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POSOOWA

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Photo of Lakhimai Das, who lives in the RVC village in Simen Chapori with her 11 year old son Jagannath. Jagannath, who is in Class Five, lost his father at the age of four. She earns wage in a quarry and also as a farm laborer. She also weaves in her handloom and sometimes collects driftwood in river Simen. Her only hope is her son Jagannath. Her family was moved to this village after the devastating flood in the year 2000 when they lost everything they owned including the their original land. Lakhimai says that she cannot provide even the basic needs to her son. For example, he cannot read in the evenings due to scarcity of kerosene, and he often misses school due to lack of paper for notebooks or uniform. She hopes to support her son in his study by any means so that he can get a job when he grows up and support her as well as himself.

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Children of Dhemaji

Dhemaji District is situated in the remotest corner of North East India on the north bank of River Brahmaputra. The urban population is only 1.85%, indicating the predominantly rural character of the district. The economic condition of the people of Dhemaji area is appaling; one can see the face of poverty everywhere. There is lack of even the most basic of public amenities in every sphere of life, not to mention the absence of such essential infrastructure as roadways, power, and communication facilities. There are no significant small-scale industries and not a single big industry in the entire Dhemaji District.

Dhemaji District has always been vulnerable to floods. In the years 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2004, due to breaches on the embankment of the Brahmaputra, Dhemaji District reeled under devastating floods. The embankment on the Brahmaputra, constructed during the nineteen fifties to fend off the yearly onslaughts of the river, has waned out with the passage of time. Numerous open breaches on the embankment canalize the rising water of the river during the monsoon season to thousands of villages throughout the district. The floods affect every walk of life; they damage a huge amount of standing crops; and they break the communication system and the rural houses beyond repair. The after-effects of the floods are also disastrous. The intensive inundation and water logging in the paddies coupled with sand deposition make many areas unviable for future cultivation. Inundation of the existing drinking water sources lead to crisis in the supplies of safe drinking water and consequently to rampant water borne diseases. Because of the breakdown of the communication infrastructure and inadequate health care facilities, many people including young children die of diseases like malaria and jaundice. Over the years, the whole situation has led to displacement of the riverine community causing them to live for years on the bank of the Brahmaputra or its tributaries, destroying their livelihood opportunities and forcing them to displacement.

Government Response

The attitude of the state organs towards flood management is mostly reactionary. Disasters are looked upon as "acts of God," and no thought is given to devising strategies for mitigating the disaster and preparing the flood-affected communities to cope. Every year, the government allocates a large amount of money to repair the breaches of the embankment. However, most of the time, this has turned into a money making machine for contractors and corrupt officials who grab the lions share while doing little to mitigate the suffering of people.

An organization called the **Rural Volunteer Force** (RVC) has done commendable work in the areas of appropriate technology (low-cost latrines, solar electrification, watershed development and so on); disaster management; strengthening of voluntary organization; formation of self-help groups; organic farming; livestock rearing; and health awareness. The RVC was set up in 1989 by Ravindranath, an engineer who completed his Masters in Rural Energy at IIT Delhi, before proceeding to work with Social Work and Research Center (SWRC). He also worked under the noted social worker Bunker Roy. He started to work initially in Arunachal Pradesh and later moved down to the Akajan-Silapthar area. Ravi's wife, Sathyasree is from Guwahati. The following about herself, is in her own words: "I am an Assamese born as the 6th daughter to Mr. P.N. Goswami and Ms. Biva Goswami of Chenikuthi. Educated partly in Cotton College, I have been working in Akajan from 1995 and took a break for two years to work with drought affected people of Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. Now I volunteer for RVC and I have started a collective called ***Shakti*** ***(***shakti_collective@yahoo.com ***)*** to work on holistic community health and right to health and health care, where I work full time based in Akajan village."

Today RVC's works span the entire Dhemaji District and Dhakuakhana Block of North Lakhimpur District in Assam. It aims to strengthen the coping mechanisms of the flood-affected communities and come up with means for alternative livelihood generation for the marginalized sections in the area. Ravindranath, his wife Sathyasree Goswami and a group of dedicated volunteers at the Rural Volunteers Center (RVC) at Silapathar are doing a fantastic job of rehabilitating victims of repeated floods and helping many get back on their feet again after years of homelessness and hunger

Children of Dhemaji

These are the children suffering from the worst of Nature, often displaced from their original home and forgotten by the mainstream. These are the children whose near and dear ones died during floods. Many had to discontinue their education. Some had to work as daily wage laborers to earn their living. While they struggle to make the both ends meet, they still dream that they will be able to complete their education and become productive citizens.

Your support

We can definitely contribute in their effort. Even a little help from us will go a long way to fulfill their dream. As mentioned earlier, Ravindranath and his wife Sathyasree Goswami, who live at Silapathar and lead their many efforts are making a measurable difference for the many people whose lives have been ravaged by repeated floods. We are planning to work with them and provide financial support for a sustainable development.

Please contact ankurbora@hotmail.com if you are interested in contributing in this effort.

The author thanks Chandan Mahanta of St. Louis for contributing to some of the contents of the article.

Contributed by Ankur Bora, Texas.

The Man Who Surveyed the Xoraighat Bridge

Drs. Ganesh Bora and Muneendra Kumar. In 1958, Dr. Kumar surveyed the Xoraighat Bridge before it was built.

Recently I attended a workshop on GPS and Geodesy in Orlando, Florida. One of the speakers was Dr. Muneendra Kumar. Dr. Kumar retired as Chief Geodesist of the United States National Geo-spatial Intelligence Agency of the US Navy. When he came to know that I am from Assam, he fondly told me that he surveyed the Brahmaputra Bridge in Guwahati. We had a long discussion after the workshop and he narrated the memories of his surveying activities there almost half a century ago.

He said, "In 1958, Assam decided that a bridge on River Brahmaputra is long overdue, as its absence is impeding the development of the state. To expedite the bridge completion, it was decided to build it from both the banks. To avoid the possibility of the girders either overlapping each or falling "short" with a gap in the middle, engineers identified the requirement of having super accurate distance between the two main bridge pillars on either side of the river." To get this super accurate measurement, The Survey of India (SOI) was requested for help and The Directorate of Geodetic and Research of SOI sent a team headed by Mr. Muneendra Kumar, the then Deputy Superintending Surveyor, to Guwahati.

The team joined by locals established the camp on the north bank and used ferry for movement between the banks. Surveys and special computations took about two and half months to complete on site but the super accurate distance between the two main pillars was officially sent from SOI headquarters. He remembers that except for a few showery times here and there, the weather was all along crisp and cool. "People were always curious with their queries, but always very friendly," Mr. Kumar relayed. On a weekend, he visited a tea estate in Bindukuri, after an all night train journey over 100 plus miles. The welcoming faces and waving of hands by villagers as he traveled on the train, in the early morning golden sun rays (like a movie scene) have remained one of the fondest memories of his life.

Contributed by Ganesh Bora. Bora is a Research Scientist, working with University of Florida based at Lake Alfred, FL, USA.

Can Our Future be *Evergreen*?

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biotechnology including (bio) chemical modification. There most important conversion technologies are gasification, hydrothermolysis and fermentation to ethanol. A good example of biomass processing is its fermentation to ethanol. By fermentation of biomass (sugars, grain, cellulose, *etc.*) with yeast, a 6.5–11% ethanol in water solution is formed from which 95 or 100% ethanol can be obtained by distillation.

Researchers have concluded that biomass provides a substantial contribution to the energy needs of 2040 and the remaining energy, leaving aside fossil fuel, has to come from solar energy and other forms of renewable resources like water and wind. They have also enumerated a number of situations that improve biomass availability; the key aspects require building better infrastructure for biomass processing, improving quality of soil, and reducing climate change.

In conclusion, the state of affairs in 2040 with higher average standards of living and less of environmental pollution seems technologically possible without the widespread use of fossil resources. The technological approach requires, amongst other things, the massive development and application of solar energy and biomass for food, organic raw materials, and energy. Experts on this topic expect that in the next 50 years biomass will not only remain the main raw material for food production but will also become again a major raw material for the organo-chemical industry.

Contributed by Satyam K Bhuyan, Ames, IA

Gautom Medhi - a Successfull Assamese Entrepreneur in the USA

In the beginning of April 2007, during my Spring Break, I had traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to visit some good friends I know for many years. We stayed with Mantu and Silpi Baishya during our visits. During this trip to Omaha, one of the friends I visited was Gautom Medhi. I have known Gautom for more than fifteen years years, from the time we were graduate students in Northeast USA although he is younger than me. I even attended his wedding about ten years ago.

Gautom graduated from has an MS in Civil Engineering and had worked for a reputed civil engineering company in Omaha for several years. Then, after his marriage to Lynn-Lee, he started his company in 1996. It used to be located in his basement in Omaha, but a few years ago, as his company continued to expand, he moved it to rental space. Finally, last year, he bought an historic 100-year old building and renovated it for his company's main office.

Recently, Gautom had visited Colorado on business a few times. He stopped by my house a couple of times to renew acquaintance. When I was in Omaha recently, I visited him and his family, as well as his business.

Gautom's company is called Associated Engineering (AE), Inc. The main office is in Elkhorn, Omaha. Elkhorn used to be separate city, but was absorbed into Omaha recently. Gautom's office is located in a building in the historic part of Elkhorn. To reflect his company's commitment to civic responsibilities and to better reflect his company's mission and vision, he renovated a 100-year old building in a historic part of town and moved his main office. He has a branch office Lincoln, Nebraska, as well.

Gautom's company employs 15 people at this time. He employs civil, structural, geotechnical and environmental specialists. He has projects all over the Western United States. He travels often to Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Missouri and other states. He is looking to expand his operations all the time. If one goes to his company's Web site (http://www.ae-pc.com) and looks under "Career Opportunities", one can see announcements for four positions: a Senior Civil Engineer, a CAD Technician, a Survey Party Chief, and an Instrument Technician.

Gautom's company has a wide-ranging expertise. Its main expertise is Structural Engineering: construction of highway, railway and pedestrian bridges; school buildings, shopping malls, churches, hospitals, etc. The company has recently done quite a bit of work with cell phone companies. His work starts with site acquisition, surveying, zoning drawing, construction drawing, structural analysis, environmental studies, permit issues, and all the way to construction management. The company has so far worked with more than 2600 cell phone sites. He also works with municipal organizations with sewer and street and sewer rehabilitation, bridge design, and trail systems.

Gautom's company has US Small Business Administration (SBA) certification. The company also has City of Omaha Protected Business Enterprise certification.

Contributed by Jugal Kalita, Colorado Springs, CO, USA

Can Our Future be *Evergreen*?

Energy crops have already started to challenge food crops for agricultural land. In the future, the need for biomass production of fuels will have to be balanced against the need to feed the growing population of the world. Studies show that by 2040 total oil output from all sources may fall to less than half of today's 25-26 billion barrels of oil per year. In the year 2040, the world population will be 9–10 billion and the concern is for feeding and providing them with energy. They should live according to the requirements of a developed society, and without polluting the earth or changing the climate. New technology and innovative ideas are essential to achieve such a scenario.

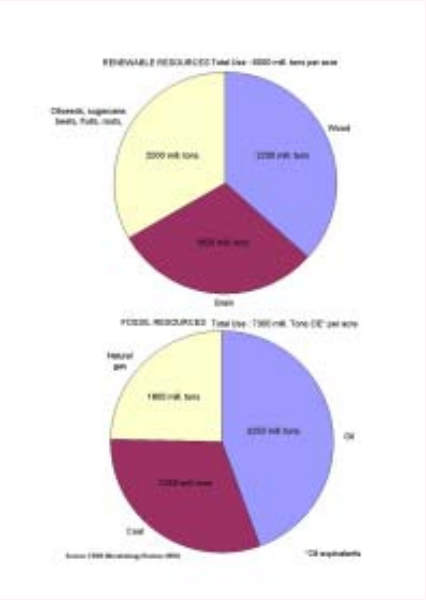
Our primary natural resources are the sun, carbon dioxide, land and water. It is possible that these natural resources and the appropriate conversion technologies will enable us to move from the present fossil resource-based economy to a plant-based economy with the sun being the major source of energy. The era of a chemical industry dependent on fossil resources such as mineral oil, gas and coal will gradually come to an end in the course of next 30-35 years or so. Two main reasons for this prediction are:

(1) The stocks of fossil resources are finite. First of all, mineral oil stocks will be exhausted around 2050 if we continue our present way of life. A recent article by Campbell and Laherrère tells us that natural gas will last for some 75 years and coal will last the longest (> 200 years).
(2) From the environmental point of view, all kinds of pollution from global warming to acid rain, from smog to ground water pollution, have been linked to the use of fossil fuels.

Hence, we are living in the threshold of a new era in chemistry.

The fundamental questions arising from statistical data are whether it is at all possible without fossil resources, to produce sufficient food (1st priority), organic materials (2nd priority) and energy (3rd priority) to allow 9–10 billion people a decent life. The sustained growth scenario requires switching from fossil fuel to renewable forms of energy and organic raw materials. Renewable forms of energy are solar energy, energy based on wind-driven windmill parks, energy based on biomass, energy based on water power (hydroelectric, tidal, wave), and geothermal energy.

One of the key alternatives to fossil fuel is biomass. A basic question here is: 'Is it possible to harvest sufficient biomass, after deduction of the food needs of a world population of 10 billion, to produce the required amount of organic raw materials?' The answer to this question depends mainly photosynthesis yield and the amount of agricultural land available to produce biomass.



A biomass can be thought of as a plant capable of generating power. This plant catches light and CO_2 above ground and water and minerals below ground. Combine intake of all these essentials enables the plant to produce biomass. Using photosynthesis, a plant can produce carbohydrates depending upon the plant type.

The maximum theoretical yield of photosynthesis, related to white light, is 6.6 %. The maximum values reached in practice are 2.4 to 3.2% for C4 plants (sugar cane, sorghum, corn, miscanthus) and 1.7 to 1.9% for C3 plants (sugar beet, eucalyptus). On average, the yield of photosynthesis is around 0.5%. Nevertheless, under favorable circumstances, 30–70 tons of dry biomass can be harvested per hectare per annum. It is anticipated that plant breeding and genetic modification of plants will further increase the yields of biomass per hectare (and the biomass composition), though the growth will be less fast than before.

We can explore many different ways to utilize biomass to produce organic compound and materials. One way is to produce the organic chemicals directly from plants by means of plant

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World Cup Cricket 2007

Dhruba and Lara

Having played cricket since I was five years old, it was a dream come true for me to go to the World Cup Cricket in the Caribbean. It was so much fun that the three weeks we spent there felt like no more than five minutes. This was a gift for my son Samar's 18th birthday celebration. Even though he is born and brought up in the US, he speaks Assamese fluently and has taken a lot of interest in cricket and represents the Southern California Cricket Youth Team. We went to three different islands, Grenada, St. Lucia and Barbados watching 7 games in all, including one semi-final and the final. We were fortunate to be able to watch the last game of the famous batsman Brian Lara of West Indies, who holds the record for most runs in a test match innings of 400 not out and the highest total in first class cricket of 500 runs. We also had a chance to meet Lara, Ricky Ponting, Gil Christ, Nathan Bracken, Alim Dhar, and Sangakara in person. The famous umpire Darryl Harper sat next to us in one of the games. Samar and I had so much fun and celebration with non-stop dancing that we were featured on the big screen and the television many times. The South African cameraman PJ Hoffman became our friend and was text messaging to us non-stop in the semi final where South Africa faced Australia.

Samar with Australian Nathan Bracken

Going into the tournament, the defending champion Australia was favorite to win. However, during the few months prior to the world cup, South Africa had dislodged Australia from the Number One position. India beat Sri Lanka in the one-day series with 4 wins out of 5 at home. The host West Indies played some good cricket going into the tournament. So there was a lot of apprehension on the outcome of the games. As the tournament started, West Indies beat Pakistan in the opening game. Next came the biggest upset of tournament, India losing to Bangladesh, which eventually led to India not making into the second round of the tournament. Soon Pakistan followed the same fate losing to Ireland, another upset of the tournament. After some exciting games in the second round amongst top 8 teams, England, West Indies, Bangladesh and Ireland had to bow out from the Super 8. In the semi finals, Australia beat South Africa and Sri Lanka beat New Zealand. The final was history in the making. In spite of bad weather, the spirit in both camps was high. Australia won the toss and chose to bat first and put together a mammoth total. Sri Lankans chased quite well. But at the end the Australian prevailed aided by bad light and light drizzle. Australia has a set a record of 3 World Cup victories in a row, with Ricky Ponting being the only captain to win the world cup back to back. Gilchrist

Samar with upmire Alim Dhar

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The Pilgrimage

Jukti Kalita

Jukti Kalita, a marketing professional with a Ph.D. from Columbia university has written several short-stories and translated several Assamese stories to English.

First. second and third parts of this story were published in the February, March and April 2007 issues respectively..

(5)

This story of inter-religious marriage was repeated with a twist after five years for the Nachnani family. The wounds that they had suffered when Madhuri had married against their approval had scarcely healed, when the next shock shook them. This time it was their son Amitava. He fell in love with an Afghan girl named Shaheen. He met her at a party at her sister's home and immediately fell in love with her. She was extremely fair with a light reddish hair. Her parents had a grocery store in Queens. She was very fair almost like a white person – far fairer than Amitava or any Indian he knew. She was tall at 5'8", svelte and grew up in the US. She spoke with unaccented English at school and a flawless Urdu at home. She liked Hindi movies- her favorite stars were Ashwairya Roy and Amitabha Bacchan.

But she prayed regularly to almighty Allah. Now it was Shaheen's turn to go to the heaven by converting a non-Muslim. He got circumcised before the marriage. Zeenat's family helped him with the change. He grew a beard, learnt the Koran and became a Muslim to marry her.

Amitava kept his name and informed his parents only a month before the planned wedding date. This time the Nachnanis were a lot more receptive - at least outwardly.

(6)

Inwardly, Mohan and Radha were again devastated. They cried. Their friends consoled them. They did not want to accept but had no choice.

What an irony! What they had tried to avoid their whole lives befell them. Not once, but twice did the power of love sway away their precious children into the folds of a religion that had a lot to hate about. They tried to analyze. What did they do wrong? What could they have been done differently? They felt that they had lost control over everything that they had in the world. They started blaming themselves - they should not have come to the US. After all what did they accomplish in this country - except for a somewhat higher standard of living. Not that they would not have done well in India given their higher levels of education.

Zeenat and Shaheen's family encouraged them to look at Islam to get rid of the tumultuous agony. They went to mosque several times.

Mom was in favor of converting. Dad resisted the idea. Mom argued that the kids were the only precious possessions they had - they had lived their lives for their kids. Mom started covering her head with a veil. She threw away the packets of sindur that she had in her jewelry box. Though she did not apply the red powder in the part of her hair and her forehead regularly - that indeed was momentous. Hindu married women have traditionally applied sindur in their foreheads for thousands of years - that's what her mother and grandmother and countless generations of women did every day of her life after marriage.

Mohan set up an appointment with Shaheen's family maulavi for their conversion to Islam. He made an appointment with a doctor to have a circumcision of his male organ done though he was 65 years of age. He and Radha started eating beef – something that they had assiduously avoided all their lives in the US. There will be a big coming out party that night – both Imran and Shaheen's families would throw a party at the posh Akbar hotel in Metuchen. They selected two Islamic names for themselves.

The weight of the heavy decision that they had taken did not descend on them right away. But as the faithful day approached they could not reconcile to the fact of changing their religion. The unease multiplied. Images from their childhood when they were forced out from what would ultimately become Pakistan, wanderings that they experienced upon initial arrival in India and the years of uncertainty and hardship that their parents and they themselves faced while trying to set roots in India started to own their minds. But they loved their kids immensely.

This was all so opposed to what they had grown up with in India and US. Their brothers and sisters back in India wanted them to come back. A few days before the formal conversion, they bought tickets to Bombay. Never before in their lives had they taken such a huge decision so impulsively.

They had three options in front of them. First, they could maintain the status quo, that is remain Hindus and in spite of all the contradictions try to maintain warm relationships with their kids. Second, they could go back to India and forget all the unpleasantness. Third, they could embrace Islam and be in complete harmony with their kids.

Finally sanity prevailed. There was no party. They decided to visit India for several months and see how things go. This will give them ample time to make a decision that they could live rest of their lives. In India they stayed with their siblings in Bombay and went on an extended pilgrimage – to Benares, to Dwarka, to the Himalayas and to Nepal. At the time the party was supposed to happen, they were on the Air India flight from the JFK airport.

When they came back from India six months later, they were changed. They decided to remain Hindus and maintain friendly relationships with their kids and their families.

(Concluded)

*Comments, criticisms and questions are grately appreciated on **Posoowa**. We encourage readers to submit community news, articles, related photographs etc. A photograph of the contributor with contact info must accompany with any contribtion for publication. Please use this email for all purpose: **posoowa@assam.org***

Rongali Bihu Celebration in Detroit, USA

On 14th April 2007, while the kith and kin of the Probasi Asomiyas were sleeping peacefully after a fun-filled day of Goru-Bihu, a Bihutoli in Garden City, a suburb of Detroit, USA, came alive with the many people from Assam living in the states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio and the neighboring city of Windsor in Canada. Around 80 people attended.

The program, which ran past midnight, started at 5 pm with games and snacks. The guests treated themselves to such Assamese delicacies as Narikolor Laru, Narikol Pitha, Ghila Pitha, Kordoi Xira, Doi Chira etc., lovingly prepared by the Assamese ladies attending, spearheaded by Manjula Barua. The pitha-pona was served on a meticulously arranged table which was beautifully decorated by Manjula, Jeuti, Ruma, Pranita and Sanghamitra with Phulam-Gamochas.

Debojit Bora welcomed the gathering to the Bihutoli. A chorus group from Detroit opened the cultural program with a melodious rendition of "Srimoyee Oxomir". Dhon Bordoloi, next, took the audience on a journey of the yesteryears by singing songs of Bhupen Hazarika. After that, Bharat Natyam exponent Vaani Dhanyakumar's exceptional performance of Pulak Banerjee's "Phulorei Melate" kept the audience spellbound. Next was a talent show by the children, which included Piano recital by Sanjan (8 years), rendition of "Shyam Kanu Duroi Hoi Najaba" by Suhaani (4 years), "Hamsini o mere Hamisini" by Anishka (4 years), a poem about the Spring season by Ragini (5 years) and "O' Kuli O' Kuli" by Krishangi (8 years). This was followed by melodious songs by Kabita Sundi which included "Naba Naba Bohagi Aahe". PN Sarma entertained the kids as well as the adults with an interesting story-telling session. Jahnabi Bora, from Madison, concluded the first part of the cultural program with a beautiful solo Bihu dance,
Wisconsin, who had won many Bihu Kuwari awards in Assam before moving to the USA. The audience was overwhelmed with this wonderful Bihu performance so far away from Assam.

The delicious dinner, served during the interval between two halves of the cultural program, was from a popular local Indian restaurant called Priya and it was arranged by Utpal Das and Bornali Das. The catered dinner was also supplemented with delicious Rou-Mach-Bilahir-Tenga prepared by Bandana Bora and Priyanka Kaushik.

The second part of the cultural program started with mandolin recitals by Mridyushyam Talukdar accompanied by his wife Mayuri on the keyboard, daughter Bhavna in khanjari and son Rohan on the tambourine. Their rendition of "O Xoru Bhoniti" in the mandolin kept the audience wanting for more. Singer Biplab Roy took the entertainment another notch higher with his rendition of popular Kishore Kumar numbers. Ruma Barua and Iku Rahman followed it by singing of "Meghe Gir Gir Kore" by Debojit Barua and a duet. After that, 12 year old Bhavna Talukdar, winner of several awards in Indian dance competitions in the region and the first Bihu Kuwori of Canada, won accolades from the audience with her performance of a fast paced Bihu dance to the tune of the popular contemporary Bihu song, "Boroline Aspoline Erili" from the Jonbai-I VCD. Krishanu Kaushik entertained the audience to a parody of Zubeen Garg's "Nobou O". The second part of the cultural program was ended by Istakur Rahman, who enthralled the audience with the rendition of a couple of popular Hindi songs.

The remarkable stage decoration, which included a hand-made Bihu scene and a big replica of a Xorai was done by Dhon Bordoloi, who was helped by Juri and Anamitra. The sound and music system was arranged by Kalyan De with the assistance of Sabuj and Sheetal. The beautiful stage decoration and excellent audio arrangements made the program even more enjoyable.

Husori and Mukoli Bihu led by Pranab on Dhol, Kamal Sarma on Taal and Krishanu Kaushik on Mohor-xingor-pepa brought a sense of completeness to the Rongali Bihu celebrated in a land far far away from home. Jahnabi, Vaani, Pranita, Susmita and Chumki were the nachonis, who were later joined by several members of the audience. During the Mukoli Bihu everybody danced to their heart's content, to the lilting tunes and beats of Dhul-pepa-gogona. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Debojit Borah and the program was concluded with a soulful rendering of "O Mor Aponar Dex".

Contributed by Kaushik Krishanu, Detroit

Bihu in Omaha

This year Assamese community of Omaha celebrated Bihu on April 14th, Saturday. Families and bachelors from Omaha, Kansas and Iowa gathered at Simanta & Prastuti's house in the evening for Bihu celebration. Authentic Assamese foods like pitha, laru, jalpan and a dinner was organized as a part of the Bihu celebration. Kudos to every one for preparing such great Assamese foods that really made that night memorable.

Everyone of every age group jumped into the Mukoli Bihu. It was really fun to watch people dancing on their own ways. Ms Janu Sharma of Omaha and Ms Sangeeta Pathak of Kansas led the group with a very high level performance. Miss Monalisha Baishya of Omaha and Miss Nandini Sharma of Kansas of the younger generation did a very good job as new learners. Thanks to Ms Janu Sarma of Omaha for teaching Bihu dance to the new generation prior to the Bihu celebration. In the middle of Mukoli Bihu, Debasis Talukdar of Kansas gave us a nice break. He showed his martial art Black Belt level skills by breaking three (one inch each) wooden pieces with his hand.

Finally, on behalf of Assamese community of Omaha, I would like to thank following individuals for joining us in Omaha, their presence really made our Bihu celebration a great success:

a) Girish Sarma, Minakhee Sarma & Nandini Sarma of Kansas
b) Utsav Choudhury of Kansas
c) Kishore Pathak and Sangeeta Pathak of Kansas
d) Debasis Bora of Kansas
e) Harsha Phukan of Iowa

Reported by Simanta Sarma, Omaha

World Cup Cricket

..Continued from page 6

won the man of the match with 149 runs and Glen McGrath of Australia winning the man of the tournament.

We had so much fun that now I am planning to go for the whole two months to the next World cup in 2011 in India.

Contributed by Dhruba Kalita, Torrance, California

Posoowa welcomes *Writisha Bezborua* to this wonderful world. Picture taken ten minutes after birth, on 25th May 2007, with parents *Korobi* and *Caustoobh Bezbourah* of Texas, USA.

Reema Baishya celebrated her first birthday on the 12th of May in Logmont with family and the Assamese community of Colorado, USA

With compliments of the Das Family:
Dhruba, Susan and Elora (standing), Rupam and Ronju (in front), of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, USA

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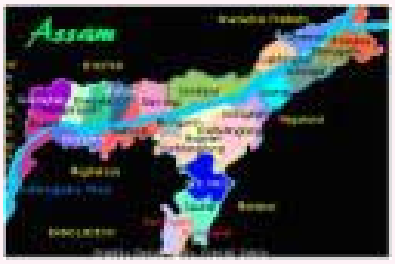

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