 16 sittings. Akashvani's correspondent reports that this Session will mainly be devoted to the financial business relating to the Union Budget for 2024–25. On the first day of the session, the Economic Survey 2023–24 will be tabled in Parliament, which provides statistical information and analysis on various sectors of the economy. On Tuesday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sithraman will present the Union Budget 2024–25 in the Lok Sabha. It will be the first budget of the Narendra Modi government in its third term. On the same day, the Budget for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024 will also be presented. During the session, the government is likely to introduce six new bills. Yesterday, the government held an all-party meeting in New Delhi to ensure the smooth functioning of both houses.

KAZIRANGA:

In view of the improving flood situation in Assam, the Golaghat district administration has lifted restrictions on the movement of commercial trucks during daylight hours in the Kaziranga National Park area. According to an official notification, commercial trucks are allowed to travel through the park from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at a limited speed without the requirement of piloting. However, entry is still prohibited during night hours, from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The flood has claimed lives of 215 animals including 13 one-horned rhinos at Kaziranga National Park this year so far. Officials said during the flood time, 157 wild animals including two rhino calves and two elephant calves were rescued.

NAGALAND SINGERS:

The Nagaland Madrigal Singers representing India, has won two gold medals at the World Choir Games, 2024 held in New Zealand. The World Choir Games, which is the largest choral competition was held at Auckland, New Zealand from July 10 to 20, where over 11,000 singers from 42 countries participated at the event. Led by Hito Kiho, the Nagaland Madrigal Singers competed in two prestigious categories namely Contemporary Music Mixed Voices and Mixed Chamber Choir and won gold medals in both categories. The Nagaland Madrigal Singers was founded by Kiho in September, 2023. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio congratulated the team for bringing laurels to the country, and made Nagaland proud.

YOUTH LEAGUE:

In Meghalaya the inaugural edition of the Meghalaya Youth League 2024 got off to a successful start at different venues across the state. In Shillong, Zone-C began with Shillong Sports Association hosting Ri-Bhoi District Sports Association and the visitors were victorious in both age groups, winning the U-14 match 3-0 and the U-16 game 3-2. The Zone A, covering Garo Hills, saw Tura District Football Association romping home to a 13-0 victory over Baghmara District Football Association in the U-14 category. Zone B, covering Jaiñtia Hills, saw some of the closest action and contrasting results between the U-14 and U-16 teams. Zone D is the biggest with six teams and it featured three matches on the opening day, with big wins for Nongstoin District Sports Association, Mawkyrwat District Sports Association and Pyndengumiong District Sports Association in the U-14 age group. A hugely exciting and fun day of youth football ended with 62 goals scored by 50 different players, setting a high benchmark for the matches to come. The next round will be played on the 27th of this month.
