



ASA Newsletter

News & events of the Assamese people living around the world

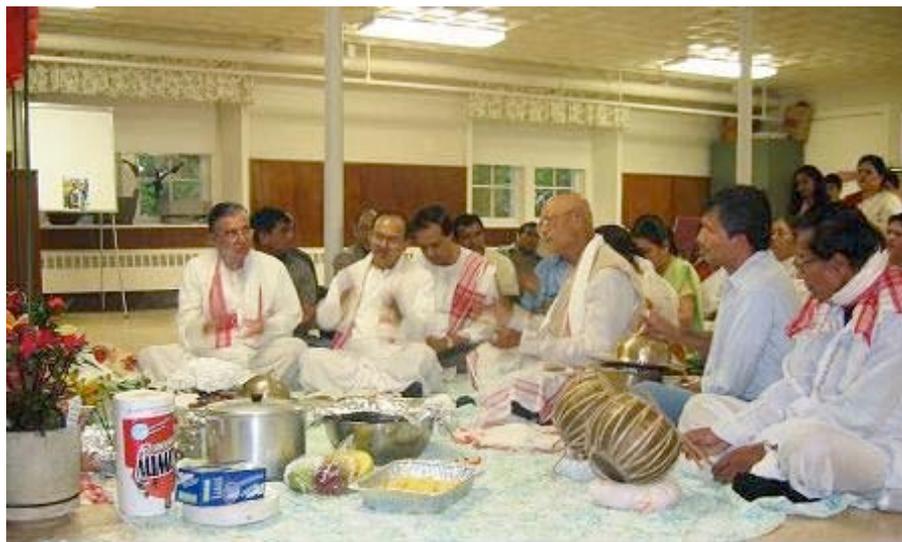
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Mahapurux Srimanta Sankardev's Tithi Celebration in the Northeast

October 2, Kingston, New Jersey: The Northeast Assamese community celebrated the 555th *janmotsava* of Mahapurux Srimanta Sankardev on the Kingston Presbyterian Church premises located in Kingston, New Jersey.

About 75 participants from 28 families graced the occasion of *naam praxanga* that was dedicated to the great fifteenth century saint, social reformist and architect of modern Assam. They also discussed his teachings that worked as a keystone to unifying a fractious Assamese nation of his time. Among the guests present were six visitors from Assam, *viz.*, Ramani K. & Sabitri Deka, the parents and in-laws of Prabina & Probal Tahbildar respectively; Saroj Tahbildar, the aunt of Probal & Prabina; Swarnalata Saikia, the mother & mother-in-law of Anjan & Pinki Saikia respectively; and Mohini K. & Labanya Gogoi, the uncle and aunt of Parmita & Jyoti



Handique. It was our added pleasure to have them with us for the occasion.

It was a memorable evening in the splendid surroundings with the distinctive whisperings of early fall in the air, that unfolded in the midst of beautiful melodies of *Gurujana's naam-kirtan* accompanied by an ensemble of *taal, khol*, and the claps from the appreciating audience. The *naam-praxanga* came to an end with a genuflection to the *Gurujona* and a prayer to the Almighty.

Brojen & Kalpana Bordoloi, and Pranati Dutta did an excellent job with the *thapana and xarai* arrangement. Brojen Bordoloi, Suravi Kalita, Bimal Rajbanshi, Labanya Gogoi and Malabika Brahma were among who led the *naam-kirtan*. An informal cultural program followed the *naam* and was comprised of *borgeets* sung by several

adults and children. Among them were Ponkhi Sarma, the daughter of Purandar and Bina Sharma; the twin brothers Rick & Nick Bhuyan, who stole the heart of the appreciating crowd with their melodious songs; Suravi Kalita, Malabika Brahma and Prafulla Choudhury who enthralled the audience with the songs that are so delicately entwined with the emotions of each and every

Assamese worldwide.

There was abundance of food all throughout the event – for both afternoon snacks and the main course. It was encouraging to see the widespread response from the participants in regards to food; many contributed to both snacks and dinner with their delicious dishes. The Host Committee sincerely thanked them all. Special thanks went to Malabika Brahma and Gayatree Sarma who coordinated the food section of the event.

The Northeast Assamese community is looking forward to getting together again for the next event in this area, which happens to be none other than our own *Magh (Bhogali) Bihu*.

By **Prakash Deka**



Assam Dams & Earthquakes

I have just read Barada Sarma's article entitled "Tackling Post-Flood Problems in Assam," posted on Assamnet by Rini Kakati. The article contains inaccuracies that need to be pointed out. I understand where Mr. Sarma is coming from and fully understand the anger and frustration for the state of affairs in today's Assam, which are a far distant cry from Austin, Texas. The frustration is writ large all throughout the article; however, that does not justify the vilification of genuine concerns as expressed by H.N. Das, retired Chief Secretary for the Government of Assam.

Unless Mr. Sarma wants to rewrite the history of seismology, the magnitude of the great earthquake of 1897, that rendered his hometown of Shillong into mounds of rubble, has been long known to have a magnitude of 8.7 in the Richter Scale, and there need not be any qualms about it. This earthquake occurred at a transitional time of history with seismology making a transition from the pre-instrumental to an instrumental era; however, credit goes to R. D. Oldham, the then Director of the Geological Survey of India who personally investigated and directed the study of this earthquake and left a detailed monogram with valuable data which was later used to evaluate the earthquake further. None other than Beno Gutenberg of Germany, who according to Charles F. Richter was

perhaps the most brilliant seismologist of the twentieth century, assigned the value 8.7 to this earthquake. Charles F. Richter of California Institute of Technology, who worked with Guttenberg to create the now universally accepted Richter Scale for measuring earthquake magnitude, also studied this earthquake based on information of various earthquake parameters left by R.D. Oldham. He also compared it with the 1934 Bihar-Nepal earthquake which had a known instrumentally determined magnitude of 8.4 and came up with the conclusion that the 1897 earthquake was bigger than the Bihar-Nepal earthquake. There has not been any higher authority in seismology anywhere in the world in the last hundred years than these two stalwarts on estimating the magnitude of the 1897 earthquake. To cast doubt on the conclusion of Beno Gutenberg is to rewrite the history of seismology. In a web page of the USGS, I found the same number 8.7 assigned to the 1897 earthquake.

With regard to building dams, there is no denying the fact that dams, in the past and the present, have a role in advancing prosperity by various accrued benefits. The elaborate system of dams to control Mississippi floods is a case in point. Any dam proposal, however, must be examined in its proper perspective and the decision to build should be based on

risk-benefit assessment on a case-by-case basis. In the case of Assam and the North East, the huge seismic hazard does



not bode well for any major dam impounding billions of cubic meters of water. The proposed dams on Dehang are not small. The highest is 257 meters high compared with 181 meters for the Three Gorges dam in the Hubei Province of China on the Yangtze River. Another dam in Assam-Tipaimukh has a reservoir capacity of 15.5 bcm compared with 22.1 bcm for the Three Gorges dam. The celebrated Bhakra dam is 226 meter high with a storage capacity of 9.87 bcm.

What is alarming is that the proposed dams on Dehang are within 150 km from the epicenter of the another disastrous earthquake of magnitude 8.6 in the Richter Scale, that hit Assam in the evening of August 15, 1950. In my doctoral work in England, I worked on a seismic design of concrete arch dams and later designed many nuclear power plants as a seismic design specialist. Let us not have any illusion that modern engineering can deliver a perfectly safe design be it done in

Roorkee or Caltech, by Bechtel or someone else. During the 1897 earthquake, the Shillong Plateau edging on Oldham fault and Dauki fault, rose violently a distance of 11 meters and epicentral ground acceleration exceeded that of gravity. No dam design is possible with these conditions and certainly should not take the risk of building large dams with only statistical probability in mind in the area at any cost. In 1967, an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 occurred in Koyna Nagar, Maharashtra. As a result, the Koyna dam cracked causing nervous alarm for a while. One can easily imagine what would have happened if an earthquake of the size of the 1897 earthquake, which was more than a hundred times bigger in terms of energy release, would have occurred instead.

The dams on Dehang are envisioned to produce a whopping 13 GW of electricity, but almost nothing in terms of flood control as these dams will reduce the water level

downstream on the Brahmaputra only about a meter as stated by R.B. Shah, ex-Chairman of CWC. This is not going to make a dent in solving Assam's flood problem. Assam will not own the electricity; it will have to buy unless arrangements are made for free handouts. However, 26 million Assamese people are asked to absorb all the risk that goes with a potentially catastrophic dam failure, and that is clearly not acceptable. Given the geography of the Assam Valley, the long narrow sloping patch of land that we call Assam may be caught in a deluge soon after a dam failure. Assamese people will then see darkness at noon. Recent flooding of South Kamrup as a result of release of water from a dam in Garo Hills area should ring an alarm for such nightmarish eventuality.

It is wrong to equate resistance to building dams on grounds of unacceptable risk to hindering progress. If building impressive looking multi-story buildings is

progress, then Guwahati has progressed a lot. In fact, it has deteriorated for the simple lack of farsight on the part of those who are in governance. Assam can prosper even without big dams. Its hydro potential in a limited way can still be exploited without undue risk by building mini-hydro plants. It can build thermal plants, solar plants, wind power plants etc. Why not be a little more creative than go for something that may turn tragic? Assam is not held back in progress for lack of big dams. It is held back by a multitude of other problems. That is a whole different topic that involves matters relate to mindset, corruption, and even the genetic indisposition of the Assamese people. We will discuss that another time.

By Umesh C. Tahbaldar, Ph.D. Dr Tahbaldar works for BOEING-Integrated Defence System, Philadelphia, PA.

The Assamese Sikhs

Today, many Assamese are concerned about their identity. Their concerns mainly arise out of the reality they see emerging before their eyes. Over the last so many decades, we have witnessed mass migrations of Bangladeshis into Assam. During this same time, Assam has also seen migrants from other states in India who have come to Assam for jobs or business. This influx of people into the state has often been fractious, and sometimes resulting in tragic loss of life and property.

In the midst of all this, we sometimes forget certain minority groups of immigrants who have not only fully assimilated in Assam's culture, but are Assamese for all purposes. One such group is a small minority group of Assamese, generally known as Assamese Sikhs

or Oxomia Punjabi.

The first Sikhs came to Assam around 200 years ago, from the Punjab. However, the majority of them were supposed to have come during the battle of Hadirachaki (1820-1822). They were the forefathers of the present generation of Assamese Sikhs, and were invited by the Ahom ruler, Chandra Kanta Singha, to defend Assam against the Burmese. A good many of these Sikhs were killed during battle. The survivors, however, stayed back and married into Assamese families. These Sikhs have become more and more Assamese and today they consider themselves fully Assamese, built Gurdwaras, and held on steadfastly to the Sikh religion.

Assamese Sikhs are unique from other immigrants to Assam. They are unique because, probably more than any other

minority group in Assam, they have been very proactive in assimilating with



Assamese culture and language. Though they have ardently been following the Sikh religion, in all other aspects, the Assamese Sikhs are very much Assamese. They speak Assamese, marry into mainstream Assamese families, celebrate Bihu, and dance to melodious Bihu songs as any true blooded Oxomia.

Himadri Banerjee of Jadavpur University, who has conducted extensive studies on the Assamese Sikhs, writes.

“They participate in Gurburabs [birth and death anniversaries of Sikh gurus], Baisakhi [the harvest festival] as well as Assamese festivals. They speak Assamese and generally follow the local code of conduct regarding marriage, food, social discipline, and dress. They, however, are no less aware of their Sikh identity and do wear the five Ks. Their gurdwaras (often called namghars) follow some of the Sikh traditions and try to make room for the local style of worship as well.”

The Assamese Sikhs also have their share of problems. The mainstream Punjabi Sikhs do not generally consider the Assamese Sikhs of their own community. Indu Kaur, a young writer from Tinisukia, writes in one of her columns in the Sikh News

Network, “The Assamese Sikhs speak Assamese and marry local girls from their own communities (generally Punjabi-speaking Sikhs do not give their daughters to them). I asked some of them why the Punjabi Sikhs do not give their daughters to them. They told me that they do not regard them as their equals. There is also a sharp break in their physical structure. The Punjabi Sikhs are well-built while the Assamese Sikhs have slighter physiques. The Assamese Sikhs are mainly rice eaters while the Punjabi Sikhs primarily eat wheat. Assamese Sikhs are often closer to local Hindu rituals relative to the Punjabi Sikhs.”

Most of the Assamese Sikhs are concentrated in Nagaon District. They have formed the Assam Sikh

Association to address some of their problems. They are often battling identity problems. The Association would like a minority status for the Assamese Sikhs, as well as representation in local and state political setups. All along these Sikhs have been farmers, but now, many of them are finding careers in other fields as well. These realities have opened up new opportunities as well as challenges for this small community.

References:

Himadri Banerjee: “The Sikhs of Assam”, Sikh Times, 08/25/03.

Surjit Hans : “The Identity of North-East S i k h s ” .
TribuneIndia.com/Spectrum, 08/24/03.

Indu Kaur: “The Assamese Sikhs”, Sikh News Network, 07/03/04.

By *Ram Sarangapani, Houston, Texas*

Assamese Entrepreneurs at IITF 2004

First generation entrepreneurs and NGOs from Assam are displaying



their products at the ongoing India International Trade Fair 2004 held at Oragati Maidan, New Delhi between November 14-27, 2004. The products from Assam include: Assamese Muga, Paat and Eri handloom dresses; various handicrafts products

made from cane & bamboo including living room, dining room and bedroom furniture; and food items like Assamese pickles and packed Assamese food.



Ms Mousumi Duarah of Guwahati is promoting her *Vastra* range of handloom products from Assam. All of her base cloths are made in Majuli by tribal weavers.



Bhogali Jalpan, a well known brand and a promoter of various Assamese fast food items from Guwahati has been appreciated by visitors at the IITF 2004.

Report & Photo by: *Babul Gogoi, New Delhi*

Assam Govt. Cancels Japanese Scholar's Lecture on Nellie

The Assam Government blocked the lecture on the Nellie massacre organized by Centre for North-East India South-East Asia Studies (CENISEAS), which was scheduled to be delivered

at Guwahati on November 11, 2004 by a Japanese scholar, Ms Makiko Kimura, a post-doctoral fellow, Japan Society for Promotion of Science. The Government has not mentioned any specific reason behind its move to

stop the lecture barely half an hour before its scheduled beginning. According to the senior fellow and head of CENISEAS, Prof. Sanjib Baruah, Assam Home Commissioner Mr B M Mazumdar sent a faxed

message to the CENISEAS, barely half an hour before the start of the lecture, requesting it not to hold any lectures of this sort without prior discussion with the State Government. The fax message cited no reason for its move to cancel the lecture. CENISEAS officials said that the State Government could have prevented them from holding the

lecture as soon as the reports of the lecture had come out in the local media.

During its short period of existence, CENISEAS has been able to organize many very thoughtful and serious discussions and seminars about the Northeast. Its head Dr. Sanjib Barua is currently in Zurich giving lectures

on Northeast India. He informed ASA Newsletter in an email on 11/22/04 that Calcutta's Center for the Study of Social Sciences is organizing the same talk by Kimura that was canceled in Assam.

By Babul Gogoi, New Delhi

Dr. Madhab Bora of Tezpur University Passes Away

On Tuesday, the 16th of November, my father Benudhar Kalita had called me from Nagaon to inform me that earlier that day Dr. Madhab Bora, the Dean of the School of Business at Tezpur University had passed away in a car accident on the highway from Nagaon to Tezpur near the town of Samaguri. I also received several email messages from professors Utpal Sarma, Rajib Goswami and Dhruba Bhattacharyaa at Tezpur University during the following days informing me of the sad and untimely demise of one of the most dedicated engineering and business school educators in Assam.

Dr. Bora was born in the village of Diphalu in the suburbs of Nagaon town across the Kolong. He went to primary school in his village. He graduated from Nagaon Government Boys High School (one of my alma maters). He obtained a top rank in high school matriculation examinations for Assam. He was a Mechanical Engineering graduate of Assam Engineering College, Guwahati. Immediately after graduation, he taught at AEC for a few years. Subsequently, he obtained a Masters Degree in Business from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok and a Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. He continued teaching at AEC in the Mechanical Engineering Department for a few years before moving to Jorhat Engineering College where he became the Head of the newly established Computer Science Department. He moved to the newly established Tezpur University and was the Dean of the

Business School there from its inception. Dr. Bora was responsible in many ways in setting up the goals and mission of the newly established Tezpur University.

Dr. Bora was very well-liked by his students and colleagues alike. He had taught, mentored and worked with an innumerable number of students in Assam. Almost anyone who



is an engineering or business college graduate of some kind in Assam over the past 25 years knows Dr. Madhab Bora. He had a lasting impact on these young minds. He always had the education of young people of Assam in his heart. His whole life was focused on education and nothing else. His untimely death is a great loss to the educational enterprise in Assam. Hemanga Nath, a software engineer in Silicon Valley remembers Dr. Bora by saying "It is a big loss. I always remember the face of Bora Sir and his tireless effort during the setting up the Computer Branch at JEC. I was in touch with him on a regular basis and I will miss him. Mridul Bhuyan of Gurgaon, Haryana, India, and an employee of the Power Grid Corporation

of India, writes "It's indeed very sad. During my days in JEC, he used to teach us Management. He was a great soul; a broad minded fellow. Durgamoyi baideo was his true companion. Assam has lost another great man." Rajeev Goswami of Tezpur writes "It is tragic news and an immense loss."

Dr. Bora has left behind his wife Durgamoyi Nobou (originally from Roha, Nagaon; a classically trained Radio Station singer who had brought out a CD last Spring) and two sons Bhaku and Diku. I spoke with the family by phone at length expressing my condolences on 11/22/04.

We are related to the family and had known Dr. Bora's family from childhood. Dr. Bora's mother hailed from Na-Deurigaon in the Kampur area of Nagaon District where my father's family is from. I visit this village every year when I go to Assam. I had frequently met him when I taught at Tezpur University in 1998-99 on sabbatical from my teaching job at the University of Colorado. Following my teaching stint at TU, I have been very fortunate to meet Dr. Bora and his family, even though for a few minutes, every year, when I visit Tezpur University in the winters. In addition, when we were undergraduates at IIT, Kharagpur, Dr. Bora was doing his Ph.D. and was newly married. I remember holding Bihu picnics and other programs with Dr. Bora, my brother Jukti, friends Dhruba Kalita, Jugma Bora, Satyendra Sarmah, Nova Basumatary, Neep Hazarika, Munindra

Bharati, Ratnajyoti Barkakati, and others. I remember all of us visiting each other's dormitory rooms and eating together on occasions like the annual Hall Days. I will miss him, his ever-present optimism and perpetual

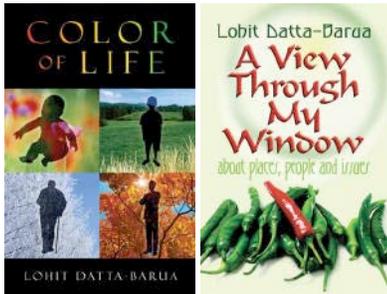
warm smile.

(The photograph shows Dr. Madhab Bora, on right, accepting a gift of about 200 computer science books to JEC in an informal ceremony in Nagaon in 1994.

The others in the picture are Professor Utpal Bhattacharyya of JEC and Jugal Kalita, the then President of ASA)

By Jugal Kalita, Colorado

Two Books by Dr Lohit Datta-Barua



There is an inextricable link between our motherland and the people where we belong. It is a bond which can transcend continents and oceans and yet remains steadfast and pure, unaffected by time or distance. That is what Dr. Lohit Datta-Barua has tried to prove through his writing. We both grew up in the same Panbazar area of Guwahati. I find his books very interesting to read. One book is *A View Through My Window: About Places, People, and Issues* and the

other one is *Colour of Life*.

For almost three decades, Dr. Lohit Datta-Barua has lived in suburban Houston. He spent his humble childhood on the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra in northeast India, amongst rich natural surroundings (also known as the land of the Red River and the Blue Hills). He moved to the USA in early 70's. He is an engineer by profession. His professional career took him to many countries around the globe.

Although a busy professional, Dr. Datta-Barua has lost neither his love of nature nor his thirst for traveling. He found striking similarities between his old river and Paul Robeson's Tennessee, the Old Man River. He traveled extensively within US and Canada, China, Russia, Indonesia, India, the Middle East, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, and many

European countries. This compilation includes his travel anecdotes from his travel experience to a few of these countries. Through these, he also introduces people with different needs, aspirations, cultures and the contrasting surroundings. The second section of this book reflects his observation and views on certain serious issues facing people such as poverty, religion, ethnicity, etc. and their impact on people on this globe. This book is about giving the readers a view of the outside world through the author's window.

Website:

<http://PublishAmerica.com>

Retail Price: \$19.95 (US)



Rini Kakati,
London, UK

North East NRI Convention in Guwahati:

The North Eastern Region of India is marching ahead despite numerous problems geographical, political, social and even cultural. North East needs a well thought out vision and a mission to accelerate the pace of development. In this context we believe that Non-Resident Indians from North East Region can play a crucial role in the development of the region, more particularly in the following areas:

1) Furnishing practical, innovative and implementable ideas, suggestions, thoughts, views for the future development of the region.

2) Facilitating investments through own sources as well as through their contacts.

3) Establishing market linkage as well as business network for the products from and to North East.

4) Flying the flag of North Eastern Region through their programs for the cause of creating a positive image for the region.

With a view to explore these possibilities, NECCI (North East Chamber of Commerce & Industry) are organizing "North East NRI Convention" on 7th to 8th January 2005 at Assam Engineering Institute Field, Chandmari, Guwahati.

We have kept the following broader topics for deliberations in this meet:

A) Agri-business

B) Tourism

C) Urban Development

D) Health

E) Information Technology

We write to you to specially invite you to the convention and look forward to your presence to make this convention a grand success. We do hope you will not miss this unique platform to serve your motherland and confirm your participation at the earliest. Please make it a point to inform your NRI friends not to miss this epoch making event

We also welcome research based papers or presentations from you. The papers or presentations will be scrutinized by

an expert committee and suitable paper or presentations will be allotted a slot during the seminar and or printed in the souvenir to be published on this occasion. Please send your paper or presentation well in advance through e-mail or courier. A cultural programme will be organized in the evening of 7th & 8th January 2005. In case you are interested in presenting any item in the

cultural program, please inform us well in advance.

A nominal participation fee of Rs.2000 per person will be charged to defray part of the expenses. If you require any other information or assistance for hotel and transport booking, please do not hesitate to contact our office or our overseas coordination.

Counting on your support and cooperation.

Thanking you.

Dilip Sarmah, NECCI, 10 "JANNAT", 6th Bye Lane, Zoo Narengi Road, Guwahati 781024 Tel: 91-361-2410461/2410462/2410463/2410464

Rini Kakati (Co-ordinator from UK)
Jugal Kalita (Co-ordinator from USA)

Society's Treasurer's Report

Here is an update of ASA membership & other donation received as of 11-06-04.

MEMBERSHIP:

31. \$40.00, 11-01-04, Anil & Madhuwani Chhetry, (Rohit & Mohan)
32. \$40.00, 11-01-04, Amulya & Polly Saikia, (Jina),
33. \$40.00, 11-17-04, Profulla & Nirupoma Khound, Dipak (Rollin and Nina)

PROJECT HOPE (Deaf & Dumb School):

1. \$225.00, 06-07-04 Prakash & Anuradha Deka
2. \$250.00, 06-14-04 Utpal & Malabika Brahma
3. \$140.00, 07-07-04 Mantu & Silpi Baishya
4. \$100.00, 08-20-04 Kedar & Ruprekha Bhuyan
5. \$100.00, 08-24-04 Mahesh & Lakhimi Baishya,
6. \$200.00, 08-30-04 Probal & Prabina Tahbaldar
7. \$50.00, 09-20-04 Jukti & Surabhi Kalita
8. \$100.00, 11-01-04 Jayanta & Nilaksi Thakuria

Total: \$1165

FLOOD RELIEF

1. \$100.00, 09-21-04 Kedar & Ruprekha Bhuyan
2. \$75.00, 09-21-04 Ajoy & Rana Dutta Hzarika,
3. \$60.00, 11-01-04 Sanjib Bhuyan



4. \$30.00, 11-01-04 Utpal & Malabika Brahma
5. \$100.00, 11-01-04 Mukul & Geeta Chowdhary
6. \$50.00, 11-01-04 Dhruva Das
7. \$60.00, 11-01-04 Prakash & Anuradha Deka
8. \$30.00, 11-01-04 Kalyan Kakati
9. \$60.00, 11-01-04 Umesh & Pronoti Tahbaldar
10. \$30.00, 11-01-04 Anwar Naseem
11. \$75.00, 11-01-04 Aswini & Neeruj Chowdhary
12. \$60.00, 11-01-04 Anil Chhetry
13. \$30.00, 11-01-04 Nomal & Pronoti Dutta
14. \$25.00, 11-01-04 Jugal & Bonmayuri Kalita
15. \$41.00, 11-01-04 Arabinda Bora & Family
16. \$50.00, 11-01-04 Jayanta & Nilakshi Thakuria
17. \$50.00, 11-01-04 Mili Choudhury
18. \$60.00, 11-01-04 Kaushik K. Das
19. \$65.00, 11-01-04 Shantanu & Mousumi Chatterji
20. \$65.00, 11-01-04 Jukti & Suravi Kalia
21. \$100.00, 11-01-04 Jona Choudhury
22. \$100.00, 11-01-04 Probhat & Gini Saikia
23. \$100.00, 11-01-04 Madumita Saikia
24. \$100.00, 11-01-04 Biraj Bhuyan (Bhuyan Ring Co.)

Total: \$1516.00

Paid: \$350.00 to Puran for the concert expenses

By **Kedar Bhuyan**, Mays Landing, New Jersey

A New Editor Joins the ASA Newsletter

Ram Sarangapani has joined the all-volunteer editorial staff of the ASA Newsletter starting the November 2004 issue. Ram was born and brought up in Guwahati. He attended Cotton College and Gauhati University. He came to the US in 1983 for advanced studies in business. Ram has also been actively involved with the South Asian community in Houston. He was the Director of Marketing for the South Asian Chamber of Commerce, Houston. During this time, he was successful in bringing Indian and South Asian issues to the forefront of the Houston political scene. Ram was a keynote speaker for a UNDP business seminar (1998) in Vietnam. His interests include reading, languages, and traveling. Over the years he has taught at several colleges and at the University of Houston. At present, he works for the State of Texas. Ram lives with his family in Houston, Texas.

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 Satyam Bhuyan (Ames, Iowa), Ganesh Bora (Manhattan, Kansas), Babul Gogoi (New Delhi, India), Jugal Kalita (Colorado Springs, Colorado, Editor-In-Chief), Symanta Saikia (Wichita, Kansas), Santonu Goswami (El Paso, Texas), Vavani Sarmah (Secane, Pennsylvania), Ujjal Pathak (Baton Rouge, Louisiana), Rini Kakati (London, UK) and Ram Sarangapani (Houston, Texas). The ASA Executive Committee is composed of Sanjib Bhuyan, President (Kendall Park, New Jersey), Utpal Brahma, Vice President (Burlington, New Jersey), Ganesh Bora, General Secretary (Manhattan, Kansas), Probal Tahbaldar (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. 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.

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