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a motorcycle lifter Deepjyoti Deka and recovered two stolen motorcycles from his possession on Friday.

The SFI, Assam State Committee has decided to build latrines and toilets where the evicted families are living cur-

every family has at least one child. After the eviction drive took place, they were left without any place to take refuge.

road which most of them took to go to their respective schools, was closed after the eviction," he added.

Scrapping of NPS, restoration of old pension system demanded

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: The All Assam Government NPS Employees' Association (AAGNPSEA) in association with Assam College Teachers' Association today organised a meeting here, demanding immediate scrapping of National Pension Scheme (NPS) and providing full retirement benefits to all

government employees as per the Assam Services (Pension) Rules 1969.

During the meeting, all the officials of employees and teachers association expressed their concerns about the future of the service life of the government employees covered under NPS.

"After implementation of NPS in the State, nearly 5,500 retired government teachers, officers, employees

are drawing a monthly pension of less than Rs 1200, which is a horrible condition for them and their families," said Ashyutananda Hazarika, president of AAGNPSEA.

Office-bearers and representatives of the All Assam District Administration Employees' Association, Asom Rajyik Prathamik Sikshak Sammilani, All Assam Heads of Department

Ministerial Officers' Association, All Assam Ministerial Officers' Association and All Assam Police Employees' Association among others also attended the meeting.

In the meeting, all the employees' associations urged the State government to scrap NPS and to restore the old pension system for the greater benefit of the society.

Azimuddin Ahmed

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Social worker and retired superintending engineer of the State Irrigation Department



Azimuddin Ahmed passed away late Friday night at his Hatigaon residence. He was 84.

He was an excellent volleyball player. An active social worker with an amiable disposition, he was a former president of the Hatigaon Chariali Jama Masjid. He was also president of the Meherban Path Development Committee. His *janaza* took place at the Hatigaon Sijubari Kabrasthan this afternoon.

He leaves behind his wife, a son and a daughter, besides a host of relatives.

National webinar on mental health organised

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: In the run-up to the World Mental Health Day on October 10, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC), Guwahati, organised a national webinar on the topic 'Mental Health for Development Functionaries' on Friday to discuss the need for identification of mental health challenges of people for their social inclusion through time-bound innovative approaches.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof Harry Minas, Head, Global Cultural Mental Health Unit, the University of

Melbourne, Australia emphasised the urgent need for integration of mental health into development strategies. "Poor mental health occurs at all ages, in women and men, and in all social and cultural groups, and is closely linked with poverty as both cause and consequence. Disabilities associated with mental disorders negatively affect all aspects of a person's life - relationships, capacity to study or work," he stated.

"There is no effective development without attention to mental health. Much greater attention to mental health is essential for achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Integrating mental health into development strategies and programmes will

advance both mental health and development," Prof Minas added.

"Mental disorders, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes are the main causes contributing to 72 per cent of total lost economic output. Mental disorders are among the most important contributors to lost economic productivity, with negative implications for national economic development in policies, programmes, services, education and research," he further mentioned.

The webinar was inaugurated by G Kameshwara Rao, former Chief Secretary, Tripura in the presence of Dr Murugesan Ramasamy, Director, NIRDPR NERC Guwahati and Dr Hamid Dabolkar and Dr Sudipto Chat-

terjee, psychiatrists of Parivartan, the organisation that co-hosted the event.

Dr T Vijaya Kumar, webinar coordinator while welcoming the delegates, emphasised the need for mental health care for all and mentioned that unequal access to mental health care is the biggest challenge across the world including India.

Earlier, speaking about the significance of mental health for development, Rao in his inaugural address said that mentally strong persons take independent responsibilities and do honest evolution of strengths and weaknesses. Therefore attention on the mental health of the functionaries is very important.

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পূজা প
বাইজট
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পূজাখলীত জাবন
পৰিবেশ আৰু

পূজাখলীৰ শান্তি
স্বৰত লাউড স্পী

পূজাখলীৰ আনন্দ
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অসম প্ৰদূষণ নিয়
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