

Evening News Script

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:::THE HEADLINES:::

1. National Sports Awards 2024 announced; Nagaland para-athlete Hokato Hotozhe Sema to be conferred Arjuna Award

2. India completes fencing of over nine kilometres of its border with Myanmar

3. 40 years after Bhopal gas tragedy, toxic waste lifted from Union Carbide factory for safe disposal

4. And, Massive fire at Naharbari area in Dimapur leaves hundreds homeless

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The National Sports Awards have been announced today. World Chess Champion D Gukesh, Double Medalist in Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker, Indian Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh and Gold Medalist in Paris Paralympics Praveen Kumar will be presented Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. 32 Sportspersons will be given Arjuna Award, while Veteran Athlete Sucha Singh and veteran para swimmer Murlikant Petkar will be honoured with Arjuna Awards (Lifetime). Other awards include Dronacharya Award for coaching, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for top performing university. President Droupadi Murmu will give away the awards at

a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17th of this month.

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Nagaland para-athlete Hokato Hotozhe Sema will be conferred the Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in sports and games 2024. He was among 32 sportspersons selected for the Arjuna award - the second highest sporting honour in India. Mr Sema had made history when he won the bronze medal in Shot put at the Paris Paralympics 2024 becoming the first athlete from Nagaland to win a Paralympic medal for India. Speaking to Akashvani News Kohima exclusively this evening, elated Mr Sema said as a sportsperson, it was his ultimate dream to win the Arjuna award. He said, since he took up the sports as a profession, his aim was to achieve the Arjuna award, and win a medal at the Olympics. He expressed joy that he was able to win a medal at his very first Paralympics, which has fulfilled his dream of winning the Arjuna award. Mr Sema said his next goal is to excel at the 2028 Paralympics at Los Angeles, and aim for the Khel Ratna.

The paralympic medalist also encouraged young people never to give up their dreams and strive for excellence in whatever field they pursue. Mr Sema exhorted them to learn from both their success and mistakes, stressing that these experiences are key to achieving their dreams.

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India has completed the fencing of over nine kilometres of its border with Myanmar and work on the road along the fence is in progress. The fencing has been done at Moreh in Manipur, the Union Home Ministry stated in a report published recently. The construction of around 21 kilometers of fence and road was awarded to Border Road Organisation in February last year. The country shares a 1,643 kilometer long border with Myanmar which passes through Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and

Mizoram. The ministry added that out the total distance, demarcation of 1,472 kilometres border has been completed. Construction work on two pilot projects of a Hybrid surveillance system in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur is in progress.

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A massive fire broke out at Naharbari area in Dimapur this morning, leaving hundreds homeless and destroying properties worth lakhs of rupees. According to reports, the fire broke out at around 10.30 AM reducing around 200 houses to ashes. There were no reports of casualties till the time of filing of this report. Fire tenders from West, Central and Chümoukedima station were pressed into service. Fire department officials said they are yet to ascertain the cause of the incident and assess the damage. Further details are awaited.

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In Madhya Pradesh, toxic waste from the now-defunct Union Carbide factory was shifted to Pithampur, some forty years after the Bhopal gas tragedy. Highly toxic methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide factory on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, killing at least 5,479 people and leaving thousands with serious and long-lasting health issues.

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Delhi Police has busted a gang involved in the illegal immigration of Bangladeshi citizens. Two Bangladeshi citizens and two Indian facilitators have been arrested. Addressing a press conference, Joint CP South Delhi, Sanjay Kumar Jain informed that 12 Bangladeshis have been deported in the last one month. He said, the Bangladeshi nationals took the route from Durgapur, in Bangladesh to reach Baghmara in Meghalaya. Mr Jain said, the arrested individuals created fake documents through a fraudulent website, enabling the Bangladeshi nationals to stay in the country illegally.

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Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Railways and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw is visiting Guwahati tomorrow to dedicate and inaugurate several projects. In the morning, the Union Minister will flag off three trains, Guwahati-New Lakhimpur Jan Shatabdi express, New Bongaigaon-Guwahati passenger train, and Tinsukia-Naharlagun Express and dedicate a road over bridge in Guwahati. The Union minister will later inaugurate Kokrajhar FM Station virtually from Guwahati. He will also launch the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Guwahati virtually. In the afternoon, Mr Vaishnaw will visit the Tata semiconductor unit at Jagiroad in Morigaon district and will also review Northeast Frontier railway projects in Guwahati.

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