

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

HSLC, HS exams

Guwahati, June 5: Assam education minister Dr Ranaj Pegu said high school leaving certificate (HSLC) and higher secondary (HS) 2nd year examinations under the state boards would be held in modified modes when the COVID-19 scenario improves in the state. He said state is yet to reach a 'near normal' situation. The education department is ready to conduct the exams once the COVID-19 situation improves. "It is an abnormal situation. We have already indicated that we would be able to conduct the exams in a way favourable to the students," the education minister said. Pegu also claimed cancellation of exams cannot resolve the issue. "For many students, the marks of HS and HSLC are important in their career," he remarked.

44 more Covid19 deaths

Guwahati, June 5: Assam has reported 44 more Covid19 deaths and 3,781 new positive cases in the last 24 hours. Conforming the news, Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta in a tweet on Saturday evening said the new cases were confirmed out of 3,781 cases. The overall Covid19 positivity percentage of Assam stood at 3.26% on Saturday, stated Mahanta. Of the new positive cases, Kamrup Metro alone reported 276 cases. Hundreds of people also recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours. The state's recovery rate on Saturday stood at 86.97%, according to the data shared by Assam health minister Mahanta. "Summary of 05/06/2021 - Today's Total 3781: Overall Positivity Percentage; (3781 cases out of 1,15,968 test done = 3.26%); Kamrup (M) 276; Death 44; Recovery Rate 86.97%," Mahanta tweeted. On Friday, Assam reported a total of 4,548 new positive cases and 54 more deaths. The overall positivity rate was 3.68% on Friday. Kamrup Metro reported 421 cases in Friday and the recovery rate was 87.02%.

Gambling racket busted

Guwahati, June 5: The Darrang police has busted a gambling racket and arrested seven gamblers from Kharupetia in Assam's Darrang district. The police conducted an operation at the municipal ward no 3 of Kharupetia on Friday night during which they busted the racket. They also seized playing cards and cash amounting to Rs 3,000 from the possession of the gamblers. The accused were booked under the provisions of the Assam Games and Betting Act and remanded to judicial custody on Saturday. Also read: Assam: Black fungus case detected in Silchar Medical College and Hospital. The police have in the past 24 hours arrested about 10 persons for their involvement in different illegal activities in different parts of Dhubri.

Assam Stops Administering Covaxin First Dose, Cites Short Supply



Guwahati, June 5: The Assam government has decided to stop administering the first dose of Covaxin due to short supply. Informing the media of the decision at a press meet in Guwahati today, Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta said, "We have 3.2 lakh Covishield and 20,000 Covaxin doses in our stock. Another 50,000 doses of Covaxin will be available within the week. We need 1.50 lakh more (shots of) Covaxin to administer the second dose." Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma went to New Delhi to discuss the procurement of more vaccines for

Assam," Mr Mahanta added. The minister said vaccination drives will be conducted more aggressively in six districts. These districts are Kamrup Metro, where state capital Dispur and main city Guwahati is located, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Cachar. "We are administering 50,000 vaccine doses everyday till date. We are targeting to give at least 70,000 doses daily," the minister said. However, at many centres in Assam, vaccination has been stopped due to a shortage of doses. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sarma today chaired a

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CM plants rudraksh saplings on World Environment Day

Distributes garbage clearing auto tippers to NGOs, Raimona reserve forest in BTR upgraded to National Park: CM

Guwahati, June 5: Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today attended the environment day programme at Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati and planted 11 rudraksh saplings. He urged all sections of the society to contribute towards environment protection following Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of cleanliness. Speaking on the occasion, he informed about state government's decision to upgrade Raimona reserve forest

under Kochugaon forest block in BTR to a national park apart from ongoing process to make Dehing Patkai a

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Four Assam tiger reserves including Kaziranga get national accreditation



Guwahati, June 5: All four tiger reserves in Assam Kaziranga National Park (KNP) have received accreditation from a national body for maintaining high standard of conservation. Officials said that the na-

tional committee on Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CATS) has accorded the accreditation to Manas, Nameri and Orang Tiger Reserves besides the KNP. An official statement issued by the state government said that the CATS assessment was conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 27 tiger reserves across the country in the first phase, while 24 more will be covered in the second phase. "All the four tiger reserves of Assam under Phase 1 have got CATS accreditation. Only seven proposals were recommended by the

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After Centre's criticism, Punjab requests private hospitals to return COVID vaccine stock

Chandigarh, June 5: The Punjab government instructed the private hospitals to return the remaining available stock amid severe criticism from the Centre and Shiromani Akali Dal for allegedly selling COVID-19 vaccines to private hospitals at higher prices. The development comes after Punjab health minister Balbir Singh Sidhu while responding to allegations by the opposition about



COVID-19 vaccines being sold to private hospitals by the state government for profit, assured that he will

definitely initiate an inquiry, the minister on Saturday stated that private hospitals have been instructed to return all vaccine doses available to them. Minister Sidhu along with the Nodal office for Vaccination of the state, Vikas

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CM visits Dr. Seuj Senapati in GMCH and enquires about his health

Attackers of doctors and medical staffs would not be spared : CM

Guwahati, June 5: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited GMCH and took stock of Dr. Seuj Kumar Senapati's health condition. He also interacted with the doctor's mother and other family members. Dr. Senapati, the medical officer who was attacked

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Fifth Oxygen Express arrives in Assam with 80 MT of oxygen

Guwahati, June 5: Assam has received its fifth Oxygen Express with 80 MT of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) in 4 tankers from Jharkhand while Oxygen Expresses have crossed the milestone of 25,000 MT of LMO delivery across India. Overcoming all hurdles and finding new solutions, Indian Railways is continuing its journey of bringing relief by delivering Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) to various states across the country. "So far, Indian Railways has delivered more than 25,629 MT of LMO in more than 1503 tankers to various states across the country," the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) said in a statement. A total of 368 Oxygen Expresses have completed their journey so far and brought relief to various states. "Till

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Mamata Banerjee's nephew, Abhishek appointed as TMC's National General Secretary



Kolkata, June 5: TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee was appointed as the party's all India general secretary by party supremo and aunt Mamata Banerjee on Saturday. Addressing a press meet, TMC

leader Partha Chatterjee also said that the working committee has decided that one person will be allowed to hold just one post in the party, and the core committee has duly given its approval. "Our party chief Mamata Banerjee has nominated MP Abhishek Banerjee as the all India general secretary of the TMC," Chatterjee said, following two crucial meetings earlier in the day. Abhishek will be replacing Subrata Bakshi as the national general secretary, while actor-turned-TMC leader Sayoni Ghosh has been made the youth wing president - a post

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PM Modi, Xi Jinping 'responsible' leaders, can solve bilateral issues : Vladimir Putin

New Delhi, June 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday asserted that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are "responsible" leaders and are capable of solving their issues. Putin told PTI that it was important that no "extra-regional power" should interfere in the process. "Yes, I do know that there are some issues related to India-China relations but there are always a lot of issues between neighbouring countries but I know the attitude of both the Prime Minister of India and also the President of China. These are very responsible people and they earnestly treat

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Mumbai prepares for unlock from June 7: Here's what's allowed, what's not

Mumbai, June 5: The COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in Maharashtra will be lifted from June 7, Monday onwards the government announced on Friday night. The Uddhav Thackeray-led government stated that the restrictions will be relaxed on the basis of the COVID-19 positivity



rate and availability of oxygen beds. The Chief Minister's office (CMO) shared a five-level plan which will come into effect from Monday. It was declared that in Level 1, there are 18 districts which will witness unlocking. While five districts will see Level 2 of unlockdown,

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World Environment Day observed in N.F. Railway

N.F. Railway is committed towards a Greener Environment

Guwahati, June 5: The World Environment Day-2021 was observed in a befitting manner in Northeast Frontier Railway today. Officials of the Northeast Frontier Railway also participated with their counterparts spreading throughout the nation to make the world we live in more sustainable for our future generations. The day started with a tree plantation drive at the Amingaon area adjacent to Guwahati city. General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway Shri Anshul Gupta led other



officials in planting saplings. Senior officials of the Northeast Frontier Railway's Open line and Construction Organization also participated in this special plantation drive. A booklet containing information about various environment-friendly activities being undertaken by the Northeast Frontier Railway was also released by the General Manager on the occasion. Similar initiatives of tree plantation drive were also undertaken in all the five divisions of Northeast

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Three child saplings planted in Dhakuakhana on the occasion of World Environment Day

PEC demands unconditional release of all scribes in Myanmar

Geneva/Guwahati, June 05 : As the imprisonment of scribes and other democratic activists under arbitrary laws becomes a new normal in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), the Switzerland based media rights body Press Emblem Campaign (<https://pressemblem.ch/>) urges the military regime in NayPieTaw to release all media workers unreservedly. The military junta led by general Min Aung Hlaing is presently trying its best to control the public outrages since the south-east Asian nation faced the coup on 1 February throwing the elected government virtually led by Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi out of legitimate power. The civil disobedient movement, called by NLD chief Suu Kyi, has already lost over 840 demonstrators to the brutalities of security personnel. At least 85 journalists were arrested in the last four months where over 50 scribes are still behind the bars as they faced a newly revised law on spreading wrong information. Lately two reporters namely Ko Aung Kyaw (associated with Democratic Voice of Burma) and Ko Zaw Zaw (working for Mizzima media group) were imprisoned by a military court for two years because of their coverages on public unrests. The military generals targeted the news industries with cancelling their licences, slowing down the internet services

and also physically assaulting the media workers in different occasions. Even foreign journalists too are not spared as Danny Fenster, who edits Frontier Myanmar magazine, was picked up by the security agencies recently while he was about to board a flight to his home in USA. Mizzima chief editor Soe Myint informed PEC south & southeast Asia representative Nava Thakuria that Mr Zaw became the sixth Mizzima staff to be detained by the militaries. Five of Mizzima members including its co-founder Thin Thin Aung are currently in jail facing three years of imprisonment. They are sentenced under section 505(a) of the penal code, which makes it a crime to publish any alleged rumour or misinformation with intent to cause alarm among the public or incite them to commit a crime against the government. "We always believe and pursue that journalism can not be a crime. The media fraternity in Myanmar must get the freedom to work fearless," asserted PEC general secretary Blaise Lempem adding that three more journalists engaged with DVB were sentenced to seven months of imprisonment by a Thai court as they escaped from Myanmar to enter Thailand recently. Lempem also requested the Thai government not to extradite them to Myanmar hurriedly and release the scribes.

District Level Orientation on Augmentation of Covid-19 Vaccination Held



Aalo 05 June: In a bid to speed up the Covid-19 vaccination in entire district of Shi-Yomi district, District Level Orientation Programme on augmentation of Covid-19 was held at the Conference

Hall of Tourist Lodge Barangang on 4th June last. The DMO, DRCHO and DSO IDSP spoke in detail on vaccination schedule, location of centres and distribution of manpowers in various centres to speed up the vaccination process in the district. All MO incharges, Supervisors from ICDS, BCM, BDM of all blocks and ASHAS of Mechuka were given detail briefings on the ovassion.

World Environment Day observed at Doulguri

SIPAJHAR, June 05 : Along with the rest of the world the World Environment Day is also observed at Doulguri in Darrang district in collaboration with the Ranger, Kurua, Range of Forest Department of Government of Assam. Addressing the discussion organised on the occasion on the topic "Relevance of trees to protect human life" Munindra Narayan Deka, Ranjer, Kurua Ranje highlighted the importance of trees in present natural situation. Furthermore in his thought provoking speech he also discussed on the scientific outlook of the religions

and cultures to conserve the natural atmosphere. The Doulguri Jnan Uday Puthibharal has organised the tree plantation programme as part of the programme of the celebration of the day within the campus of the Doulguri Jnan Uday Puthibharal, Doulguri Vishnu Temple, Kali Temple and Doulguri Lower Primary School. Mathura Mohan Deka, Retired employee of the Forest Department of the Government of Assam, Bhabendra Saharia, Advisor, Jnan Uday Puthibharal, Bubul Kalita,

secretary, Jnan Uday Puthibharal, Bhargab Jyoti Hazarika, Assistant secretary, Jnan Uday Puthibharal, Bhaba Jyoti Saharia, secretary, Doulguri Vishnu Temple Management Committee, Dulu Moni Kalita and Khargeswari Kalita, Assistant teacher, Jatiya Bidyalaya, Assam, Hazarikapara and Doulguri Primary School respectively, Minu Deka, leading women social activist and Nareswar Kalita, member Jnan Uday Puthibharal were participated in the entire programme actively.

FICCI FLO Northeast Observes World Environment Day Or FICCI FLO Northeast Plants Thousands of Giloy Saplings to Mark World Environment Day Creating Northeast's first Giloy Village

Guwahati, June 5: FICCI FLO Northeast Chapter has observed World Environment Day with different back-to-nature activities today. FLO Northeast has distributed thou-

sands of Giloy saplings in Nazirakhat village in Sonapur district of Assam in association with Social Forestry Department of Government of Assam. Giloy is a medici-

nal vine having its wide range usage in ayurvedic treatments. It helps in treating diabetes, building immunity and facilitating weight loss. These Giloy saplings will help in making the village greener and in beautification of the village too. The plant can be a source of income for the villagers as Giloy is in high demand for its medicinal value. This was also a part of FLO Northeast's motto - Engage and Empower to uplift our villages. FLO Northeast has also planted 500 flower and fruit saplings in Boko in association with Social Forestry Department of Govt. of Assam. The fruit saplings were mainly of indigenous varieties which would grow easily in this climate. An online workshop on kitchen garden, balcony garden and home composting was also organised by FLO Northeast to mark this year's World Environment Day. FLO North-



Raimona Assam's new national park with rich flora and fauna

Guwahati, June 5: Raimona national park has been added to Assam's five existing national parks. An announcement to this effect was made by Assam Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on the occasion of World Environment Day at Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati on Saturday. Dr Sarma said with the new addition, Assam has six national parks and that process is underway to convert Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary into a national park. Minister for Environment and Forest, Parimal Suklabaidya who attended the function along with Minister for GDD, Ashok Singhal, said the announcement made by the Chief Minister has turned out to be a red letter day for the state and welcome news for wildlife lovers, nature lovers and conservationists. He said process is also underway to upgrade Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary to a national park. The Environment and Forest department brought out

a notification declaring Raimona as national park on Saturday. The Raimona national park that falls under Kokrajhar district of BTC is a part of contiguous forest patch with an area of 422 square km covering the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest (area of 508.62 square km), which forms the westernmost buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve in the southern foothills of Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot. The boundary of Raimona national park, which forms with the Sonkosh River on the west along the inter-state boundary of West Bengal and Assam from Indo-Bhutan border up to fire line Ride-6 southwards (BP30) and Saralbhangha River on the east, runs northwards till it touches the Indo-Bhutan international boundary on the north and remaining part of Ripu RF on the south. The southern boundary runs eastwards along the fire line Ride-6 up to Pekua River where it runs at

90 degrees southwards till it meets the fire line Ride-3. "Historically, the area was a part of the migratory route of the faunal species from Himalayan Mountain, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Chinese realms towards west and Peninsular Indian realm species to the east," said a forest official. The new national park shares contiguous forest patches of Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park in Bhutan (total area of 1,999 square km) creating a transboundary conservation landscape of more than 2,400 square km. "Such secured transboundary ecological landscape will ensure long term conservation of endemic species like Golden Langur Trachypithecus geei - the mascot of BTC - and endangered species like Asian Elephant Elephas maximus, Royal Bengal Tiger Panthera tigris and varied other flora and faunal species it supports," said the forest official. The new national

park forms the westernmost buffer to the Manas Tiger Reserve (TR) which is one of the nine such reserves in India first declared by Project Tiger in 1973. The area is also the integral part of Manas Biosphere Reserve (BR) and Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve (ER). The Manas national park is located in the heart of the TR cum ER which is also a natural World Heritage Site. "The new national park will open up huge opportunities of ecotourism for the fringe villagers, who currently are partially or totally dependent on forest resources for their livelihood. A highly viable tourism circuit through the Raimona national park and the contiguous protected areas of Bhutan will attract national and international tourists, who will not only enjoy the wildlife and outstanding scenic beauty but also the diverse and colourful social landscapes and their rich culture and tradition, quipped the official.

World Environment Day observed



Dibrugarh, June 05 : The Dibrugarh Range of Dibrugarh division have observed the World Environment Day, 2021 at Rameswar H.S School, Barbaruah in presence of Pallav Gopal Jha, Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, Pradipta Baruah, DFO, Dibrugarh, Saidul Alam. DFO, Dibrugarh SF Division, Pranjal Sarma Baruah, Circle Officer, West Revenue Circle, Dibrugarh, Golap Bania, ACF (HQ), Dibrugarh, Anil Nath, Principal, Rameswar H.S School, Manoj Baruah, Officer-in-Charge, Barbaruah PS and local public. All total 60 nos seedlings of different species were planted today with fencing inside the campus of the said school. In addition, 1500 nos seedlings were distributed today among the public of Dibrugarh town to create the awareness about the theme of the day, which is "Ecosystem Restoration by planting trees". Beside this, as a part of massive plantation drive w.e.f 23/05/2021 to 05/06/2021 as per the Direction of Hon'ble Forest Minister of Assam, the staff of Range HQ, Jokai Beat, Medella Beat and Telpani Beat have planted as much as 1960 nos. seedlings at various places of Dibrugarh so far.

'Swachhata doesn't end with sweeping': Dr. A Kashyap in the World Environment Day programme of DIET, Kamrup

Mirza, June 5: An webinar on Decentralized Waste Management and Organic Farming along with poster writing, photography competition and plantation drive was organized by DIET, Kamrup, Mirza on the occasion of World Environment Day. The speaker of the webinar, Dr. Amarjyoti Kashyap laid stress on decentralized waste management and proper segregation at the household level. The use of plastic materials should be restricted and instead local made organic articles needs to be promoted which was stressed in the webinar. Only sweeping doesn't imply swachhata rather it transfers wastes from one place to another. Rather these wastes should be scientifically processed, recycled and must be converted into resources as recycled items, vermi-compost etc., which can be applied itself for agricultural purposes. It will help in maintaining the ecological balance and contribute to the reduction in pollution level. Burning of waste must be avoided at any means which was stressed by Dr. Kashyap, president of ENVIRON in the one-day virtual programme of World Environment Day. The programme

was followed with question answer session by the participants. Along with a one-day webinar, other programmes viz., poster writing, photography competition and plantation drive were also held which was participated in full capacity by all the trainees and lecturers of DIET, Kamrup. The programme was organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Pankaja Baruah, Principal, DIET, Kamrup, who inaugurated the session along with the launch of SAP 2021-22 activities to be implemented by the DIET. She also mentioned in her inaugural speech about taking up various activities related to Swachhata and Waste Management in the campus. She appealed for active community participation in and around the institute. Dr. Jhumpa Dey, lecturer, DIET was the coordinator of the programme. Bhupen Das, Daisy Gogoi, Mitali Mahanta, Kamal Kr. Mahanta, Dr. Shiromoni Bhuyan, Prasanta Saikia, the faculties of the Institute contributed for organizing different competitions successfully among the trainees. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Pallavi Bhattacharya.

World Environment Day Celebrated at Biswanath College

Biswanath Chariali, 5 June: Biswanath College celebrated World Environment Day with a series of programmes. The newly prepared 'Herbal Garden' of Biswanath College was formally inaugurated by Promod Borthakur, MLA of Biswanath constituency in presence of Kokil Hazarika, President of Governing Body and Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal of the college. A massive plantation programme was undertaken under the aegis of Environment and Climate Cell of the college supported by Assam Science Technology and Environment Council where teachers, employees and office bearers of Students' Union planted more than hundred saplings of valuable trees. A meeting was organized by Environment and Climate Cell under the chairmanship of Kokil Hazarika. The session was compered by Dr Biswajit Sarmah and Promod Borthakur was felicitated by Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal, Mrs. Leena Hazarika, president of teachers' unit, Tapan Bora, president of non teaching staff, Mr Abhishek Bhuyan and Mr Nayan Nirban Kakoti, President and Secretary respectively of Students' Union besides Mr Arabinda Das and Ms. Ranjana



Sharma, faculties from Commerce department with Gamocha, Seleng, Xarai etc for being elected MLA for second term from prestigious Biswanath Constituency. A district level prize money online essay competition on 'Ecosystem restoration is the paramount task to save the earth' besides a state level webinar on 'Role of Biochar in soil health management, climate change mitigation and Crop productivity' was organized. Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, Principal welcomed Prof. Abani Kumar Bhagawati, a renowned academician and Dr Bikram Borkataki who served as inaugurator and resource person respectively.

On occasion of World Environment Day

Forest personnel plants several hundreds of trees at Bamuni Pahar in Kandoli PPF

NAGAON, June 5: Forest personnel from Nagaon Forest Division, on occasion of World Environment Day today conducted a massive tree plantation drive at Bamuni Pahar in Kandoli PPF to protect eco friendly system - flora and fauna for survival of bio diversities in the region. During the drive, several hundred of saplings of various local trees were planted. Local Barhampur MLA Jitu Goswami, in presence of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, W Surya Narayan, inaugurated the drive at the PPF. Superintendent of Police, Anand Mishra, DFO, Nagaon Forest Division, Bosantham B, DFO, Nagaon Wildlife Division, Arun Vignesh and other officials from both forest divisions participated in the plantation drive. Significantly, the mysterious lightning claimed a total of 18 wild elephants on May 12 last at the same Bamuni Pahar of Kandoli PPF where the forest department today conducted the massive plantation drive. Similarly, on occasion of World Environment Day, the local MLA of Nagaon Sadar constituency, Rupak Sarma also participated in a massive plantation drive in the town and planted several hundred saplings of various kinds of trees near at Motiram Bora Girls' School, Monalisa Hotel, Nagaon Kechaali, Nagaon Laokhuwa road and other places in the town. Meanwhile, Nagaon Lions Club also conducted a massive tree plantation drive in the town as well as in its own orchard at the club campus. President of the Club Pralay Shaha, Biswajit Mahanta, Gurusharan Singh, Pranab Das, Hemanta Bordoloi initiated the drive today on occasion of World Environment Day, a release added.

ZPM Provides Relief to Drug Rehabilitation Centre

Aalo 05 June: In a noble gesture, Shri Genya Ori ZPM 5A Ubu has provided essential food items to the inmates and workers of Mothers' vision Drug deaddiction and Rehabilitation Centre at Hiker Gumin. The

commodities included rice, dal, masks, potatoes, salts and this donation came in a time crisis time and come as noble trend to give support to NGO which is managing the centre through Self Help basis.



On the occasion of W.E.D. the civil administration of Nazira took a plantation programme at Nazira Crematory on last 5th Juene. Opening the programme Civil SDO of Sabyasashi Kashyap said that we should try to maintain the ecological balance to save our society and without nourishing so called plantation is meaningless. Election officer of Nazira Sujata Gogoi, EAC Pratim Gogoi, Rubi Kumari, Tanmoy Chetia, SDIPRO of Nazira Barnali Dutta etc were also present in the plantation programme alongwith others.

School trips to UK from EU could halve as Brexit hits cultural exchanges

Paris, June 05 : French and German educational trip organisers bringing as many as 750,000 school pupils to the UK every year have warned that tougher post-Brexit entry requirements are likely to cut the number of young Europeans visiting Britain by half. "We've already seen a big fall-off in interest," said Edward Hisbergues, the sales manager of a leading French operator, PG Trips. "My business was 90% UK, 10% Ireland; now it's all about Ireland. Schools are inquiring about visits to the Netherlands or Malta." The British government has rejected requests from organisers to exempt children taking part in short organised educational trips from new passport and visa measures due to come into effect on 1 October, saying they are needed to strengthen Britain's borders. The organisers said many thousands of UK host families, language schools, hotels and other businesses around the country, and especially in cities such as Canterbury that specialise in the educational market, risked suffering a significant economic impact. They also said the new border restrictions could inflict broader and longer-term damage to Britain's relations with Europe. School trips "foster intercultural understanding and reduce prejudice", wrote the German federation of leading school trip organisers, whose members run 7,000 trips a year to the UK representing more than 1.5m overnight stays. "They forge lifelong connections with the UK, increase tolerance for people, cultures and different ways of living and thinking, and help the acquisition of language skills in the internationally most important language." Hisbergues said school trips abroad "really open eyes. They can inspire kids and change the course of young lives." Ingo Dobbert, the deputy chair of the German federation, said German children risk "being excluded from the valuable experience their predecessors had of travelling to and living in the UK". The French and German organisers said the UK government's decision to no longer accept EU national ID cards for entry into Britain from 1 October would deter less well-off families, since the cost of a passport could increase a trip's price by 10% to 20% per child, depending on age. They are particularly concerned about the abolition of collective passports - the "list of



travellers" scheme that allowed non-EU students, usually from immigrant families, to travel as part of an organised group without needing a UK visa. Schools in France, Germany, Spain, Italy and other EU countries often allow trips only if every pupil in the class can take part, meaning groups with even one non-EU pupil will "no longer consider Britain as a viable option" because of the cost and administrative hassle of securing a UK visa, the organisers said. Between 5% and 10% of German children on school trips to the UK would need to apply for a visa costing £95 under the new rules, the companies said, while half of French trips would be at risk for the same reason. In letters sent to Boris Johnson and the Home Office, the organisers noted that school trips generate much-needed income for many UK host families, as well as for museums, theatres and attractions such as Stonehenge, the London Eye and the Brighton Pavilion, usually outside the busy holiday season. "In many British towns, student visitors are a vital part of the local economy," the German federation wrote. France's 10,000 school trips a year represent a direct annual input into the UK economy of £100m, French organisers said. Dobbert said he felt the British government was "not thinking of the long-term impact of this". Susan Jones of LinguaStay, a UK homestay accommodation provider, said her firm welcomed 10,000 continental schoolchildren a year into Chester, with 300 regular host families and six employees. "So many people, with so much to lose," she said. "The short-stay educational travel market will die. And these are schoolchildren, travelling with their teachers - not a security threat." Both the French and German organisers asked the government to

consider allowing under-18s travelling as part of organised trips lasting less than two weeks to enter the UK with ID cards, and urged it to maintain the "list of travellers" for school groups. The minister for future borders and immigration, Kevin Foster, has rejected their requests, saying in replies to multiple individuals and organisations that the government was "committed to strengthening the security of our border". From 1 October, most European Economic Area nationals "will require a passport like everyone else", Foster said, adding that the "list of travellers" scheme would end on the same date and "all pupils, no matter their nationality, will need a passport - and visa if required - to visit the UK on an organised school trip". Continuing the scheme would run counter to plans for a "position where everyone obtains an individual permission in advance of travel from the Home Office", he said, with those permissions used to "keep those who may pose a threat away from our border and facilitate the passage of legitimate travellers". Foster added that the government had "provided almost a year's notice for these changes to allow people to plan ahead and obtain a passport, and visa if they need to, before they travel". Dobbert said his federation had "the strong impression" that the British government "has very little understanding of the problems we'll have equipping children with passports and organising visas for non-German citizens". He said the new measures would "cause the costs of a journey to the UK to explode, and have a considerable influence on our decision to travel to the UK. It will force us to choose alternative English-speaking destinations."

Facebook to suspend Trump's account for two years



Washington, June 05 : Facebook is suspending Donald Trump's account for two years, the company has announced in a highly anticipated decision that follows months of debate over the former president's future on social media. "Given the gravity of the circumstances that led to Mr Trump's suspension, we believe his actions constituted a severe violation of our rules which merit the highest penalty available under the new enforcement protocols. We are suspending his accounts for two years, effective from the date of the initial suspension on January 7 this year," Nick Clegg, Facebook's vice-president of global affairs, said in a statement on Friday. At the end of the suspension period, Facebook said, it would work with experts to assess the risk to public safety posed by reinstating Trump's account. "We will evaluate external factors, including instances of violence, restrictions on peaceful assembly and other markers of civil unrest," Clegg wrote. "If we

determine that there is still a serious risk to public safety, we will extend the restriction for a set period of time and continue to re-evaluate until that risk has receded." He added that once the suspension was lifted, "a strict set of rapidly escalating sanctions" would be triggered if Trump violated Facebook policies. Friday's decision comes just weeks after input from the Facebook oversight board - an independent advisory committee of academics, media figures and former politicians - who recommended in early May that Trump's account not be reinstated. However the oversight board pushed the ultimate decision on Trump's fate back to Facebook itself, giving the company

six months to make the final call. The board said that Facebook's "indeterminate and standardless penalty of indefinite suspension" for Trump was "not appropriate", criticism that Clegg wrote the company "absolutely accept[s]". The new policy allows for escalating penalties of suspensions for one month, six months, one year, and two years. The former president has been suspended since January, following the deadly Capitol attack that saw a mob of Trump supporters storm Congress in an attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election. The company suspended Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts over posts in which he appeared to praise the actions of the rioters, saying that his actions posed too great a risk to remain on the platform. Following the Capitol riot, Trump was suspended from several major tech platforms, including Twitter, YouTube and Snapchat. Twitter has since made its ban permanent. The former president called Facebook's decision "an insult to the record-setting 75m people, plus many others, who voted for us in the 2020 Rigged Presidential Election," in a statement. "They shouldn't be allowed to get away with this censoring and silencing, and ultimately, we will win." Trump received fewer than 75m votes in the 2020 election, which he lost.



Photo taken on April 5, 2021 shows elephants in Omaruru, Namibia



অসম চৰকাৰ

কৃতজ্ঞতা

ক'ভিড-১৯ৰ টীকাৰণ অভিযানক জনআন্দোলনলৈ ৰূপান্তৰ কৰাৰ বাবে অসম চৰকাৰে জনোৱা আহ্বানৰ প্ৰতি সাঁহাৰি জনাই মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ সাহায্য পূৰ্জিলৈ আৰ্থিক বৰঙণি আগবঢ়োৱা নিম্নোক্ত ব্যক্তি / অনুষ্ঠানৰ প্ৰতি আন্তৰিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিলোঁ।

ড° হিমন্ত বিশ্ব শৰ্মা
মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী অসম

ব্যক্তি/ অনুষ্ঠানৰ নাম	বৰঙণি	ব্যক্তি/ অনুষ্ঠানৰ নাম	বৰঙণি
তপন বৰঠাকুৰ	৩,০০০ টকা	টিচিআইটি এ চি ক'ভিড	৮,০০,০০,০০০ টকা
নুৰ মহম্মদ আলী	১,০০১ টকা	ৰিলিফ প্ৰজেক্ট	
অলকানন্দা দাস	২০০ টকা	অৰুণ সিন্ধা	৫,০০০ টকা
অসম গণ পৰিষদ,	৫০১ টকা	ড° ৰাজদীপ ৰয়	১,০০,০০০ টকা
দমদমা আঞ্চলিক সমিতি		ৰোসাতানা বেগম লক্ষ্মৰ	৫,০০০ টকা
এম আলী	১০১ টকা	ড° ধ্ৰুৱজ্যোতি নাথ	১০,০০০ টকা
কুলজিৎ তালুকদাৰ	১,০০২ টকা	সৌভিক দাস চৌধুৰী	১০,০০১ টকা
দেৱজিৎ চন্দ্ৰ ডেকা	১০১ টকা	মদন মোহন পাল	৫,০০০ টকা
মনিম হাজৰিকা	৬,০০১ টকা	সাজিদা বেগম বৰভূঞা	৫,০০০ টকা
অসীমজ্যোতি দত্ত	৪,০০০ টকা	তপন কুমাৰ দাস	২৫,০০০ টকা
মনীষ হাজৰিকা	৪,০০০ টকা	ড০ সুজিত কুমাৰ নগি পুৰকায়স্থ	১,০০,০০০ টকা
ৰাজ ভূমিজ	১,০০০ টকা	ৰনধীৰ বসু	১,০০,০০০ টকা
ৰানী দেৱী বৰা	২,০০০ টকা	সবিতা ৰয়	২১,০০০ টকা
সুদামা প্ৰসাদ	৫০১ টকা	মোচাৰ সুধাংশু ফাৰ্নিচাৰ	৫,০০০ টকা
বীৰেন চন্দ্ৰ বৰ	১,০০০ টকা	হেমন্ত কুমাৰ কলিতা	৫০,০০০ টকা
অৰুণ সিন্ধা	৫,০০০ টকা	মানব ডেকা	৮০,০০০ টকা
জি পি কমেট	২০,০০০ টকা	গংগা ৰুফিং	৩,০০,০০০ টকা
অমিত চক্ৰৱৰ্তী	৪,০০০ টকা	মোচাৰ এম.এইছ. হাজৰিকা	১,০০,০০১ টকা
অনিমেয় চক্ৰৱৰ্তী	১,২০০ টকা	বণ্ডেড ওৱেৰহাউছ	
শুভা চৌধুৰী	২,০০১ টকা	আগৰৱালা ষ্ট'ৰ	১১,০০০ টকা
সত্যজিৎ সিং	২,৫০০ টকা	হংসবীৰ বেটালা	২,০০,০০০ টকা
পৰাণ ফুকন	৫,০০০ টকা	দীপা গগৈ বৈৰাগী	১,০০,০০০ টকা
অখিল কুমাৰ বৈশ্য	১,২০০ টকা	প্ৰবীৰ বৈৰাগী	৫০,০০০ টকা
ইন্দ্ৰনীল চন্দ	৩,৬৭৩ টকা	পল্লৱী বৈৰাগী	৫০,০০০ টকা
বসন্ত বৰ্মন	১,৯৬৯ টকা	প্ৰিয়াশু বৈৰাগী	২০,০০,০০০ টকা
সঞ্জীৱ বৈশ্য	১,৯১৬ টকা	ৰাজীৱ বৰুৱা	৫১,০০০ টকা
প্ৰণীতা ডেকা	৯৩২ টকা	পংকজ দাস	২,০০০ টকা
দীৰাজ বৰা	৯,৪৬৫ টকা	গৌৰৱ জ্যোতি দাস	২,১০০ টকা
বিশ্ব ৰঞ্জন ফুকন	৭,১০৬ টকা	মীমু দাস	২,০০১ টকা
নুপেন দাস	৮,২৩৩ টকা	ৰীতা এজেণ্ডী	২,১০০ টকা
কন্যাকুমাৰী পাঠক	৯৫৬ টকা	ড্ৰীম কুমাৰ দাস	১,০০১ টকা
দেৱজ্যোতি গোস্বামী	৪,০১২ টকা	ঈশান জ্যোতি ভড়ালা	৫,০০০ টকা
জয়ন্তজিৎ শইকীয়া	২,০০১ টকা	বিপুল দত্ত	৫০,০০০ টকা
মল্লিকা বৰকাকতী	৫,০০০ টকা	ৰঞ্জিত দত্ত	১৫,০০০ টকা
পৰিমল কুমাৰ	৫,০০০ টকা	সিধাংকু বৰুৱা	৫,০০০ টকা
লিখামাৰাম প্ৰজাপতি	১০০ টকা	অঞ্জন ডেকা	১১,০০০ টকা
কামৰূপ হাৰ্ডওৱেৰ	৮০০ টকা	অভিজিৎ কলিতা	১১,০০০ টকা
অন্তৰা বৰুৱা	৬,০০০ টকা	ভাগৱ দাস	৫,০০০ টকা
অসম বিধান সভা কৰ্মচাৰী	৩৫,২৩১ টকা	অৰূপ কুমাৰ ঠাকুৰীয়া	১১,০০০ টকা
ৰামকৃষ্ণ সেৱাশ্ৰম	১২,০০০ টকা	মুকুট শইকীয়া	৫,০০০ টকা
টাটা চনচ প্ৰাৰ্থনা	৭,০০,০০,০০০ টকা	মাধৱী নাথ	৫,০০০ টকা
তপন ৰাজবংশী	১,০০০ টকা	জয়ন্ত কুমাৰ শৰ্মা	৫,০০০ টকা
প্লাৱন বৰা	১,৭০০ টকা	প্ৰস্তুতি পৰাশৰ	৫০,০০০ টকা
অশ্বিনী কুমাৰ বৰুৱা	২,০০০ টকা	সলমা জেচমিন	২১,০০০ টকা
দেৱকান্ত শৰ্মা	৩০৯ টকা	মায়ালীল কঞ্চণ্টাক্ষন	৫,০০,০০১ টকা
নৱ কুমাৰ দাস	৩২৮ টকা	বল্লী পাল	৩০,০০০ টকা
ৰঞ্জিত হাজৰিকা	২,০০০ টকা	দিব্যাক্ষ এণ্টাৰপ্ৰাইজ	৫১,০০০ টকা
বন্দিতা দাস	৫০০ টকা	অসম ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰিয়েল উলছ	৫১,০০০ টকা
কমল দাস	৩৩৩ টকা	হাল অফস্বৰ লিঃ	৫,০০,০০০ টকা
কৰবী দাস	১,০০০ টকা	বিজয় চন্দ্ৰ শৰ্মা	১০,০০০ টকা
নৱ কুমাৰ বৈশ্য	৩৩৩ টকা	অঞ্জন ভূঞা	১০,০০০ টকা
ৰাখল ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য	৫০০ টকা	বিতুমণি শইকীয়া	৪০,০০০ টকা
সুস্মিতা শৰ্মা	৩৩৩ টকা	হেমন্ত কুমাৰ বৰুৱা	৫,০০০ টকা
বিবেক শৰ্মা	৫০০ টকা	লিটুল গগৈ	১২,০০০ টকা
সংগীতা বৰুৱা	১,০০০ টকা	পূজা এছোছিয়েট	৫,০০,০০০ টকা
ভৰত কাকতী	১,৭০০ টকা	ডেভিড ৰয়	১০,০০১ টকা
মনোজ বৰুৱা	১,৭০০ টকা	গামচ ডেলিকেট ৰেষ্টোৰা	৫০,০০০ টকা
নৱজিৎ দেৱ চৌধুৰী	১,৭০০ টকা	আব্দুল মালিক	২,০০০ টকা
দীন ৰাম বৰুৱা	৫,০০০ টকা	বাবুল বৰুৱা	৫৫০ টকা
শুধানৱা কলিতা	১,০০১ টকা	ড° হিলালুদ্দিন আহমেদ	৫০০ টকা
ভূগুণ শৰ্মা	১,০০১ টকা	ভাৰত ভূষণ বৰা	১,০০০ টকা
বিউটি মহন্ত	১,০০৫ টকা	ৰশ্মিৰেখা বৰা	১,০০০ টকা
প্ৰদীপ কুমাৰ শৰ্মা	১,০০৫ টকা	উৎপল ঠাকুৰ	১০,০০০ টকা
প্ৰজীৱ গোস্বল	৫০,০০,০০০ টকা	নিতানন্দ দেৱ গোস্বামী	১,০০০ টকা
এচিয়ান এচোছিয়েশ্বন	২৫,০০০ টকা	সত্যপতি/সম্পাদক আদৰ্শ	১,০০০ টকা
ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ ক্ৰেকাৰ এণ্ড	৫,১৩,০৫৮ টকা	গাঁওৰক্ষী দল	
পলিমাৰ লিঃ		টিংকু কুমাৰ সাহা	২৫,০০০ টকা
প্ৰভাকৰ দত্ত	৩০০ টকা	অতুল গগৈ	২৫,০০০ টকা
নুমলীগড় শোধানাগাৰ	৫৭,৩৭,১৪০ টকা	ফুড এণ্ড ফিউৱেল কৰ্ণাৰ	১০,০০০ টকা
নজমুল হুছেইন লাচ	৫ টকা	বিসুপন চলিহা	১,০০,০০০ টকা
জহৰলাল মিত্ৰ	১,০০১ টকা	লোহিত বৰা	১,০০১ টকা
কল্যাণ ধৰ	৫১ টকা	অচ্যুত বৰা	৫,০০১ টকা
যুৱৰাজ সিন্ধা	৫০১ টকা	গিৰিধৰ নাথ বৰুৱা	৫৫১ টকা
ইফটিকাৰ হক চৌধুৰী	১১ টকা	প্ৰাঞ্জল বৰা	১,১০১ টকা
ড° সন্তোষ সুৱধৰ	১০,০০০ টকা	দীপক ৰাজবংশী	১,১১১ টকা
ইমদাদুৰ ৰহমান	১০০ টকা	মহেন্দ্ৰ নাথ বিশ্বকৰ্মা	১,০০০ টকা
গোপাল শৰ্মা	৫১৯ টকা	সঞ্জীৱ পাঠক	১,০০০ টকা
সুবীৰ মুখাৰ্জি	১৫১ টকা		

মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ সাহায্য পূৰ্জিৰ একাউন্ট নম্বৰ :

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তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

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The climate crisis

The IMF has highlighted the economic benefits of global vaccines, which would be huge. But there is another powerful reason for a worldwide campaign. Vaccinating the world will be crucial if countries are going to act together to confront the climate crisis, which will require many of the same things as delivering vaccines: resources, innovation, ingenuity and a true partnership between rich and developing countries. The Cop26 climate conference in November will be an opportune moment for building this partnership. But to do so, rich countries need to deliver on their early promises to deliver global vaccines. As it stands today, vaccine access is deeply unequal. The US is starting to vaccinate children, even as health workers and elderly people are waiting for shots in most of the world. At the end of April, less than 2% of the population of Africa had been vaccinated, while 40% of the population of the US and 20% of the population of Europe had received at least one dose. India, one of the largest vaccine manufacturers in the world, has fully vaccinated 3% of its population, and is still in the middle of a nightmarish second wave that has forced the country to stop exports of all vaccines. It was clear for some time that this was where things were heading. Despite all the talk of solidarity at the beginning of the pandemic, rich countries built sufficient capacity to produce only enough vaccines for themselves and then proceeded to corner the world's supplies. By March, high-income countries accounting for 16% of the world's population had bought up 50% of vaccine doses. As of this month, only 80m of the 2bn vaccines promised to the world's poorest through the ACT accelerator, a partnership including the UN-backed Covax scheme, have been delivered. The reason? A combination of insufficient donor funds and competition for vaccine doses from the richest countries, who can afford to pay high prices if needed, and who are planning to stockpile millions of extra doses for the future. The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation estimates that rich countries will have up to a billion extra doses on hand by the end of this year. These inequities were mirrored by what happened with economic policy. While rich countries borrowed massively and spent more than 20% of GDP to help their populations ride out the crisis, poor countries could afford to spend only 2% of GDP. An estimated 100 million more people are now living in extreme poverty compared to the start of the pandemic. Developing countries contemplating lockdown are caught in a double bind between economic disaster (in India, for example, the first lockdown cost the country almost a quarter of its GDP) and overflowing morgues and mortuaries. The catastrophic moral failure on the part of rich countries to help poorer nations can only reinforce the strong suspicion in much of the developing world that, despite talk of global cooperation and shared fortunes, when push comes to shove it's everyone for themselves. This could be devastating for global efforts against the climate crisis. The success of Cop26 depends in part upon larger developing countries such as Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan committing to sacrifices that will only pay off if countries such as the US, UK, Germany, France and Canada can be relied upon to stick to their own commitments. By agreeing to cut CO2 emissions, these developing countries will potentially curtail their own growth and perhaps even have to give up equipment that protects them from an already changing climate in the short term, such as cheap, polluting air conditioners. This sacrifice will only pay off if rich countries respond by cutting their own emissions so that worst-case scenarios can be avoided. Without everyone doing their part, we're effectively rearranging the deckchairs on a sinking ship. In the aftermath of Covid-19, these countries may wonder what guarantee they have that when the next disaster strikes - and domestic pressures mount - rich countries won't abandon their commitments. Trust, therefore, is key. Even if rich countries made binding commitments to domestic climate policies at Cop26, this would be unlikely to get developing countries to sign a demanding agenda. There is a strong and entirely justified perception that the world's poor are being asked to make sacrifices to atone for rich countries' past sins of careless growth. The fact that these countries have now shown they care little about the wellbeing of poorer nations obviously does not help. Developing countries will, quite reasonably, demand to be compensated for the more onerous choices that Cop26 demands of them. Research by colleagues in our MIT lab J-PAL, which runs the King Climate Action Initiative, demonstrates that this kind of conditional compensation works: in Uganda, paying landowners to not cut down trees has curbed deforestation and reduced carbon emissions at a cost of less than \$1 per tonne. Researchers are studying dozens of other policy innovations that could work across the world - from emissions trading to incentives to reducing crop burning. These schemes only work if developing countries trust they will be paid compensation. Such promises have been made: advanced economies have formally agreed to raise \$100bn per year for the Green Climate Fund to address the pressing mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries. But at the moment, both developing countries and their citizens are questioning whether they can trust them to stick to their part of the bargain. How do we rebuild trust quickly? Investing now to vaccinate the world is a chance to repair the damage done in the past year. The IMF price tag of \$50bn is a rounding error compared to what the US and Europe have already spent on Covid relief. Of course, money won't be enough: vaccines will need to be produced, stored and delivered. Pharmaceutical companies will, somehow, need to be persuaded to share their profits drawn from intellectual property; supply chains for all the ingredients to make the vaccines need to be streamlined to avoid bottlenecks. Then, a tremendous effort in developing countries will be required to efficiently administer the shots. There is some faint indication that the world is heading in the right direction: the G20 countries just acknowledged "the importance of addressing the ACT-Accelerator funding gap, in order to help it fulfil its mandate". Covax was recently able to sign an agreement to buy 200m doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The US and the EU have agreed to donate relatively small numbers of unused jabs (80m and 100m, respectively). The Biden administration signalled it would be open to a waiver of patents on Covid-19 vaccines, which will undoubtedly put some fire under the pharmaceutical companies to find partners and produce more. And the heads of the World Trade Organization, World Bank, IMF and World Health Organization have jointly endorsed the IMF plan. But this is all too little and too slow. Succeeding in this vaccination effort is our chance to show that the talk of a common community and a shared destiny is more than just words. To prove that it is there, let's start with vaccines.

An anti-Netanyahu coalition government would suggest Israelis are ready for change



Dahlia Scheindlin

As Israel inches closer to ending two years of political stalemate and 12 consecutive years of Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership, pressure on rightwing parties preparing to join a "change" coalition from pro-Netanyahu rightwingers, has reached a crescendo. Like other rightwingers in the "change" bloc, Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked, leaders of the hardline Yamina party, have been called traitors and collaborators and received death threats throughout the last month for their planned defection from Netanyahu's camp. As so often in Israeli politics, there is an American parallel: Bennett and Shaked's predicament recalls the unforgettable moment the US senator Lindsey Graham, days after the 6 January Capitol riots, was harangued by Trump-cult followers, unhinged by Graham's denunciation of their leader. But it didn't take long for Graham to revert to his pre-January, pro-Trump affinity. Will Yamina do the same? At the time of writing, the new coalition does not yet exist; in part because of Shaked's demands in the negotiation process to help advance her rightwing agenda. Moreover, any number of tactics Netanyahu is devising

may yet derail the new government in the coming week before it is sworn in. Even if the new government survives gestation, it might not be viable. "Rainbow coalition" would be an optimistic description; the "change" government would be a tangled knot of staunch nationalist, centre and leftwing parties, dependent on an Arab Islamist party for a voting majority. Can such a fraught alliance live up to its promise of change? So much stands to go wrong. In a country with a major democratic deficit, Bennett is currently slated to become prime minister, though he received just 6.2% of the vote, as a reward for leaving Netanyahu's camp. The largest party in the coalition, Yesh Atid, won 17 parliamentary seats and holds the mandate to form the government, but may never actually lead the country if the structure collapses before the aspirational rotation for the prime ministerial position. Future coalition crises are already visible at the formation stage. On Monday, Shaked demanded to sit on Israel's judicial appointment committee, a spot already promised to the leader of the leftwing Labor party, Merav Michaeli. What sounds like a technicality touches on

one of the most bitter, divisive issues in Israel today: the role of the judiciary. Shaked served as justice minister from 2015 to 2019, a role in which she fought valiantly to constrain judicial activism, increase partisan control over the supreme court (including judicial appointments) by the Knesset and the executive, and undermine the court's authority in general. Michaeli and the Labor party have promised to do just the opposite: the left wing in Israel views the supreme court and the judiciary as critical restraints on government excesses, and defenders of human rights and liberal values (an inaccurate characterisation when it comes to the court's role in occupation policies). Michaeli's left flank is concerned about the rightwing tilt of the new government already, with the conservative Gideon Saar slated to become minister of justice. If members of the new government hold irreconcilable views on the judiciary, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the occupation could tear the alliance apart. Bennett was a prominent West Bank annexationist already in 2013, years ahead of Netanyahu, while Labor and the further-left Meretz party are stalwart two-state supporters. Yair Lapid, leader of Yesh Atid, tips towards two states (and centrist Israelis are firmly in the two-state camp). Either the government could collapse over policy regarding the Palestinians, or remain paralysed. But Israeli political paralysis means deepening occupation in practice - including creeping annexation, slow settlement spread and the decay of diplomacy between the two sides. If another war breaks out (the IDF has already warned of renewed fighting with Hamas), Ra'am, the Arab party whose four votes are critical for the future government, may suspend its support, just as it suspended coalition negotiations during the recent escalation. For these reasons, among other ideological incongruities, voices on the margins of the left and the right are grumbling that a new government,

should it come to pass, brings nothing good. Such a conclusion is unnecessarily defeatist. The new government would still offer some "firsts" and "maybes" regarding policy change. The symbolism of Israel establishing a government for the first time with the votes of a party representing Palestinian citizens of Israel - as an "outside" supporter, or even within the coalition - cannot be overstated. The move towards Arab representation in Israel's executive branch is painfully incremental and inexcusably late, and liberal spirits are not fully lifted by a conservative Islamist homophobic party breaking this ground. But it is progress nonetheless. It would also be the first time in 20 years that little leftwing Meretz joins a governing coalition and holds ministerial portfolios. Not participating in the government is a notable trait among those parties of whom voters complain "but they really haven't done anything lately". Conversely, part of Netanyahu's staying power has been the snowball effect of consolidating power. Voters cannot imagine anyone else governing, hence the oft-heard refrain "There's no one else but him". A new government would demonstrate that there is. If the rotation for prime minister goes as planned, from Bennett to Lapid, citizens will see that there are even two someone elses. That's healthy for democracy. A coalition built of mostly secular parties, even from the political right, could theoretically advance greater separation of religion and state in Israel, something the majority of Israelis support but is usually held hostage to ultra-orthodox coalition members. Not least, should Netanyahu finally go down, it will be largely because his megalomaniac personality and divisive invective galvanised opponents of all political stripes against him. The words "friendship" and "unity" are on every key politician's lips these days. In the bleak landscape of Israeli politics, even irony is welcome.

Never deferential, open to all-how the Good Food Guide democratised dining

Martin Kettle

In the wider scheme of things, and amid so much devastation from Covid, it may seem frivolous to get indignant about the closure of a venerable national publication. Times and priorities change, after all. Tastes and markets alter. Each year, long before Covid, many other publications have died too. Yet the passing of the Good Food Guide, which was quietly announced last week by its current owner, Waitrose, was a cruel and avoidable death with wider resonance for British life and social history. The annual guide to this country's best places to eat was in good commercial health as its 70th anniversary approached. As restaurants rebuild, if they can, after the pandemic, the guide's public service role would have been more important than ever. Waitrose seems to have shut down the guide after the heavy losses sustained by its parent company, the John Lewis Partnership, in the pandemic. These have led to the closure of stores, thousands of redundancies and, for the first time in John Lewis's history, the suspension of the share-of-profits annual bonus paid to all its workforce. In such circumstances, the axing of a guide whose readership was inevitably likely to be more affluent and middle class than many of the workforce may have seemed like sharing out the pain. In killing the Good Food Guide, however, Waitrose has put an abrupt end to one of Britain's most successful grassroots socialist projects, and one of the very few with a genuine claim to have helped spark a lasting social revolution. The Good Food Guide was the creation of the radical historian and journalist Raymond Postgate. Postgate was a middle-class anti-first world war activist and a founding member of the Communist party in 1920. He married the daughter of the pacifist Labour party leader George Lansbury, and he was the brother-in-law of the political theorist GDH Cole, with whom he wrote a once famous social history, The Com-



mon People. Postgate's many other writings included biographies of Robert Emmet and John Wilkes. He was an editor of the Tribune newspaper before Aneurin Bevan replaced him. He also wrote Bolshevik Theory, which HG Wells personally recommended to Lenin, who in turn sent Postgate a signed photograph which he kept for the rest of his life. Postgate was not just a socialist. He also believed that good food and drink were the rights of all. So appalled was he at the state of British food in the post-1945 period that he planned a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Food, which morphed into the Good Food Club. Around the same time he published The Plain Man's Guide to Wine. Postgate regarded food, the Observer's restaurant critic Jay Rayner says, "as something that was as important as any other aspect of our cultural life, like the arts, fashion and sport". Postgate was not alone in this. The Good Food Guide was created in the same postwar period as the NHS, the Arts Council and, later, the Open University. Although it was what we might now call a "big society" project, created at the grassroots by middle-class consumers, it embodied the same postwar ethic that saw universal access to the best as an essential part of a good society. In 1951, Postgate edited the first guide. From the start it was a cooperative and inclusive enterprise - a complete contrast to the Michelin Guides with their top-down edicts. For many years, it always contained blank pages and forms for users to submit their own reviews. There

was no advertising - a tradition that was maintained to the end. The Good Food Guide was not uniquely responsible for the transformation of diet, cooking and restaurants that so marked Britain over the past half century. There were many other factors involved - cookery writers, greater affluence, foreign holidays, immigration and more efficient supply chains all among them. But the guide's role was crucial, too. Its success, according to the social historian David Kynaston, was "a pioneering case of consumer power". In part, this is because it was never obsequious towards the dominance of French cooking in the grandest British restaurants or towards the capital city. As the food historian Pen Vogler points out in her book *Scoff*, a recent study of food and class in this country, the very first edition featured vegetarian, Chinese, Spanish, Greek and Italian restaurants as well as French. This cosmopolitan approach grew ever stronger with the years. Nor was it in thrall to the most expensive restaurants. There was always a place for the posh hotels and, later, for the celebrity chefs such as Heston Blumenthal. But they sat cheek by jowl with all kinds of other eateries, from curry houses and early gastro pubs to a fish and chip shop like the one at the end of our road when I was a boy in Leeds. In the 1960s, the guide provoked headlines by including an entry on the Leicester Forest East service area on the newly built M1. Nor was it dominated by London. Growing up in Yorkshire, I would read its recommendations of places such as the

Box Tree in Ilkley and the Red Lion in Burnsall, to which my parents would sometimes take us. Without the Good Food Guide, I would never have found my own way in later years to places like the Drunken Duck near Ambleside, the Carved Angel in Dartmouth, The Ubiquitous Chip in Glasgow, the Walnut Tree in Gwent or Harry's Shack, a wonderful fish restaurant by the beach at Portstewart on the Antrim coast. Even Jay Rayner admits: "They will always find some places that I've not heard of and will want to try." The Good Food Guide has changed in countless ways down the years. But its essence and ethos are the same in 2021 as they were in 1951. What has changed - hugely - is the number and standard of restaurants and the other ways that customers judge where to eat. Home delivery has created a revolution of its own, as have crowdsourced reviews. Nevertheless, if good food is important - and it is - then the Good Food Guide ought still to be an essential aid to finding those special places that modern life, not just modern middle-class life, is constantly searching for. None of the other guides matches it for reliability, values and, above all, the geographical and culinary range that derive from its consumer-driven approach. To read the editor Elizabeth Carter's introduction to the 2020 edition is especially poignant this week. Why buy a printed guidebook like this, asked Carter, when the digital media were now stuffed with recommendations? "To put it simply," she answered, "the Guide's long-established, dependable voice is needed more than ever. With such a wealth of information available, you need advice you can trust." And that was before Covid. As Britain emerges, if it does, from the pandemic this summer, many restaurants will open, succeed, fail and close. It will be an extremely turbulent period for an ever-changing industry. The Good Food Guide is needed in such times, both for the providers and the consumers. Waitrose should rethink its decision. If it does not, then others must step forward to rescue and renew the nimbleness, quirkiness, independence, high standards and, above all, the commitment to the people's welfare that drove Postgate to create it in the first place.

Q4 GDP data due today: Economy faces resilience test; FY22 estimate cuts show don't take recovery for granted

Mumbai, June 05 : Economists say the relaxation of restrictions across states will determine the strength of the rebound, while the willingness of consumers to spend -- as they did last year when lockdown curbs were lifted -- will also be key. It was pent-up demand for everything from mobile phones to cars that spurred consumption in Asia's third-largest economy when it reopened last year after one of the strictest lockdowns that lasted more than two months. The Indian economy's resilience will be tested by its ability to overcome a devastating outbreak of Covid-19, although no one's yet doubting its potential to pull off the world's fastest pace of growth among major economies this year. The economy is on track to grow 10% in the year that began April 1, according to the median of 12 estimates compiled by Bloomberg News. That's after several economists downgraded their forecasts in recent weeks to factor in local curbs on activity, including in India's political and commercial hubs. But the downgrades are a message to not take the economy's recovery for granted. Economists say the relaxation of restrictions across states will determine

the strength of the rebound, while the willingness of consumers to spend - as they did last year when lockdown curbs were lifted - will also be key. Moreover, with an eye on

needs big push! It was pent-up demand for everything from mobile phones to cars that spurred consumption in Asia's third-largest economy when it reopened last year



growth, the government has budgeted an impressive 26.2% hike in capital expenditure, which has high multiplier effect, for FY22. Of course, the Budget math may go haywire again due to the second pandemic wave. Interest payments: Centre's soaring debt may curb productive spending. Economic travails: Nascent recovery disrupted; consumption

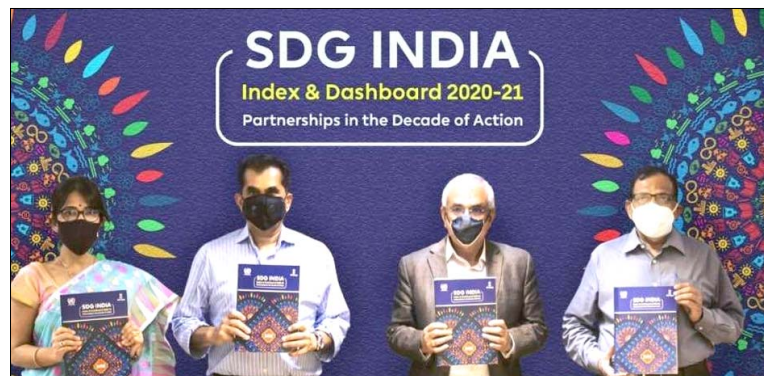
after one of the strictest lockdowns that lasted more than two months. GDP data due later Monday (Jan-Mar 2021) will probably show gross domestic product grew 0.9% in the three months ended March, making it the second straight quarter of expansion since India exited a rare recession. Even as virus cases have started receding and some parts of

the country may reopen by June, consumers are unlikely to spend freely, given the economic uncertainties and with unemployment at its highest level in a year. Households would rather save than spend, said QuantEco Research economist Yuvika Singhal, who downgraded her full-year growth forecast by 150 basis points to 10%. The biggest hit from the second wave of Covid infections has been to demand, with a loss of mobility, discretionary spending and employment, the Reserve Bank of India said earlier this month. The central bank, which will review interest rates later this week, has kept monetary policy loose and injected liquidity into the system to support growth. "Even as India's second Covid-19 wave starts to recede, the underlying economic toll now appears larger than we expected," Barclays economist Rahul Bajoria said. "Furthermore, the slow pace of vaccinations and rolling lockdowns are also likely to weigh on India's recovery." If the country is hit by a third wave of infections, as some experts warn, the economic costs could rise further, dragging down growth to 7.7%, Bajoria said.

Smartphone brand POCO registers 300% growth in India in Q1 2021

Mumbai, June 05 : Smartphone brand POCO India on Monday said it has registered a massive 300 per cent growth in the first quarter (Q1 2021), becoming the fastest growing brand in the country. The brand is now among the top 3 online smartphone players in the country in just 10 months. "Our rise to the top 3 in the online smartphone space in just 10 months was a testimony of the love and trust we have received from our fans and consumers. This trust has helped us achieve yet another milestone by achieving the highest growth among the top 10 smartphone brands in the first quarter of 2021," said Anuj Sharma, Country Director, POCO India. Last year, POCO X2 became the best-selling smartphone on Flipkart under the price segment of Rs 15,000-Rs 20,000 in March within one month of its launch and POCO X3 was featured as one of the best phones under 20K segment. POCO continued to cement its online position, driven by affordable models like POCO C3 and M3. Launched in February this year, POCO M3 sold 500,000 units within 45 days of the launch, the company informed.

Kerala retains top rank in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, Bihar worst performer



Mumbai, June 05 : The third rendition of India's SDG Index was launched by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday. Kerala has retained the top rank in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer, as per a report released on Thursday. The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) evaluates progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.

Rural jobs scheme: Curious gap between 'offers' & works picked up. Saraf also stressed that though the government has announced a slew of measures to support exports, the need of the hour is to soon notify the refund rates under the RoDTEP scheme to remove uncertainty, thereby helping exporters forge new contracts with foreign buyers with ease. Turnaround? Exports in May

climb 67%, cross pre-pandemic level. Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75. Both Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu took the second spot with a score of 74. Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing states in this year's India index. The third rendition of India's SDG Index was launched by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday. "Our effort of monitoring SDGs through the SDG India Index and Dashboard continues to be widely noticed and applauded around the world. It remains a rare data-driven initiative to rank our states and union territories by computing a composite index on the SDGs," Kumar said. First launched in December 2018, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the states and union territories by ranking them on the global goals.

The index, developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India, measures the progress at the national and sub-national level in the country's journey towards meeting the global goals and targets and has been successful as an advocacy tool to propagate the messages of sustainability, resilience, and partnerships, as well. From covering 13 goals, 39 targets, and 62 indicators in the first edition in 2018-19 to 17 goals, 54 targets and 100 indicators in the second; this third edition of the index covers 17 goals, 70 targets, and 115 indicators. The SDGs, constituted through an unprecedented consultative process, have 17 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030. The SDGs are an ambitious commitment by world leaders which set out a universal and an unprecedented agenda which embraces economic, environmental and social aspects of the wellbeing of societies.

Samsung Adds Smart Healthcare Centres in Government Hospitals as Part of its CSR Initiatives, Digital X-Ray Machines Aid Quicker Covid-19 Diagnosis

India, June 05 : Samsung India has added new Samsung Smart Healthcare centres at Government hospitals across the country, as part of its citizenship initiative, helping Covid Warriors perform faster Covid-19 diagnosis. The new hospitals where Samsung Smart Healthcare centres are located are in cities such as Mumbai, New Delhi, Lucknow, Bangalore, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Indore, Keylong, Akola, Jamnagar, Shimla and Palakkad, among others. This addition takes the number of hospitals in the country covered under this citizenship program to 142. In the last year alone, Samsung ramped up the program to add 56 new Samsung Smart Healthcare centres in hospitals across 19 states, contributing to Covid management. This included 15 Smart Healthcare centres in the last two months. Samsung Smart Healthcare centres are equipped with modern Digital X-ray and Digital Ultrasound machines made by Samsung. Samsung's innovative Digital X-ray machines are being utilized for faster Covid-19 diagnosis at these government hospitals. Feedback from hospitals indicate that these Digital X-ray machines, which are portable, are extensively being used for in-room diagnosis of patients. The Digital X-ray machines have also helped government hospitals improve efficiency and increase diagnostic capacities, as the output from these machines can be monitored by doctors directly on a computer screen, doing away with physical X-ray films. The output provided to doctors is of a very high quality, helping them make quicker and better diagnosis. "Samsung Smart Healthcare program supports the government's efforts to benefit communities with limited access to quality healthcare. With these new centres, we

now have our healthcare equipment in 142 government hospitals across India. We salute the Covid Warriors who have been working tirelessly over the last year to help people. Our Digital X-ray machines have been able to help them offer faster Covid-19 diagnosis at this time of need," Partha Ghosh, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Samsung India, said. Patients from economically and socially weaker sections of society have benefitted from the Samsung Smart Healthcare program. Doctors, technicians and radiologists are also trained to handle state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and software. As part of its citizenship initiatives, Samsung has pledged USD 5 million (INR 37 crores) as its contribution to India's fight against the current surge of Covid-19, providing donations to central and state governments, and boosting the healthcare sector with essential medical equipment for hospitals. Of this, Samsung has donated USD 3 million to the Centre as well as to the states of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and is providing USD 2 million worth of medical supplies, including 100 Oxygen Concentrators, 3,000 Oxygen Cylinders and one million LDS syringes to the states of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. LDS or Low Dead Space syringes minimize the amount of drug left in the device after injection, optimizing vaccine usage. Existing products have a large amount of the vaccine remaining in the syringe after use. The technology has demonstrated up to 20% greater efficiency and if existing syringes were to deliver one million doses, LDS syringes could deliver 1.2 million doses with the same amount of vaccine. Samsung has helped the manufacturer of these syringes increase production capacity.

SBI cash withdrawal with cheque and form rules for self and third party changed!



Mumbai, June 05 : SBI cash withdrawal rules 2021: In a bid to support its customers during the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Bank of India has increased the non-home cash withdrawal limits through cheque and withdrawal form. "To support our customers in this pandemic, SBI has increased the non-home cash withdrawal limits through cheque and withdrawal form," SBI informed customers in a tweet on Saturday (May 29, 2021). The new limits would be valid till 30th September, SBI said. Also, no cash payments to third parties through withdrawal forms will be allowed to SBI customers, the bank added. Vijay Mallya Vijay Mallya loses UK appeal for more funds to cover Indian legal fees. State Bank of India rating - Buy: As-

set quality came as a surprise in Q4 New SBI cash withdrawal limits with cheque and withdrawal form at non-home branch. Cash withdrawal limit for self (using withdrawal form accompanied by savings bank account passbook): Rs 25,000. For cash withdrawal by a third party using cheque, KYC of the third party will be required, the bank said. As per the new rule, if you want to withdraw money at a non-home branch of SBI by using withdrawal form, you will have to carry the Saving Bank passbook along. This way you can withdraw up to Rs 25,000. If you are sending someone with a cheque to withdraw money from your account, the bank will demand KYC of the person carrying the cheque before handing over the cash. State Bank of India is the largest commercial bank in India in terms of assets, deposits, branches, customers, and employees. SBI is also the largest mortgage lender in the country. SBI has a deposit base of over Rs. 35 lakh crore and advances of more than Rs. 26 lakh crore.

SBI should be able to build a book of Rs 2,000 crore through expanded ECLGS: Dinesh Khara

Mumbai, June 05 : Earlier in the day, Finance Ministry had enlarged the scope of the Rs 3 lakh crore ECLGS to cover loans up to Rs 2 crore for setting up on-site oxygen generation plants at healthcare facilities and brought in the ailing civil aviation sector under its ambit. IBA chairman Rajkiran Rai G said the products have been standardised with approvals from all public sector banks' boards last week. IBA chairman Rajkiran Rai G said the products have been standardised with approvals from all public sector banks' boards last week. The largest lender State Bank of India's (SBI) chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara on Sunday said that as per preliminary assessment, the bank should be able to build a book of Rs 2,000 crore through expanded emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS). Khara made this comment at a joint press conference of SBI and Indian Bank's Association (IBA) to launch standardised Covid loan products by public sector banks. Earlier in the day, Finance Ministry had enlarged the

scope of the Rs 3 lakh crore ECLGS to cover loans up to Rs 2 crore for setting up on-site oxygen generation plants at healthcare facilities and brought in the ailing civil aviation sector under its ambit. Bharti Airtel, SBI, Coal India, Aurobindo Pharma, Glenmark Pharma, BoB stocks in focus. Bharti Airtel, SBI, Coal India, Aurobindo Pharma, Glenmark Pharma, BoB stocks in focus. Supreme court Banks move Supreme Court against RTI disclosure, seek direction to RBI. Khara said that public sector banks have come up with three sets of products to build a 'Covid book' under Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) liquidity scheme and the ECLGS. The relief measures include a healthcare business loan for setting up oxygen plants, healthcare facilities and unsecured personal loans for Covid-19 treatment. The rate of interest for business loans given for setting up oxygen plant under ECLGS will be capped at 7.5%, and the repayment can be done in five years. The banks have not specified rates for other healthcare facility loans. However,

the rate of interest will stand at 8.5% at SBI, Khara said. Apart from it, borrowers can avail loans of Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh for Covid-19 treatment with a tenure of five years. IBA chairman Rajkiran Rai G said the products have been standardised with approvals from all public sector banks' boards last week. He also said that customers opting for restructuring will have to apply for recast on the website or manually at a bank branch. RBI

on May 5 had allowed lenders to carry out a fresh round of restructuring of retail and MSME accounts. The resolution process will be invoked in 30 days and the last day for invocation is September 30, 2021. Thereafter, the resolution plan will be implemented within 90 days, or latest by December 31, 2021. The moratorium period on loans will be a maximum of two years, starting soon after invocation.



Contd. From Page 1

Governor plants saplings at Raj

satisfaction that United Nations since 1972, used the World Environment Day to encourage awareness among all stakeholders and the public in general to champion the cause of environment and garner political patronage coupled with public action for the sustainability and protection of our environment". The Governor also said, "To protect our planet from global warming, we need to plant more saplings and motivate our young generation, the students' community by setting example before them. Our beautiful planet has sustained us and fulfilled our need in different ways. It is time for us now to work as a community and act responsibly to protect our environment from further degeneration." Going along with the theme set for the celebration of the World Environment Day which is 'Ecosystem Restoration', the Governor also requested everybody to celebrate the day in introspection and taking pledge to protect the environment and contribute in every possible way to safeguard the essence of the ecosystem. The Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry and officers and staff of Raj Bhavan took active part in the plantation programme which was done adhering to COVID appropriate behaviour.

Assam Stops Administering

review meeting of the Health Department and took stock of the Covid-19 situation in the state. During the meeting, he directed the department not to allow home quarantine for patients with comorbidities, irrespective of the age group they are in, and refer them to institutional quarantine. Along with Health Min @keshab_mahanta took stock of #COVID19 management in the state. In view of the decline in positivity rate and death rate, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the situation will improve substantially over the next few weeks. The meeting discussed Covid treatment costs in private hospitals and the state government capped the maximum rates private healthcare units can charge for treatment in wards and ICUs. The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of paediatric ICUs which are being set up at various government hospitals and the functioning of oxygen plants in the state. He directed authorities to ramp up the vaccination exercise in the state.

Fifth Oxygen Express arrives

the time of this release, 7 loaded Oxygen Expresses on run with more than 482 MT of LMO in 30 tankers," the NFR stated. "Assam received its fifth Oxygen Express with 80 MT LMO in 4 tankers from Jharkhand," the NFR said in its statement. More than 3000 MT Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) offloaded in the state of Karnataka by Oxygen Expresses. The Oxygen Expresses started their deliveries 42 days back on April 24 in Maharashtra with a load of 126 MT. It is Indian Railways endeavour to deliver as much LMO as possible in the shortest time possible to the requesting states. Oxygen relief by Oxygen Expresses reached out to 15 states namely Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Telangana, Punjab, Kerala, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Assam, it said. Till the time of filing this report, 614 MT of Oxygen has been offloaded in Maharashtra, nearly 3797 MT in Uttar Pradesh, 656 MT in Madhya Pradesh, 5790 MT in Delhi, 2212 MT in Haryana, 98 MT in Rajasthan, 3097 MT in Karnataka, 320 MT in Uttarakhand, 2787 MT in Tamil Nadu, 2602 MT in Andhra Pradesh, 225 MT in Punjab, 513 MT in Kerala, 2474 MT in Telangana, 38 MT in Jharkhand and 400 MT in Assam. Till now, Oxygen Expresses offloaded LMO in around 39 cities/towns in 15 states across the country namely Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Bareilly, Gorakhpur & Agra in Uttar Pradesh, Sagar, Jabalpur, Katni & Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Mumbai & Solapur in Maharashtra and Hyderabad in Telangana. Faridabad & Gurugram in Haryana, Tuglakabad, Delhi Cantt & Okhla in Delhi, Kota & Kanakpara in Rajasthan, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Dehradun in Uttarakhand, Nellore, Guntur, Tadipatri & Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The other town and cities include Ernakulam in Kerala, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Tuticorin, Coimbatore & Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Bhatinda & Phillaur in Punjab, Kamrup Metro in Assam and Ranchi in Jharkhand. Indian Railways has mapped different routes with oxygen supply locations and keeps itself ready with any emerging need of the states. States provide tankers to the Indian Railways for bringing LMO, it added.

CM plants rudraksh saplings

national park. This would be sixth national park in the state and would be great step towards protection and preservation of rich bio-diversity in the area, he said. Dr. Sarma also informed that Science & Technology Department of state government would be rechristened as Department of Science, Technology and Climate Change from today to bring climate protection into focus of government planning and action. Lauding the Forest and Environment Department for its relentless efforts which resulted in the reforestation of 10 thousand hectares of land in the state, the Chief Minister elaborated on various activities undertaken by the department to increase forest cover. He also said that the 28 bio-diversity parks named 'Sahitya Manishi Upaban' are being set up in 28 districts. Moreover, he said that Guwahati Development Department (GDD) has been directed to bring various memorabilia of Mahatma Gandhi and showcase them at Gandhi Mandap to make the young generation aware about the life and teachings of the father of the nation. Forest and Environment Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, GDD Minister Ashok Singhal and Later, the Chief Minister also took part in programme organised by Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) at its garage campus at Basistha in the city and distributed 12 garbage clearing auto tippers to NGOs engaged in garbage collection in the GMC wards in the city. He informed that 100 such auto tippers would be distributed in the first phase and hoped that these tippers would greatly augment the garbage disposal system while helping in keeping Guwahati clean. He also elaborated on the plans to effectively manage artificial floods this year in the city.

Mamata Banerjee's nephew

earlier held by the MP. Chatterjee further stated that no discussion was held on turncoats, who had quit the TMC to join the BJP ahead of the assembly polls, and were now willing to return to the party fold.

Four Assam tiger reserves

national committee at a meeting held in New Delhi on Wednesday. Besides the four tiger reserves of Assam, Kanha, Panna (both in Madhya Pradesh) and the Sundarbans Tiger Reserves (West Bengal) have been awarded CAT accreditation," the statement said. It further said the NTCA sets a benchmark for managing conservation sites through a set of minimum standards based on 17 parameters ranging from social, cultural and biological significance to infrastructure, equipment etc. It has given a score of 81.25 per cent to KNP & TR, 78.49 per cent to Manas, 71.21 per cent to Nameri and 74.01 per cent to the Orang tiger reserve. Assam Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said that the CAT accreditation accorded to the four tiger reserves of the state is a welcome development and good news for conservationists and animal lovers. "The CATS certificate would go a long way in further strengthening and improving management interventions as far as conservation of big cats in Assam is concerned," Suklabaidya said.

After Centre's criticism, Punjab

Garg held a press conference and said, "Total 42,000 doses of COVID vaccine have been allotted to private hospitals and only 600 doses inoculated. We have instructed private hospitals to return all vaccine doses available to them, and the doses they have used has to be returned once they got supplies from manufacturers. We will refund the amount deposited by the private hospitals." The Punjab government also issued a withdrawal order yesterday which said, "The order of providing one-time limited vaccine doses to 18-44 years age group population through private hospital has not been taken in the right spirit is hereby withdrawn." SAD President S Sukhbir Singh Badal will hold a two-hour dharna at the residence of Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu on June 7 to demand his resignation and a CBI inquiry into the unethical and illegal sale of the COVID vaccine, informed party leader Daljit Singh Cheema. We demand the resignation of Punjab Health Minister regarding this matter of which he wasn't aware of. We also demand an inquiry of this matter. Our senior leadership along with Sukhbir Singh Badal will hold protest for 2 hours at his house in Mohali and will demand his resignation and if he doesn't resign then we will request the Governor to dismiss him, it is the biggest scam of Punjab," the leader said.

PM Modi, Xi Jinping

one another with utmost respect and I believe that they will always arrive at a solution to any issue that they might face..." the Russian President told PTI during a virtual interaction. The Russian president's remarks on Moscow's view on Quad is a veiled reference to China's allegation that the grouping aim's to contain Beijing's influence in the strategic Indo-Pacific region. On the four-nation grouping of India, the US, Japan and Australia, he said that no partnership should be aimed at making friends against anyone. He clarified that though it was not up to Moscow to assess how any nation should participate in an initiative and to what extent they should build their relations with other countries. Notably, it has been more than a year since the military standoff between China and India which broke out at the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on May 5, 2020 during which both sides suffered fatalities for the first time in 45 years. Despite several rounds of negotiations between the two neighbours, limited progress was made in the border dispute. Though, it achieved disengagement at the Pangong Lake area but other friction points remained deadlocked.

Mumbai prepares for unlock from

there are 10 districts in Level 3 and two in Level 4. The rest will be in Level 5. Meanwhile, BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation informed that Mumbai is in level 3 areas. 1. Local trains, which are the lifeblood of highly packed Mumbai city, would, however, not be available to everyone. Only medical and essential services are permitted to go by train. Buses in Mumbai will be allowed to run at full capacity, but passengers will not be permitted to travel standing up to avoid overcrowding. 2. BMC said in an order on Saturday that restaurants, salons, spas, wellness centres will open in Mumbai from Monday, with 50 per cent working capacity. 3. No air conditioning will be used in salons, spas and gyms, said the municipal body's 'Breaking the Chain' order. 4. The BMC clarified that local trains will continue to remain out of bounds for Mumbaiaiks for some time. Only medical and essential services will be allowed to avail the services. 5. Shops, establishments dealing with essential items will be open till 4 pm on all days. And shops with non-essential items will be open till 4 pm on weekdays. 6. Malls, theatres (multiplex as well as single screen) will be closed in Mumbai, under Level 3 rules. 7. Restaurants will be open in 50% capacity for dining till 4 pm only on weekdays. Afterward, only parcel and take away/home deliveries will be allowed. 8. Public places, open grounds for walking and cycling will be open from 5 am to 9 am on every day. 9. Private offices will all be allowed to open till 4 pm on working days, except some. Office attendance (including government offices) will be kept at 50%. 10. Fifty people will be allowed to gather for marriages, and 20 for funerals. 11. For constructions, only onsite labourers must leave by 4 pm. 12. Sports activities will be allowed from 5 am to 9 am or 6 pm to 9 am. However, only outdoor activity will be allowed. 13. For shooting activities, they have to be conducted in a bubble, and no movement will be allowed outside post 5 pm. 14. Gatherings - social, cultural, and related to entertainment - will be held at 50% capacity and till 4 pm on weekdays. 15. Meetings, elections, gathering of local bodies, cooperative bodies will be held at 50% capacity. 16. Agricultural activities will be held till 4 pm on all days. 17. E-commerce, items as well as services, will be carried out in a regular capacity. 18. Inter-district travel for passengers either by private means will be held in a regular capacity, except if moving to or passing through with any stoppage in level 5, wherein passenger E-pass is a must. 19. For manufacturing activities of export-oriented units, including MSMEs that need to fulfill their export obligation, will be held at a regular capacity. 20. For manufacturing units across sectors, which are not covered under essential, will function with 50% staff. Movement will be carried out under transport bubble. Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar said the final decision on lifting the curbs will be taken by district administration. "Districts of Maharashtra have been put under 5 levels as per positivity rate and bed occupancy. Mumbai is under level 3, so local trains will continue to operate for essential services workers. The final decision on lifting the curbs will be taken by district administration," she told

CM visits Dr. Seuj Senapati

by a mob while on duty at Udali Covid Care Centre in Hojai, is undergoing treatment at GMCH. Later talking to the newsmen, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that the state government stands strongly by the side of Dr. Senapati and all the doctors who are serving the society dedicatedly in the time of pandemic. He informed that Dr. Senapati would be allowed to serve in any government health institution of his choice after he resumes duty. Doctors, paramedics and all medical workers have set an example of dedication and commitment through their tireless service in the fight against Covid19 and they must be shown the respect they deserve, he asserted. Condemning the act of violence committed against Dr. Senapati, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma warned that strict action would be taken as per law against perpetrators and attackers of doctors and medical staffs would not be spared. GDD Minister Ashok Singhal, Principal GMCH Dr. Achyut Baishya and other senior doctors were present on the occasion.

World Environment Day

Frontier Railway where respective Divisional Railway Managers led others in planting saplings. Later on, a virtual meeting was also held at the Northeast Frontier Railway HQ office which was addressed by the General Manager and participated by senior officials from HQ and divisions. In the meeting, interactive discussion was also held on various initiatives that have been taken by Northeast Frontier Railway towards making the environment greener. It may be mentioned here that Indian Railways guided by a holistic vision of becoming an environment-friendly, efficient, cost-effective, punctual, and modern carrier of passengers as well as freight in order to serve the growing needs of New India; is working in mission mode to become the largest Green Railways in the world and is moving towards becoming a "net zero carbon emitter" before 2030. To maximize the use of alternative forms of energy, the Indian railway is putting heavy thrust on solar energy generation and electrification of tracks. Northeast Frontier Railway has also taken various notable environment-friendly initiatives which include, Effluent treatment plants, disposal of solid wastes, waste to energy plants, rainwater harvesting, water re-cycling measures, introduction of Head On Generation (HOG) system, plastic bottle crusher machines at stations, 100% LED lighting, Quick Watering system to avoid wastage of drinking water to mention a few. As a result of various initiatives, 24 major stations within the jurisdiction of Northeast Frontier Railway received the ISO: 14001 certifications. Consumption of fossil fuel for running trains has been reduced by 27%. Water Audit was done in 28 major stations to identify ways to reduce wastage and consumption of water resulted in saving of water. Numerous other steps are also being undertaken to make the railway a sustainable mode of transportation by overall contribution towards a greener environment. It is being ensured that all future projects undertaken by the Northeast Frontier Railway are environment friendly.

Plantation drive in North Lakhimpur

North Lakhimpur, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Lakhimpur district multi-lingual poets meet organised a plantation drive in various places of North Lakhimpur town today. Abiding by the Covid-appropriate behaviour, the poets' organization planted different types of saplings at the premises of Maa Kali temple situated at the Horizon colony, Subansiri Sevashram, North Lakhimpur town high school and many other public places in North Lakhimpur town. The saplings were planted by social worker Purnananda Borah and Educationists Dr. Dilip Kumar Jha, Golapi Borah and Dandi Tamuli Phukan. Lakhimpur district multi-lingual poets meet president Mohan Kumar Das, general secretary Rupijyoti Dutta, magazine secretary Labanya Ranu Phukan, advisors Sajad Hazarika and Mufti Abdul Hasib, well-wishers Nandalal Basfor and Pyarelal Sharma, besides other officials of the organization took part in the event.

Border Monigong Circle gets PMGKY Food Grains under PMGKY

Aalo, 05 June : All food grains for the month of May and June to all AAY and PHH ration card holders of Monigong Circle Shi-Yomi district sharing border with china jointly by Shri Sadung Gyadu EAC and Er. Minli Tato on 4th June last. The distribution amid rain and road disruption qwing to



rain for the last one week here. The circle is having 122 and 713 ration card holders are AAY and PHH and 42.70 and 125.60 quintals allotments were made. The distribution has to be speeded up anticipating more damages in the coming moths and food scarcity needs of the people of the border areas.

'It's our bounden duty to protect eco system for our own survival', says Minister Suklabaidya

Guwahati, June 5: "We have evolved from nature and is our only sustenance, giving us oxygen to survive. It's our bounden duty to protect the eco system - flora and fauna for our own survival," said Minister for Environment and Forest, Parimal Suklabaidya on the occasion of World Environment Day. Inaugurating a Nature Learning Sub Centre at Nellie in Morigaon district on Saturday, Minister Suklabaidya said wanton destruction of forest and killing of wildlife taking place across the globe must be brought to a grinding halt as 'our future and that of the coming generations hinges on the environment'. The Nature Learning Sub Centre houses galleries from rare endangered species to Himalayan diversity and from evolution of existence to Himalayan mountain ranges to forest types. Three more Nature Learning Centres will come up soon. Lamenting the fact that greed and avarice coupled with materialistic desire have left little time for us to ponder about nature, the life supporting eco system, Suklabaidya said, "It's time to restore the eco system and to give nature what we have derived from it. Otherwise, our very existence will be at stake." The Minister said at a time when one is gasping for oxygen cylinders and concentrators during the COVID pandemic times, the crying need of the hour is to protect the trees and plants that provide oxygen to us 24x7. He said the Environment and Forest department have planted more than 10 crore saplings, seized around 2,500 vehicles for carrying illegal forest materials and more than 3,000 bend saw machines and arrested around 250 persons in the past three years. The Minister urged the people to educate those who are wrecking destruction of flora and fauna and to work unitedly to protect them for posterity. "Environmental degradation must be halted for the human race to survive," he added. PCCF cum Head of Forest Force, AM Singh, PCCF Wetlands, Ramjana Gupta Juhari and Additional PCCF, Paban Kumar also spoke on the significance of the day. Deputy Commissioner, Morigaon, Seema Rekha Bhuyan and Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Surya Narayan were also present. Suklabaidya released a coffee table book on Kaziranga: The Magical Wilderness. He also planted saplings along with senior forest officials in front of the Nature Learning Sub Centre. The minister went on a nature trail adjoining the Nature Learning Sub Centre and also took to cycling in the verdant forest of western range of Dharamtul under Nagaon Forest Division to spread the message of a clean and green environment for a healthy living.

Two more people die of COVID 19 in Nagaon dist

NAGAON, June 5: COVID 19 claimed the lives of two more people in the district today, taking the total death toll in the district to 70. Besides, more 262 fresh COVID 19 cases were detected today, taking the total cumulative active COVID cases in the district to 4206 while 149 people who were undergoing treatment in hospital as well as home isolation after being affected by the virus, have been recovered from the infection of the virus today, sources added. Sources claimed that among those who tested positive today, 121 patients were immediately admitted to Nagaon COVID hospital as well as other COVID Care Centres set up at various places in the district while the rest were put in home isolation. Rapid Antigen Test was conducted on 5737 people while RT-PCR test was conducted on 212 swab samples, sources further added. Meanwhile Chief Manager to Ashirwad Pipo Private Limited, Bangalore (Karnataka), Dipak Malhotra donated 25 oxygen concentrators for COVID victims in rural areas. Noted businessman of the town, Shayad Khan, on behalf of the company formally handed over all those oxygen concentrators to Nagaon Sadar MLA Rupak Sarma on Thursday. Expressing his gratitude to the businessman, MLA Sarma said that all these oxygen concentrators would be distributed among the gram panchayats under Nagaon Sadar constituency for free service to the COVID victims in the rural areas.

GU Celebrates World Environment Day

Guwahati, June 05 : World Environment Day was celebrated by Gauhati University on 5th June, 2021 along with rest of the world. As a part of programme a webinar was organised by GU NSS Cell to mark the occasion on this year's theme "Ecosystem Restoration". Inaugurating the webinar Prof. Pratap Jyoti Handique, Vice - Chancellor, GU in his speech called for ecosystem restoration and emphasised on this year's slogan "Reimagine, Recreate & Restore". Prof. Handique also emphasised on planned and selective planation programmes so that saplings that we grow every year are well maintained and also appealed for conservation of biodiversity. Attending the programme as Chief Guest Sri Ranjit Kumar Dass, Hon'ble Minister P&RD, P.H.E., Food & Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Assam conveyed his wishes to all participants on this occasion. Sri Dass in his speech described the great saint Shrimanta Sankardeva as a great environmentalist in this world and quoted how Guru Sankardeva in his sermons had given the message of co-existence of mankind with the ecosystem and had asked his followers to respect all the forms of living beings including insects, creatures and other unmovable things on the earth. Sri Dass also appreciated the GU NSS Cell for their commendable work in serving the cause of conserving of the environment and also for their selfless community service during covid 19 pandemic. Prof. Utpal Bora, Head, Centre for the Environment & Professor, IIT, Guwahati attended the programme as Resource Person. Prof. Bora delivered his key note address on the theme "Ecosystem Restoration". He explained how unsustainable growth of economy has damaged the ecosystem and emphasised on global ecosystem restoration by balancing economy and ecosystem through changes in our life style. Earlier welcoming to the guest and participants Dr. H.K. Nath, Registrar, GU. Nath in his speech reiterated his commitment towards the environment and said that responsibility lies with the young generation to carry forward restoration of ecosystem. The programme was coordinated and moderated by Dr. Ranjan Kr. Kakati, Director, Students' Welfare & Programme Coordinator, GU NSS Cell. Dr. Kakati thanked all the guest and participants for attending the webinar and gave the motto "Think Green, Plant More and Use Eco friendly material and save the Earth". Sri Dipak Kumar, Regional Director, NSS, NER, Guwahati also attended the webinar along with about 250 persons comprising GU faculties, NSS Programme Officers and volunteers. Also, earlier during the day Dr. R.K. Kakati & along with NSS volunteers and programme officers planted saplings in their respective places as a step towards Ecosystem restoration.

The need for speed: Mark Wood deserves his moment of supremacy

London, June 05 : Speed has always been a fascination in sport, from the first Olympic event, the Stadion - essentially an oiled-up naked foot race - to the sense of wellbeing to be found in rewatching YouTube films of Jeff Thompson slingshotting a cricket ball into the chests of sad, stiff-collared Englishmen. There is something here that stands outside the nuts and bolts of scorecards and victories. In his novel *End Zone* Don DeLillo called human speed "the last excitement left, the one thing we haven't used up". Although, DeLillo probably wasn't basing this on the prospect of eight wicketless overs with a spongy ball on a desiccated pitch in Galle. Fast bowling is one of the stranger embodiments of the speed rush. The basic idea is weird: propelling a ball as fast as possible, while also operating within the physical limits of the straight arm, from which the whole complex ballet of wrist-flick and knee-brace flows backwards. Speed is also oddly pointless. There is no metric that covers it, no mark in the book. To bowl faster in England is often to make yourself less effective, to pass up the natural edge of the conditions. In the morning session at Lord's on Wednesday Mark Wood bowled three hissing, cartwheeling bouncers to Devon Conway. The first hit Conway on the shoulder. The second hit him on the chest. Wood was touching 95mph on the speed gun. Next over he bowled another one. This time Conway was ready, had gauged the slowness of the pitch, locked in the correct reaction times. He swivel-pulled thrillingly to the midwicket fence. The pressure was gone, Conway set, the hand overplayed. Speed slips through your fingers. It comes back to taunt you. Why chase it? The reason, of course, is that there is another kind of glory here. Wood is 31 years old, 5ft 10in

tall and injury plagued. He doesn't have a red-ball contract. He ended the first day with figures of 0-49. But he also bowled a ball at 97mph in that spell. And right now Wood is the fastest bowler in the world. He might be the fastest England has ever produced. It is necessary to justify this claim. Every speed gun has a margin for error. The IPL gun, for example, appears to be a paid stooge and cheerleader, the



radar equivalent of that commentator who just shouts "Wow!" after every ball. Still, though. According to a recent Wisden list Mitchell Starc is the only current bowler with a higher logged speed. Starc is a dream, all wasp-waisted flex and twang, perfect shoulders, perfect action. But he's not been bowling 99mph with the red ball for a bit. Jofra Archer has touched the high 96s. Wood tends to be a tiny bit quicker when they're matched together. Look back further and no England bowler in the age of the gun has matched that 97mph. And beyond that you're looking, with all due respect, at men in high-waisted flannels called things like "The Demon"; or pre-modern outliers - Willis, Snow, Malcolm - whose obvious speed must be set against the fact everyone else was basically a pipe-smoking medium pacer in a sleeveless sweater. Cricketers eat

properly and go to the gym now. They have year-round care and training. Horizons have shifted. Jimmy Anderson is bowling 87mph aged 38. Stuart Broad will still be playing in the year 2037. And Mark Wood is, by the same logic, the fastest bowler England has ever produced. Does this matter? Wood himself will say it doesn't, that all he wants is to help the team win. This is both unarguably true, and

also an obvious fib. First, because he's a functioning human being (fastest bowler in the world? Come on!). But also because it is impossible to reach this point without a degree of cold hard obsession. A ball moving at 97mph takes 0.46 seconds to travel from the bowler's hand to the stumps. To get to that point at Lord's it took Wood 12 years of professional cricket, three ankle operations, countless injections and months of rehab, doubt, pain, failure, changes of action. Wood considered giving it all up in 2016. He suffered from anxiety, had a panic attack on a flight, heard the voices telling him to settle, to reinvent himself as a medium pacer, to take the heat out of his body, his life. He did something else instead. Often fast bowlers shorten their run up as they hit 30, seeking the consolations of control. Wood did the opposite. He got quicker. He

Elif Elmas: North Macedonia's diamond formed in family sweet shop

North Macedonia, June 05: At the turn of this century Macedonia entered a newly turbulent era. A small country in the heart of the Balkans, it had been a target of various outside interests throughout history, and now the war in Kosovo, its northern neighbour, spread into the north of Macedonia. As tensions grew between Macedonians and Albanians, few people in the country would have had time to think about football, and few would have guessed that those years of



war would see the birth of the nation's first football "diamond", Elif Elmas. In one of the most dangerous parts of the capital city, Skopje, in the multi-ethnic municipality of Cair in which Macedonians, Albanians, Turks and Roma lived side-by-side, Elmas was born on 24 September 1999 to a family of Turkish descent. His father, Xhevati, ran a sweet shop. Now, 20 years later, Elmas has become the figurehead of a North Macedonia team that has united the country as never before. Through those unpredictable years Elif grew up with a love of football allied to a desire to help his father with the family business. Not many people know that Elif can make the most beautiful traditional Macedonian cakes. Had he not become a footballer, he almost certainly would have continued the family tradition in the sweet shop, but football won. He started playing football

aged seven in the neighbourhood club Fenerbahçe Tefejuz. Coincidentally, 11 years later he would sign for the Turkish giants Fenerbahçe. But before that he began to learn his trade at a football school run by Jovce Dzipunov, one of North Macedonia's most famous players. Igor Angelovski, now the head coach of the national team, was managing FC Rabotnicki at the time. Angelovski approached Elmas's family and it was agreed the then 12-year-old would play for Rabotnicki's youth teams. Fast-forward three

years and the ability of the 15-year-old Elmas attracted the attention of Heerenveen in the Netherlands, and a preliminary contract was agreed for Elmas's signature when he turned 18. "There was some strange kind of magic in him," Angelovski says. "An unbelievable energy, an X-factor at such young age that attracted everyone. An excellent reading of the game, a master of assists and a phenomenal finish." Elmas's development accelerated under Angelovski's tutelage. Aged only 16 years and six days, in September 2015, Elmas made his debut for Rabotnicki's first team in the domestic top flight. A remarkable breakthrough season followed, featuring 33 appearances with six goals and seven assists. Elmas's gem-like quality was becoming increasingly apparent and his footballing destiny was changing. As it turned out, the move to the Netherlands never

happened. In 2017 Elmas's profile was raised even further when he travelled to the Under-21 European Championships in Poland - the greatest achievement by the national team at any level up to that point. The head coach, Bobi Milevski, built a talented team including players such as Enis Bardhi, Boban Nikolov, Visar Musliu and Darko Velkovski - all of whom are important members of the senior side that will play at Euro 2020. Aged 17, Elmas was the youngest player by far in Macedonia's squad that travelled to the Under-21 tournament in Poland and he played in all three matches as they lost to Spain and Portugal and drew 2-2 with Serbia. Before he even left for Poland, Elmas was approached by Turkey's head coach, Fatih Terim, who asked the young player to declare for that country instead. Elmas turned down Terim's offer and that decision seemed to be justified soon after the Under-21 tournament when Angelovski called him up to the senior squad for a World Cup qualifier against Spain in Skopje. Following Elmas's displays in Poland, clubs of the calibre of Manchester City, Borussia Dortmund and Fenerbahçe had entered the race to sign him. Fenerbahçe won it, with Rabotnicki paid €600,000 in compensation. Pero Antic, the first Macedonian basketballer to play in the NBA and then with Fenerbahçe, helped broker the deal, with Elmas signing a five-year contract. Elmas means "diamond" in Turkish and Fenerbahçe had their precious signing. Carlo Ancelotti asked to speak directly with Elif. After this conversation he said: "I am going to Napoli. Fast-forward another two years, and Elmas and his family faced another difficult decision on the next move. His burgeoning reputation had seen a queue of clubs form, all keen for his signature, now including Juventus, Internazionale, Napoli and Tottenham as well as Manchester City.

found a better rhythm. He isn't, touch Wood, getting injured any more. And whisper it, but England have a man who can bowl 94ph for long spells, who swings it just enough, who has heart, stamina and that vicious bouncer. Since his breakthrough spell at St Lucia in 2019 Wood has 73 international wickets at 24 across red and white ball forms. The quickest man in the world is also England's best all-format bowler right now. And he deserves this flicker of ultimacy, whatever happens now, whatever has gone before. Forget the Ashes. Never mind some some mooted Jofra team-up in the next life at the Gabba, two lockdowns from now. This is, above all, a kind of romance, a cricketer who started off aged four playing Ashes series in the garden with his dad, whose first coach at Ashington CC would take the colts after working a night shift, and before playing a men's game in the afternoon. Wood batted and bowled little inswingers until he grew and discovered this gift aged 16 ("like finding out you have a superpower"). He remains an impossibly likeable, jittery, funny, everyday sporting hero. To become the fastest bowler in the world aged 31, after and not before the usual history of pain and doomed prospects, is a startling outcome, and a triumph of character as much as talent. Sport is, in the end, about moments. Wood has earned his.

Tottenham call off move for Antonio Conte after talks with coach break down



London, June 05 : Tottenham have called off their move to appoint Antonio Conte as their new manager a little over 24 hours after believing they were close to a deal. The London club are primed to hire Fabio Paratici in the role of sporting director as the chairman, Daniel Levy, drives a return to a two-tier management structure. But they have now gone cold on Conte, the former Chelsea manager, who has just left Internazionale after guiding them to the Serie A title, after growing concerned over his demands and whether he would commit to bleeding young players. Managerial carousel mirrors the desperate crisis enveloping Europe's elite clubs. Conte had appeared an unlikely target to replace José Mourinho, one that did not fit entirely with the profile of manager that Levy had publicly stated that he wanted, although talks had progressed quickly this week. The big question related to how much money Conte would demand to oversee a reshaping of the squad, which has come to feel overdue and, assuming it was a large amount, where Levy might find it - given that Spurs have been hit hard by the pandemic. Levy could raise a big sum by selling Harry Kane, the team's talisman who has indicated he wants to leave, but the chairman is against that idea. It is unclear whether Spurs would return to the negotiating table if Conte were to relax his demands but that felt unlikely on Friday night, leaving Levy to consider his next move. Levy sacked Mourinho on 19 April - Spurs finished the season under the inexperienced interim manager, Ryan Mason - and the search for a permanent replacement has been marked by frustration. Levy has said that he wants the new manager to "embrace our desire to see young players flourish from our academy alongside experienced talent." It is known that he has broadly looked for a figure in the mould of Mauricio Pochettino, the manager before Mourinho, who worked wonders on a relatively small budget and developed a clutch of young players. Conte had left Inter last week because he was unhappy at their plan to sell about €80m worth of players this summer to plug holes in their

Alvaro Morata and Spain booted by home crowd after friendly draw with Portugal

London, June 05 : Álvaro Morata was suddenly away and the noise level rose, a chance to win this game, a shot at redemption. Instead, there was a reaction that could do him even more damage than what went before. Clean through, the Juventus striker smashed his effort off the bar. It was the best of three or four chances he had in an improved second half from Spain. None



were taken, however, and from the stands of the Wanda Metropolitano, a small group of supporters began to chant "Morata, how bad you are!" The end of the game a few moments later, with the score 0-0 between Spain and Portugal, was met with whistles. The reaction was extreme and far from helpful after a match which had been neither sparkling nor awful for Spain. It had not delivered any really definitive conclusions either. It left doubts, and, let it be said, a bitter taste, even if those voicing their discontent were few. You waited all this time to return to a stadium, all this time to see the national team off to the Euros, and you do that? Morata certainly may have felt hurt by it, and by the opportunities he did not take, but he was defended by his coach, Luis Enrique. "It annoys me that the fans have a go at my players," he said afterwards. "After all the work Morata had done, he's able to run 40m at the end, trick the goalkeeper and just have the bad luck that the shot goes a fraction high and hits the bar. I think that's something to applaud enthusiastically. But I must be the person who knows the least about football." The place of Spain's only pure No 9 was rarely in doubt, although

Gerard Moreno could have started as central striker. The places of some others were, however, and some initial questions were resolved with the lineups, if not by what followed. Unai Simón was in goal and Marcos Llorente converted to right-back, while Aymeric Laporte got his first game since getting a Spanish passport. For Portugal, Diogo Jota, Renato Sanches and João Félix were in a line behind Cristiano Ronaldo. Bruno Fernandes began on the bench and João Félix made way at half-time having made no impact. Almost more significant than the footballers at that stage, and certainly later, was the return of the fans. A crowd of 14,743 made it to the Metropolitano, though Luis Enrique could have been forgiven for thinking some of them should have stayed at home when they whistled him before the game and chanted at its conclusion. The Spain coach had left the injured Sergio Ramos out of the squad, and not chosen anyone from Real Madrid for the first time in the history of the selección. That said, many applauded too and there was a joy in hearing that forgotten roar, the waves that follow the play, appreciative applause with every intervention.

who worked with Conte for three of those years, won 19 trophies at Juventus. Levy has previously employed Paul Mitchell, Franco Baldini, Damien Comolli, Frank Arnesen and David Pleat in the role of sporting director or similar, while Steve Hitchen is currently one of the leads on recruitment. Earlier on Friday, as doubts began to grow over whether Conte believed in what was being proposed by Spurs, the broadcaster DAZN released an interview with him. In it, Conte confirmed he was ready to work outside of his native Italy again but also stressed that he wanted to remain competitive. "I would like to have more experiences abroad," Conte said. "I think that I am not someone who is happy with just a comfortable situation. I always chose the most difficult situation instead." As a player, I won everything it was possible to win, but I also lost a great deal," Conte added. "When you lose, it leaves within you the desire not to experience that again, so you do everything to transmit that to your players when you are a coach. It all comes from your scars and wanting to avoid getting more." Levy has looked at several candidates for the manager's role, including Ajax's Eric Ten Hag, who remains a contender despite his club having triggered a one-year extension to his deal. He has also explored the possibility of bringing back Pochettino - who joined Paris Saint-Germain in January - amid suggestions that the Argentinian is unhappy in the French capital. PSG have indicated that they are not willing to let Pochettino leave either way; the manager has a further two years on his contract.

James Roby urges St Helens to ignore Challenge Cup famine and focus on Hull

London, June 05 : The St Helens captain, James Roby, has called on his side to ignore their Challenge Cup drought and focus solely on Saturday's semi-final with Hull, as the reigning Super League champions look to take another step closer to a first cup success in 13 years this weekend. Roby, the last Saints player still in the side from the last time they won the Challenge Cup in 2008, admits it has been too long a wait for a club of their stature. However, the 35-year-old believes any obsessing over that record this weekend could contribute to their undoing. "It's been a long time between drinks for a club of this size," he said. "We're associated with success, and we're aware of that pressure as a squad. We know that, but the main thing is to concentrate on the job at hand on Saturday, and that's beating Hull FC. We have to get that out of the way before worrying about anything else.

We all want to win the Challenge Cup, but I don't want to start making an issue of the record. It's done now, it's in the past. "The Saints face Hull in the first semi-final on Saturday, before Castleford take on Warrington in the second half of a men's double-header at Leigh Sports Village. Before that, the Women's Challenge Cup final between St Helens and York takes place, broadcast on UK TV for the first time. Steve Price leaves Warrington at the end of the season and will be replaced by his opposite number on Saturday afternoon, the current Castleford incumbent, Daryl Powell.



Never stopped me dreaming : how Euro 96 illuminated our world



London, June 5 : A quarter of a century on and history repeats itself. England are hosting the Euros, playing Scotland in the group stage, and football's coming home again. In 1996, it came home for the first time. It was the first major tournament England had hosted since the World Cup victory of 1966. England fans also hoped it was coming home in the larger sense - that the country was going to win the European championship and end 30 years of hurt. But despite the best efforts of a team fired by the maverick brilliance of Paul Gascoigne, England lost in the semi-final. On penalties, of course. To Germany, of course. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. For England football fans of a certain age, Euro 96 was a golden age - or golden three weeks. For those like me, not quite old enough to remember the World Cup victory of '66 in real time, but old enough to remember all the false dawns and muted dusks, that summer was special. It wasn't simply the achievement - after all, England reached semi-finals in 1990 and 2018 at the biggest tournament

of them all, the World Cup, but neither resonated quite like 96. It was a coming together of all kinds of things - style, hope, politics, culture, commerce, sunshine, under the great brolly of international football. Twenty-five years on, might it just happen again? It all started with the song. On 26 May 1996 Three Lions entered the charts at No 1. There were still two weeks to go till the tournament began. David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, two comedians who hosted the football magazine show Fantasy Football League, joined forces with The Lightning Seeds to record Three Lions. The band's leader Ian Broudie had a knack of building choruses ("Three Lions on a shirt/Jules Rimet still gleaming/Thirty years of hurt/Never stopped me dreaming") on top of choruses ("It's coming home/It's coming/Football's coming home") to create rousing anthems. And this was one of his best. But it was different from most football tournament songs. Three Lions wasn't swaggering, it was melancholy. It was a song to be sung more in hope than

expectation. The song became associated with the national flag, but again it was different. This wasn't the union flag with its jingoistic connotations, it was the St George's flag. "What I notice most when I see footage of Wembley at Euro 96 is the flags and the joy," Baddiel says today. "And then I am assailed by a depressing sense that those two things wouldn't go together in the same way now. This was a specific moment; a particular window. The flags were being waved along with the singing of Three Lions and it created a very unusual thing - a non-aggressive, non-triumphalist patriotism. If you waved a St George flag to Three Lions, it didn't feel like you were waving a symbol of nationalism and racism. It was a soft, sad type of pride being expressed, not a vanquishing, overcoming one." Now we are at war again, but today we are engaged in civil war, fighting each other over our polarised beliefs - Brexit, migration, wokeness. "Every action seems to operate as a node somewhere in the culture wars," Baddiel says. "Too many people would simply see waving the flag as associated with a triumphant English nationalism that has resurfaced, and has had large political consequences, since 1996. The expression 'culture wars' was unknown in 1996, but culture was at the heart of everything. For the first time since the 1960s it felt that our culture was booming. Art and music didn't just happen to be British, it was proudly trademarked as such. Oasis and Blur fought for supremacy in the charts, with music that was distinctively homespun. Blur created vignettes of traditional British life in songs such as Country House and Park Life, while Oasis quoted our own history back at us with Wonderwall (named after George Harrison's first solo album) and Don't Look Back in Anger (referencing John Osborne's classic kitchen sink drama). Music even managed, temporarily, to take the bile out of the union flag. In 1996, Noel Gallagher played a Union Jack guitar at Manchester City's Maine Road. A year later Geri Halliwell wore a Union Jack minidress at, you guessed it, the Brit Awards. Two decades later cultural commentators

such as Jon Savage and John Harris asked whether Britpop had contributed to Brexit. Meanwhile, British art became a movement its own right, championed by advertising guru Charles Saatchi. Sensation, the exhibition of works by the Young British Artists, crowned him as a visionary collector and the likes of Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst as serious artists. Two years after the Euros, Hirst had a hit record as a part of the trio Fat Les (alongside Blur's Alex James and actor Keith Allen) with Vindaloo - the unofficial theme song to the 1998 World Cup. Again, football, art, branding and commerce were united. The mid-90s was an astonishingly creative era. Two decades on, the same names are dominant in music and art. Britain is in a period of cultural stasis. In the 1990s, football emerged from its decade of shame. The 1980s was marked by disaster after disaster: the Bradford fire of May 1985 killed 56 spectators, the Heysel tragedy only a couple of weeks later killed 39, and Hillsborough in 1989 killed 96. Football had come to be seen as a killing field. Margaret Thatcher believed the sport was a stain on her beloved nation; that it represented the very worst of British - feckless working-class youths who just wanted to fight. Her government tried to introduce identity cards and considered banning away fans, it fenced football fans in like animals, to horrific effect at Hillsborough. Football became a pariah; not a subject fit for polite society. After Heysel, English clubs were banned from Europe, domestic gates fell drastically, nobody wanted to be associated with football except the diehard fans. But by 1996, its image had turned full circle. Football was now regarded as part of our rich cultural package - a great British export. (A year later, new prime minister Tony Blair officially united sport and culture by creating the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.) We were four years into the Premier League, and TV money was transforming a sport and a lifestyle that even the politicians bought into. There is a wonderful news clip from October 1995 of Blair and Kevin Keegan at a leisure centre in Brighton.

French Open draw opens up as **Serena Williams** beats Danielle Collins

London, June 5 : Serena Williams is now the only top ten player left in the bottom half of the women's Roland Garros draw, a scenario that in almost all other years would mark her as a clear title favourite, no questions asked. At 39 years old, five years removed from her last successful clay season and as she tries to scrape off three-month old cobwebs in time, answers are needed. With her 6-3, 6-4 third-round win over Danielle Collins on Friday, some were indeed provided. The match itself was high quality from all parts of the court and it pitted Williams against one of the

slam. Despite breaking into the top 15 three years ago, Sabalenka is still yet to pass the fourth round of a grand slam, a stage she has only reached twice. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova remained calm during moments of pressure from Aryna Sabalenka to progress in three sets. "As we say, I'm not the youngest right now," said Pavlyuchenkova. "Usually the youngest players, they should feel sort of like fitter and fresher. I'm still here in the second week, still playing good tennis. That shows me that I was playing good tennis 10 years ago and still now, and probably I feel



more fascinating players. Florida-born Collins is an excellent athlete and her two-handed backhand is a stunning shot. Throughout the encounter, she lashed it from every part of the court. She is also loud and combative, known for shaking stadiums with the force of her cheers. Williams had expressed her admiration for Collins before the match which, put simply, meant she was ready. She came out of the blocks serving, returning and moving at her highest level since the Australian Open. She lost just one point on her first serve in the set while putting constant pressure on Collins' own service games and then she took the first break by showing her speed by chasing down a decent drop shot from Collins. What was most impressive from Williams was how she recovered after losing rhythm on her second serve and errors crept into her game. If she was not feeling her game, a third set could have followed against an opponent more than capable of beating her. Instead, she won five games in a row to reach the fourth round. "Today in particular, this whole week thus far, I just needed a win," she said. "I needed to win tough matches. I needed to win sets. I needed to win being down. I needed to find me, know who I am." Earlier in the day the third seed and highest ranked player remaining in the draw, Aryna Sabalenka, was defeated 6-4, 2-6, 6-0 by Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. She had the best clay-court season of her life, including a title at the Madrid Open and a final in Stuttgart, but once again she was unable to bring similar energy to a grand

like I play even better and smarter. That's obviously of course a positive thing for me." In the fourth round, Pavlyuchenkova will face the No 15 seed Victoria Azarenka, who dismantled Madison Keys, seeded No 23, 6-2, 6-2 to reach this stage of Roland Garros for the first time since her career best semi-final finish in 2013. Azarenka is rightfully under the radar following a slew of physical issues after reaching last year's US Open final. However, she is healthy, moving better on clay than for much of her career and could well play herself into title-contending form. In the men's draw, Daniil Medvedev had never won a match at Roland Garros before this week and he has spent much of his time in the clay season expressing just how much clay court tennis disgusts him. And yet, he defeated Rome semi-finalist Reilly Opelka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the fourth round at Roland Garros for the first time in his career. He says the conditions and the Roland Garros courts allow him to move and play as he plays on hard courts. He is happy. Medvedev will face the No 22 seed Cristian Garin next, an extremely difficult match against a player who defeated him on clay this year, but suddenly he is a contender in the open bottom half of the men's draw. The favourite to reach the final from the bottom half, however, continues to thrive. After winning just five points on John Isner's serve in a complicated first set, Stefanos Tsitsipas produced three focused, high-quality sets to reach the fourth round with a 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-1 win.

Yana Sizikova arrested at French Open in match-fixing investigation

Moscow, June 5 : The Russian tennis player Yana Sizikova has been arrested in Paris by French police as part of a match-fixing investigation. Sizikova, a 26-year-old doubles specialist, was taken into custody on Thursday night in relation to an investigation dating back to October for sports corruption and organised gang fraud. Sizikova lost 6-1, 6-1 in her French Open first-round doubles match earlier on Thursday while partnering her compatriot Ekaterina Alexandrova against Australian pair Ajla Tomljanovic and Storm Sanders. According to Le Parisien, Sizikova was arrested while leaving a mas-

sage session after her match and her hotel room was searched before her arrest. The arrest relates to last year's tournament when bookmakers issued alerts for abnormal betting patterns during Sizikova's first-round



women's doubles match alongside Madison Brengle of the United States, which they lost 7-6 (8), 6-4 to the Romanian duo of Andreea Mitu and Patricia Maria Tig. During that encounter, hundreds of thousands of euros were reportedly wagered on a break of serve at 2-2 in set two. Sizikova was culpable for three of the points conceded during her service game, including two double faults as she lost her serve to

love. According to the Russian news wire Tass, Sizikova's lawyer has announced that she denies the charges against her and is unsure whether she would be allowed to leave France after being released from custody. Sizikova could face up to five years in prison and a \$500,000 fine if she is found guilty of sports corruption. Sizikova is currently world-ranked 101st in doubles and 765th in singles. She has earned a total of \$206,617 (£146,310) prize money over her 11-year career and until she improved her ranking in recent years, she had spent much of her career competing at lower level tournaments on the ITF circuit.

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