



A number of villagers under the banner of Manab Adhikar Sangram Samity (MASS) staging road blockade program at Bhojor Bogoriguri village at Sonari under Sivasagar district on 18-02-06 in protest against the mass assassination at Kakopathar. *Photo by © UB Photos, Guwahati, Assam.*

## Table of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Welcome to Posoowa .....  | 2 |
| Magh Bihu in Florida .....  | 2 |
| Guwahati as I Remember .....  | 3 |
| Profile of the month: Dr. Dilip Das .....   | 4 |
| Indian PM's US based daughters, Sonia's Italian family and Assam focused Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 ..... | 5 |
| Magh Bihu in Fort Collins, Colorado .....   | 5 |
| Food for Thought .....  | 6 |
| Poems by Niky Sarmah .....  | 6 |
| Priyankoo Sarmah presents papers on Bodo and Mizo .....   | 7 |

## Welcome to Posoowa

Assam Society of America, which was established in 1973, has published a newsletter from its inception. For several years, the newsletter and the magazine were published together once a year, at the time of Bohag Bihu, as "ASA News Magazine". As the membership of the society grew, the newsletter and the magazine became two separate publications. The yearly magazine was named "Oxomi" at the suggestion of Late Gauri Khound of New Jersey. The newsletter was published a few times a year, sometimes regularly and sometimes irregularly, starting the late 1980s into 2003.



voice of the expatriate Assamese people from around the world. If successfully filled a vacuum; it had wide readership; it received many submissions for publication and had become selective. So, it was decided that it should have a name of its own; it should have its own identity. The name was decided by the Editor-In-Chief with consultation of the editorial board. However, right from the first use of the name, there were criticisms.

One stinging criticism was that the name does not faithfully convey the intended meaning of it being a publication of the expatriate Assamese. Instead of meaning "Oxomor pora probax" or "expatriates from Assam", to a lot of people it meant "Oxomot porbax" or "expatriates (from elsewhere) in Assam". There is an ambiguity in the name "Oxom Probax". In the first quarterly meeting of ASA in 2006, a request was made that the name should be changed so that there is no such ambiguity.

The newsletter has been published monthly from October, 2003. From October, 2003 till August 2005, the newsletter was published with the generic name "ASA Newsletter" just like the previous 32 years. However, the name was changed to "Oxom Probax" starting September, 2005. By this time, the newsletter had established as the

A name that was suggested was "Posoowa". This name, originally recommended by Priyankoo Sarma, a linguistics scholar, from Gainesville, Florida, was found to be very appropriate. Its meaning is "strong wind from the west to the east". In Assam, it blows during the time of Bohag Bihu and many Bihu songs have references to Posoowa winds. Although this newsletter is the voice of the expatriate Assamese from around the world, most expatriates live in the West, whether it is in Delhi, Bangalore, London or New York.

Bohag Bihu is only a month away and it is the fitting time to rechristen the newsletter "Posoowa". We solicit your kind readership and thoughtful contributions as before. Like any publication, Posoowa will prosper if we can provide our readers with reading material that is timely, interesting and meaningful. We promise to do that for our kind readers. By the way, Priyankoo Sarma has joined the editorial board of Posoowa from this month. He will be responsible for the Assamese section which we intend to introduce in the next few months.

Jugal Kalita, Colorado Springs, CO

## Magh Bihu in Florida

Magh Bihu was celebrated in Orlando, Florida on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Mrs. Kanika and Mr. Abani Sharma took lead in organizing the activities. About 50 people attended the celebration coming from Miami, Tampa, Palm Beach, Jacksonville, Lake Alfred and Orlando besides relatives and friends of Sharma family.

The activities started with prayer and Naam Kritan followed by refreshments brought by all the families. The lunch was full of delicacies ranging from 'Khar' to 'Masor Tenga' besides 'Sagoli and Murgi Mangso' prepared by Floridians. The most spectacular event of the day was Bihu dance competition organized and sponsored by Mrs. Sharma. All participated in the dance and was overwhelmingly won by Mrs. Jyoti Devi of Miami. The audience were also enthralled by Rani Kiran of ASSAM2005 fame.

The celebration was also graced by many Bengali families of Orlando, family of Moon Moon and Steve and his mother and parents Jyoti Devi of Miami who were visiting the States.

(Photo by Ms Chaya Kalita)

- by Ganesh Bora, Lake Alfred, Florida



# Guwahati as I Remember

Although Guwahati has changed tremendously during recent years, I still like to remember it as a beautiful city that I saw when I grew up. Nature has given it an active river; the river acts



like a turbulent youth in summer and a gentle young thing in winter, with infinite nuances of beauty in its water and islands. Nature and history together compose silent epics on its many hills - Ramsa, Narakasur, Nilachal, Nabagarh, Kannachal. April heralds a season when Nature with her impatient hands starts painting colors on the skyline in parts of Guwahati like a Van Gogh painting. There is a riot of colors, yellow of Sonaru, red or pink of Golmohar, bright red of Palas, purple of Ajar, each color complementing the other and in symbiosis to present a delightful spectacle to the tired eyes of citizens under numbing weight of daily existence. The beautiful birds of Guwahati spread a white canopy in a tiny island between Kacharighat and Umananda. Koels and Indian cuckoos (ketekis) can be heard singing in several areas of the city in their season.

Lotuses in the pond in front of the Residence of the Superintendent of Police that once presented a pleasing sight to the older generations of the city dwellers have now vanished, yet there is a spot at Padumbari where yearly blooms of lotuses can delight the eyes of passersby. My dear Dighalipukhuri has been robbed of the wealth of thousands of lotuses long back and lost its original grandeur. My heart cried out "please bring back the lotuses" which were more beautiful than the Daffodils of Wordsworth. In those days we went to watch the sports event at Dighalipukhuri Par. In the sixties, the sports personality were Bani Chakraborty (Habu's sister), the fastest woman walker and Rana as I remember the fastest swimmer. (I forgot his second name)

In those days, there was not traffic chaos in the streets. Those days were very safe. I remember that as a six year old, I used to walk from Panbazar after school with my friends to join the Moina Parijat group at Judges field which was run by late Nabin Sarmah. Again at 6:00 pm, we would walk

back home. St. Mary's Convent was the only English medium private school with boys and girls combined. We did not have school buses then. Don Bosco was the only boys' English medium private school.

It was the time when the only happening place in Guwahati was Panbazar, virtually the city's nerve-center, a rendezvous for Who's Who of the city and generally for the people associated with art and culture, and even for busybodies and loafers. Though Panbazar has not changed much in the last three decades, however, today it does not seem to exude the charm as it did before. Its glamor has faded over the years as the city began to expand. Stories of the people who made Panbazar such a fascinating place, a Babylon of myriad myths, a scene of great friendships, conspiracy, love consummated, betrayal, intrigue and what not, have become folklore today.

It would not be wrong if one said that earlier most restaurants in the city actually substituted for hangouts where some people whiled away their time sharing the latest gossips of the town for hours on end or if they were a little enlightened, they would debate over how good or bad Bhupen Hazarika's latest song was or how corruption was eating into the vitals of the country.

Bharali Brothers, the oldest popular music shop at the heart of Panbazar, is still there. One of the family members, Chitta Bharali, was a Cottonian and also a friend. During off-periods away from college, we used to visit the shop to listen to the all-time hits and Bhupen Hazarika's latest albums. I remember my friend late Dost Hobibur Rahman (Louis), the one and only popular parody singer of 60's Cotton College, when he was singing at the Union Hall College Week function! He mesmerised the audience with his most parody hits ---

"Guwahati city hol  
Rasta poduli hol  
Maligaon keni jam koa ....  
Der ghonta kal bhai  
Iea te moi aso roi  
Sunu mathu dia jabo dia ...."

Our popular restaurants in Panbazar were Kalyani, Madhumita and Guwahati Diary. I still remember that the popular journalist Barun Das Gupta was a regular at

Madhumita. At that time, the most glamorous address Panbazar ever had was 'Delight', an impeccable restaurant. There never was an eatery in Guwahati as exalted as 'Delight'; perhaps there never would be one like it ever. Although a number of classy restaurants have sprung up in Guwahati of late, none can come anywhere near 'Delight' in terms of the latter's bewitching appeal. 'Delight' was a class apart, had an air of exclusivity about it, a kind of aristocratic aloofness without being, standoffish. The men and women who frequented 'Delight' were also as glamorous. If one wanted to be noticed, one went there. That was how prominent the restaurant was at time when the literati and glitterati of Guwahati knew one another on first-name basis.

The most glamorous of all writers of the time, the late Nirode Chowdhury, every inch a Harold Robbins in terms of looks and output as well as the subjects both chose for their fiction, was a habitue to 'Delight'; he had made the restaurant his second address. When he walked past our girls' Common Room in Cotton College, we used to follow him just to get his attention in our off-period! Like him, there were many. Today they have quietly slipped into the oblivion.

In an age when the builders of Guwahati have embarked on a race to create a concrete jungle in the city, no one is really bothered about the city's heritage. Whatever little remains of it in the form of buildings and monuments, are being viewed as inconvenient hurdles to the creation of a still larger concrete jungle with no sign of greenery anywhere at all. In any case, most builders cannot think of our heritage as comprising anything but buildings and monuments. They do not know that heritage is not just buildings and monuments though, and that they are no more than, incidental adjuncts that may exist as props to what constitutes the real heritage of a society. During the Cotton College Centenary Celebration in the year 2001, when I went to visit our beloved late Herambakanta Borpujari Sir, he was crying holding my hand saying --- "Mor moromor Cotton College khon bhangi pelale, tumauke ki saboloi ahisa?" I did not have any answer then, just to fought back my tears.

Guwahatians, let us preserve this beautiful Guwahati, nature has so thoughtfully presented to us.

- By Rini Kakati, UK

## Profile of the Month

# Dr. Dilip Das, Ph.D

## Bedford, Massachusetts

Anyone having an opportunity to study the life of Dr. Dilip Das of Bedford, Massachusetts will certainly marvel at the scintillating life led by this nonagenarian member of the Assamese Diaspora in the USA. Dr. Das treaded the soil of this foreign land with adventure when there was hardly any support from any other Assamese immigrants. In fact, he served in the US army during the World War II.

Dr. Das, son of Sri Uttam Chandra and Padmaboti Das of Goalpara, was born and raised in Guwahati where he matriculated from Cotton Collegiate School in 1931. Following that, he spent four years at Cotton College, Guwahati and obtained a B.Sc degree in Physics, Chemistry and Honors Mathematics. He was awarded the Rajani Kanta Barat Gold medal for scoring the highest mark in Honors Math in Assam. He then set sails for the USA for higher studies and obtained a BS degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1939. With the gathering storms of World War II blowing strongly at about that time, it was too risky for him to travel back to India by sea. Therefore, he stayed back to work on various jobs in Montana and Washington until 1943 when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. In 1944, he was shipped out for overseas military duty in India and was glad to be serving throughout Assam and Calcutta. While in Calcutta, Dr. Das had the pleasure of meeting Maya, the daughter of Sri Jadav Prasad and Debabala Chaliha and niece of Sri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, ex-Chief Minister of Assam, and after a brief courtship, married her in September, 1945 in a Hindu wedding ceremony at the bride's parental home in Calcutta. The couple then had to go through a second official wedding in 1946 in the US Army Chapel in Calcutta for the bride to qualify for an invitation by the U.S. Armed services in India to accompany Dr. Das to the U.S.A. Shortly thereafter, they boarded a troop carrying ship in Calcutta bound for San Francisco. Soon after his arrival in San Francisco, Dr. Das received his honorable discharge from the Army and decided to go back to Montana. He resumed his studies at the Montana School of Mines and obtained his Master's degree in Physical Metallurgy in 1947. In 1950, Dr. Das started research under a research fellowship at the University of Notre Dame in pursuit of a Doctorate degree in Materials Science and successfully completed all the requirements in 1953 and joined the U.S. Na-



val Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. Dr. Das started a new position as a senior scientist at Raytheon Company in Waltham, MA in April, 1954.

For the next twenty years, until his retirement in 1984, Dr. Das had a very fruitful and challenging career in a number of areas of materials science. From early 1976 to late 1983, Dr. Das worked as a senior staff scientist at the famous Draper Laboratory—an offshoot of M.I.T. specializing in Inertial Guidance Systems—and stayed on as a consultant after retirement until 1985 when he decided to end his professional career. During the course of some thirty years, Dr. Das published numerous scientific papers and accomplished two very significant developments which highlighted his journey through his scientific career. Each of these was awarded the recognition as one of 100 most significant scientific/engineering developments of the year by Industrial Research Magazine. They are as follows:

1. Development of ductile-Niobium Tin Super conductors -IR-100 in 1963
2. Development of the process for producing the most powerful permanent magnet ever produced in the world using an intermetallic compound of elements Samarium and Cobalt I-IR-100 in 1967.

Dr. Das has been blessed with a long and happy married life. His wife, Maya (Lakhimi)

was raised in a tea garden near Sibsagar, Assam until she was eight years old. She then went to live with her maternal grandparents Sri Bishnu Prasad and Sabitri Duara in Guwahati and enrolled in Panbazar Girls' High School. She passed matriculation with letters of distinction in Geography and Assamese. She then joined Benares Hindu University, but due to the unstable situation as a result of Gandhiji's Quit India movement of 1942, she transferred to Ashutosh College in Calcutta. She graduated with a B.A. degree in Economics. During this time, Sri Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla, a tireless freedom fighter and the doyen of Assamese music stayed at their house during his visits to Calcutta and taught her songs to sing in the newly launched Assamese program in All India Radio, Calcutta.

Maya got married to Dr. Das while in U.S. service in Calcutta and accompanied him to the USA as his life long partner. At about the time Dr. Das obtained his MS degree in 1947, their daughter Naomi was born. A few days after Dr. Das joined the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in 1953, their son-Philip was born. In 1960, Maya received M.Ed degree from Boston University and secured a teaching job in the Reading, MA public schools. She retired in 1989.

Both the children of Dr. & Mrs. Das are very successful in their own careers and lives. Their daughter Naomi Das is a Pediatric Endocrinologist and has authored books on childhood obesity and has a program called KidShape for overweight children. Naomi's husband, Timothy Neufeld, is a lawyer. They have two daughters, Pamela and Kathy. Pamela is following her father's career as a lawyer and Kathy is in investment banking.

Their son, Philip, is an anesthesiologist. Philip's wife, Cindy, is a registered nurse. Their children are Katie, Courtney and Jeffrey. Katie and Courtney are graduate students. Jeffrey is playing in the International Tennis Federation Tournament this year. He hopes to become a professional tennis player. Both Naomi and Philip live in Southern California.

Dr. Dilip and Maya Das have been guests at gatherings of the Assam Society of America several times, typically with a camera in Dr. Das's hand. Together, they share an imitable lust for life that is apparent in their style. Above all, this adorable couple is humble and humane.

- by Umesh Tahbilda, West Windsor, NJ

## Indian PM's US Based Daughters, Sonia's Italian Family and Assam Focused Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964

I had read about this new law that circumvented the Supreme Court (India) judgement repealing the IMDT Act some



months ago. And I was wondering today (while based in USA currently) about my own situation regarding job and future career. I had planned to seek a consultant to get an H-1B visa. On the other hand, I was wondering about my desire to work in reconstruction work – i.e., education reform or capacity building in developing countries, especially ones torn by strife. The dilemma focused specifically on my ability to return to the US –for another job or a PhD after I had worked abroad. And then I recollected the New Indian Law (for Assam only!!) by which the government HAS to prove that the person is an illegal immigrant and not vice versa!!

Immediately, I began to think that if such an Act had been place in the US – my own worries of going through the grind to seek a US visa would instantly be over!! Then, I just need to stay on in the US and work or study. Burn my documents and of course, it would be extremely difficult for anyone to prove that I am from outside the US.

Many Indian immigrants have been caught after many years of their stay in the US and asked to prove that they were legally in the US. Of course, they could not. But, it would have been extremely difficult for the Immigration officials – if THEY had to prove the illegality of the stay.

Of course, once the word got around, it would be only a matter of months before you would see hundreds of thousands of people making for the US shores on ships, boats, etc. The more the merrier - since it would be even more difficult for the Customs or Immigration officials to give evidence that these fellows were caught while entering. The voice of a thousand illegal immigrants against that of a handful officials would hold no water in any court. I assume that all these illegals would vouch for each other.

I suspect a similar scenario would erupt in Assam also (and why this Act is not in other states of NE India?) once it is in place. Poor illegals from Bangladesh, Sudan, Afghanistan, Liberia and elsewhere would rush in to take advantage of it – just the way it happened under Sweden's relaxed Asylum laws in 1980s.

Of course, Indian PM, Manmohan Singh, need not bother – all his three children are safely in the USA – and can and would safely sponsor his US Green Card (he does not have to bother about the immigration laws of the US). Similarly, Sonia with her Italian family connections, can easily get herself and her children citizenship of a EU country. So they are really not concerned about what happens back in India – after 20 or 30 years. Their own progeny will not be affected. Hence, the recent move to show sympathy to those entering India (even illegally!!). Since, they expect a similar sympathy for themselves when they seek immigration to the West – later on – once they are out of power.

Remote Assam is a test case. Once the ordinance is successful there without any political fallout (and considerable political gains from the votes of illegals) – then in all likelihood it would be implemented in the whole of India – leaving India open to all thugs, terrorists, asylum seekers, and fortune hunters . God help future India. God help Assam/Asom/Oxom NOW!!

- by *Umesh Sharma, College Park, MD*

### Magh Bihu in Fort Collins, Colorado

Assamese residents of met in the spanking new home of Paban and Sagarika Sarma to celebrate Magh Bihu on January, 2006. Ghor Lowa occasion was also celebrated on the same day.

*Photo by Bharat Baruah*



# Food for Thought

Our body is like an engine and the food we eat is its fuel. It burns up the food to provide energy for work and thereby maintains its various functions. Again like an engine our body requires food for the growth and repair of its tissues, worn out by normal activity.

Food is a complex fuel made up of a number of components each doing a specific job in our body. Natural food stuffs can be classified as cereal, pulses, nuts and oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, milk and milk products and flesh foods. These foods contain nutrients namely proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals in varying proportions.

Food stuffs can be grouped under three major headings depending on the relative concentration and function of the nutrients.

### Energy giving foods:

This group is rich in fats and carbohydrates and forms the primary fuel to provide the energy required for the body. The major sources of carbohydrates are cereals, millets, roots and tubers, sugar, honey, glucose, jaggery, sweets etc.

### Body building foods:

This group is rich in protein which is the chief cellular substance. These supply the building material to the body and also make good the wear and tear of tissues. Foods rich in protein from animal sources are milk, fish, meat, egg. Pulses and nuts are from vegetable sources. Proteins obtained from animal sources are of better quality than from vegetable sources.

### Protective foods:

This group is rich in vitamins and minerals. These nutrients in the food prevent the onset

of various diseases and also help the body in fighting against infection, thereby helping to maintain a normal healthy life. Green leafy vegetables, other vegetables (preferably raw) and fresh fruits are rich in vitamins and minerals. However, most of the vitamins are lost in cooking and therefore to have sufficient amount of vitamins in the diet, they should be had when fresh, and cooked in a proper way.

### Balanced diet:

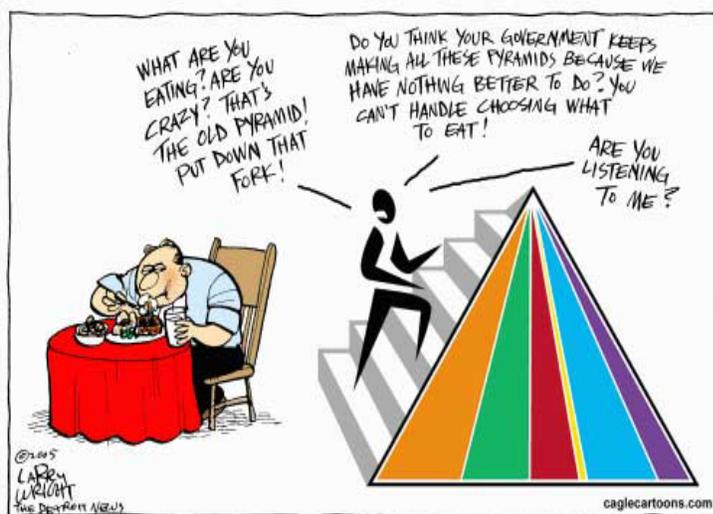
A well balanced diet contains foods from all the groups in the recommended amounts. A well nourished person is much more likely to be alert both mentally and physically and to have a happy outlook on life. He is more able to resist infectious diseases than the undernourished person. Proper diet not only makes him a healthy person but also extends the period of his normal activity by many years. Besides the above mentioned nutrients, focus is on dietary fiber in today's world of nutrition. One may well ask "what is dietary fiber?"

Dietary fiber is that part of the plant which remains undigested by the Human Digestive system. It is commonly termed as roughage, but is quite distinct from crude inedible fiber.

Again, how does fiber from diet help? Firstly, the most important role played by fiber, in our diet is to regulate the bowel movements and thereby prevent constipation. Secondly, fiber in the diet may help to reduce the level of blood cholesterol thereby reducing the risk of coronary diseases. Thirdly, when a high fiber diet is consumed the blood glucose level is raised slowly thereby helping diabetic patients.

What are the sources of fiber in our daily diet? Fiber is largely present in vegetables and fruits, and to a smaller extent in cereals, pulses and nuts. It is negligible in foods from animal sources, for example meat, milk cheese and egg.

The fiber content of dhals is always lower than



the corresponding wholegram. The extent of dietary fiber in cereals depends largely on the degree to which the cereal is refined or milled. The outer sections (peel) of vegetables and fruits contain more fiber than freshly inner parts.

- by Satyam Bhuyan, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

## Poems...

### The Ocean

*I like to swim in the sparkling ocean blue,  
My friend likes to swim, her name is Sue.*

*In the ocean I'm afraid of sharks,  
If my dog sees sharks, he warns me with barks.*

*But I still love swimming in the ocean.*

### The winter

*Winter is cold and has a lot of snow and ice,  
Some people think it's bad and some people think it's nice.*

*When ice appears, people start to slip,  
When they go inside, with hot cocoa they take a sip.*



Niky Sarmah  
Grade-V, Amosland Elementary School  
Morton, PA 19070

# Priyankoo Sarmah Presents Papers on Bodo and Mizo

Priyankoo Sarmah, a graduate student in linguistics at the University of Florida, recently presented two papers on tonal languages of Northeast India. The papers were based on his research on the tonality of Bodo and Mizo. He had started his exploration of tonality of several languages from the Northeast of India when he was a student at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages in Hyderabad, India. He has continued the research at the University of Florida during the past two years.

A tonal language is one where a single written word can have a number of different meanings depending on how it is pronounced. Though the word may be written in exactly the same way with an identical sequence of letters, variations in the pitch can significantly change the meaning. An example of a widely spoken tonal language is Mandarin Chinese in its many forms. There are many tonal languages in East Asia, Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa although they are rare in Europe or the Middle East. In Europe, Lithuanian, a distant cousin of Sanskrit, is a tonal language. Some of the native languages of the Americas are also tonal. Assamese is not tonal. However, there are many tonal languages in Northeast India, especially those belonging to the Tibeto-Burman family. Mon-Khmer languages such as Khasi are not tonal.

Priyankoo presented the paper titled "An Instrumental Analysis of Mizo Tones and Tone Alterations in Mizo Compound Words" at an annual meeting called the South Asian Linguistic Analysis, held in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in September 2005. This paper studies Mizo, a language spoken in Mizoram, Burma and Bangladesh. It is a tonal language with at least 4 tones: high, low, rising and falling. Although there are some studies on the tonality of Mizo, there is no machine-based analysis its tonality. Priyankoo reported on using a speech analysis tool called PRAAT to analyze Mizo. Priyankoo performed measurements of pitch values at the point of initiation and the point of termination for a tone bearing unit in these



samples. He then performed other calculations to show the physical properties of the

four Mizo tones. It is the first time that such an instrument-based exposition of Mizo has been performed. Using the tonal identification procedures devised in the first part of the paper, Priyankoo later analyzed two- and three-word Mizo compounds using the software. Priyankoo reported interesting observations regarding the change of tone in Mizo word sequences and has proposed techniques to identify tones and tone changes in Mizo.

Priyankoo presented the paper "An Optimality Theory Analysis of the Tonal Phenomena of Bodo" at the Mid-Continental Workshop on Phonology in November 2005 held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Bodo is a Tibeto-Burman tone language spoken in Northeast India, Bangladesh and Nepal. It was not considered a tonal language till recently. Priyankoo in his M.Phil. dissertation in Hyderabad claimed that Bodo has two tones: high and low. The words in Bodo have an unusual tone pattern compared to many other tonal languages. Optimality theory is a recent lin-

guistic model that has come out of Rutgers University in New Jersey. It has been very influential in explaining linguistic issues that lacked good explanation. It has been applied to logically explain various linguistic phenomena including those in syntax, semantics, morphology and phonology. An expression in a language (say, a phrase or a sentence) is considered to have an internal representation of what needs to be said, in our brains. It also has a surface representation, which is the actual phrase or sentence we actually say or write. The manner in which the internal representation is transformed into the surface form requires brain processes that are called generative. There are many constraints this generative process has to satisfy to form grammatical surface forms. OT maintains that among the various potential surface forms, one that violates the constraints the least wins; the winner is the one that is spoken or written. Priyankoo, in this paper, tries to explain the tonal phenomena of Bodo in terms of OT. He also explains how tones and morphology interact with each other in Bodo.

Presently, Priyankoo is in the process of conducting a pitch perception experiment on Chinese and American English speakers. He has also finished collecting English speech data from native speakers of Thai for a study where he and his colleagues will look into properties of English spoken by Thai speakers.

- by Jugal Kalita, Colorado Springs, CO

## Magh Bihu Celebration at Delhi, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006



Photographs by Babul Gogoi/AssamAssociation.org

This is an  
Official Publication of  
Assam Society of America, USA



The ASA Newsletter is published monthly. Sanjib Bhuyan, NJ, on behalf of Assam Society of America, has published this issue of ASA newsletter. The editors are Babul Gogoi (New Delhi, India, Newsletter Layout & Graphic Designer), Ganesh Bora (Lake Alfred, Florida), Jugal Kalita (Colorado Springs, Colorado, Editor-in-Chief), Nandini Bora Das (Centennial, Colorado), Priyankoo Sarmah (Gainesville, Florida), Ram Sarangapani (Houston, Texas), Rini Kakati (London, UK), Satyam Bhuyan (Ames, Iowa), Umesh Sharma (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and Vavani Sarmah (Secane, Pennsylvania). The ASA Executive Committee is composed of Sanjib Bhuyan, President (Franklin Park, New Jersey), Utpal Brahma, Vice President (Burlington, New Jersey), Ganesh Bora, General Secretary (Lake Alfred, Florida), Probal Tabhildar (Kendall Park, New Jersey), Mantu Baishya (Omaha, Nebraska), Kedar Bhuyan (Mays Landing, New Jersey), and Sangeeta Duorah (California).

We invite contributors from all over the world. We appreciate your valuable feedback, comments & suggestions, and of course, news from your part of the world for inclusion in the coming editions. Please send your written contributions to [asanewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:asanewsletter@yahoo.com). If you prefer, you can send your contributions directly to any of the editors listed above as well. Any contribution must be 750 words or shorter in length. Please include a scanned image of the author. We also request you to submit other pertinent photographs if possible.



**Assam Society of America**  
**PO Box 254**  
**Mays Landing**  
**NJ 08330**  
**USA**

*Enjoy Your Complimentary Copy*

