



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japanese Encephalitis

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, August 04:

Assam reported 11 new cases of Japanese Encephalitis, taking the tally to 326 since July 1. Of the total reported cases, Karbi Anglong had three new cases, while two cases each were reported from Biswanath, Chirang and Kamrup districts and one each in West Karbi Anglong and Sonitpur. The number of deaths stands at 52 as no new deaths have been reported in the state. The district administration across the state has formed rapid response teams to combat and control the fatal disease from spreading.

### Air Marshal

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, August 04:

Air Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik, AOC in Chief, Eastern Air Command was on a 4-day visit to Assam from July 31 till August 3. His visit comes in a bid to improve jointmanship and synergy in the sister services. He visited the Air Force Station in Tezpur. The Air Marshal also flew a sortie in the Su-30MKI combat aircraft during his visit. He also visited Gajraj Corps and was briefed on key operational issues at the Corps Headquarters.

### Road accident

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, August 04:

Three people were killed after being mowed down by a speeding vehicle in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The incident was reported at Jaipur Natin Ali road in the district. The deceased were identified as Vikram Mahali, Lakhi Patar and Nirmal Das, all residents of Lahowal. According to reports, the three of them were daily wage labourers and were waiting near the roadside when a speeding vehicle mowed them down. While one of the victims died on the spot, two others were taken to Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) but succumbed to their injuries during treatment. Meanwhile, angry locals thrashed the car's driver and handed him over to the police.



Dhakuakhana- A women making National Flag On Thursday

## Assam Becoming A Hotbed Of "Jihadi Activities": Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma



**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, August 04:

Guwahati: Assam has become a hotbed of "jihadi activities" with five modules having links with

Bangladesh-based terror outfit Ansarul Islam found in five months, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said today. "Six Bangladeshi nationals belonging to Ansarul Islam

had entered Assam to indoctrinate youths, and one of them was arrested when the first module was found at Barpeta in March this year," Mr Sarma said at a press conference. "Indoctrination of Muslim youths in private madrasas by Imams from outside the state is alarming," he added. "Jihadi activity is very different from terrorist

or insurgency activities. It starts with indoctrination for several years, followed by active participation in promoting Islamic fundamentalism, and finally going for subversive activities," the Chief Minister said. "Only one of these Bangladeshis have been arrested so far, and I appeal to the people to inform the local police in case any-

body from outside the state becomes a teacher or an Imam in a madrasa," he said. "Jihadi activity is very different from terrorist or insurgency activities. It starts with indoctrination for several years, followed by active participation in promoting Islamic fundamentalism, and finally going for subversive activities," the Chief Minister said.

## CM Dr. Sarma holds meeting with Assam Agriculture Commission



**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, August 04:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today held a meeting with Assam Agriculture Commission and asked it to make extensive visit to agriculture clusters

## CM Writes Letter CM of all states to include Lachit Borphukon's Valour in Curriculum

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, August 04:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has written a letter to his counterparts of other states, requesting them to include a chapter on Lachit Borphukon in the syllabus of the schools, colleges in their respective domains. The letter is among the Government of Assam's series of initiatives related to the year-long cel-

ebration of the 400th birth anniversary of the 17th-century great Ahom army general. Lachit Borphukon's valorous leadership led to the decisive defeat of the Mughals at the battle of Saraighat in 1671, registering for him a unique space in the annals of Assam history. The Chief Minister believes that the saga of the valour of Lachit Borphukon should spread far and wide, instilling in

every Indian a sense of pride over the exploits of this great Ahom general. It is worth mentioning that in the battle of Saraighat of 1671, Lachit Borphukon led his army from the front to a resounding victory, despite being terribly ill. His unflinching valour and determination ensured the culture, identity and uniqueness of the North-Eastern region

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## 1200-year-old Hindu temple in Pakistan to be restored after long legal battle

Lahore, August 04:

A 1,200-year-old Hindu temple in Pakistan's Lahore city will be restored after "illegal occupants" were evicted from it following a lengthy court battle, the federal body overseeing minority worship places in the country said on Wednesday. The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) last month retrieved the possession of Valmiki Mandir (temple) situated near the famous Anarkali Bazaar Lahore from a Christian family. Besides Krishna Temple, Valmiki Temple is the only functional temple in Lahore. The Christian family, which claims to have converted to Hinduism, had been facilitating only the Valmiki caste Hindus for



worship at the temple for the last two decades. ETPB spokesperson Amir Hashmi said that Valmiki Temple will be restored in accordance with a 'master plan' in the coming days. "Over 100 Hindus, some Sikh and Christian leaders today gathered at the Valmiki

Temple. Hindus performed their religious rituals and had langar (food) for the first time it was retrieved from the grabbers," he said. The Christian family

had grabbed the temple more than twenty years ago. An ETPB official told Dawn newspaper, the temple's land was transferred to the ETPB in the revenue record, but the family in 2010-2011, claiming to be the owner of the property, filed a case in the civil court. He said besides going into litigation, the family also made the temple only for the Valmiki Hindus. This left the trust with no option but to fight the case in court. "This time, the court also reprimanded the petitioner for false claims," the official added. In 1992, in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid

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Commission's suggestions and observations for the qualitative and quantitative development of the agriculture sector. He also asked the Commission to lend capacity building to the state farmers in organic and

natural farming and increase export potential of their produce. With regard to the seeds, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also asked the Commission to suggest appropriate scientific methods and approaches for in-

creasing productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of farming practices. He also asked the Commission to replace existing seeds with good and new variety high yielding seeds for increased agriculture production. For the overall development of the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister also said that the Commission should look into the areas like policy change needed to ensure effective implementation of the strategies and execute convergence with line departments. Considering the climate and its effects on agriculture, Dr. Sarma also sought advice of the Commission

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## China carries out precision strikes in Taiwan Strait hours after Nancy Pelosi's exit

BEIJING, August 04:

Hours after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi departed from Taipei following a visit that has rankled

craft briefly crossed the Taiwan Strait median line on Thursday morning, a Taiwan source briefed on the matter told Reuters on Thursday. China had on



Beijing, China's Eastern Military Command said on Thursday that it had carried out long-range firing in precision strikes at specific areas in the eastern part of the Taiwan Strait as part of planned exercises. Chinese navy ships and military air-

Wednesday commenced military drills around Taiwan's main island, according to Chinese state media, hours after the US House Speaker departed from Taipei. Live-fire drills began in six identified zones around the island at

noon local time, Al Jazeera reported citing China state media. According to Xinhua News Agency, the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Wednesday organized joint combat training exercises in the northern, southwestern and southeastern waters and airspace off Taiwan Island. Under the Eastern Theater Command, the exercises involved troops from the Navy, Air Force, Rocket Force, Strategic Support Force and Logistic Support Force. "The exercises focused on key training sessions including joint blockade, sea target assault, strike on ground targets, and airspace control operation, and the joint combat capabilities of the troops got tested in the military

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## Six new species of miniature frog discovered in Mexico

Washington, August 04:

Six new species of miniature frogs have been discovered in the forests of Mexico. The species are so tiny that they fit on top of a British 50p coin with lots of room to spare. They are among the smallest frogs in the world and are no larger than 15 millimetres (0.6 inches). They were undetected for so long due to their small stature, colouring and their similarity to existing species. "These frogs live

in the dark, humid leaf litter of the forests and we don't really know anything about what goes on there. We don't understand their behaviour, how they socialise, or how they breed," says Tom Jameson, a researcher at the University of Cambridge. Leaf litter is made up of dead plants or leaves that have fallen to the ground. The species are not widespread across the country and are mostly found in pine-oak forests, in the Sierra Madre del Sur region in southern Mexico. Scientists want the species to be classified as

endangered, because the frogs' habitat is declining in quality and they haven't been found in many regions. "We need to make sure that they don't just get wiped off the map because no-one even knows they're there," says Dr Jameson. It is believed that they play an important role in the ecosystem as a source of food. The frogs face multiple threats from habitat loss and climate change, to a deadly fungal disease that is wiping out amphibian populations across the world. Many of them live in



a very small area, for example in one small forest on a single mountainside. Size was not the only barrier to the frogs' discovery. They live in territory occupied by armed groups linked to serious crime and violence.

Their presence, typically associated with large drug cartels, made areas of Mexico too dangerous to visit, preventing the researchers looking for

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Aircrafts perform aerobatics during the Pyramids Air Show 2022 at the Giza Pyramids scenic spot in Giza, Egypt

## Yemen's warring parties agree to extend ceasefire by a further two months

**Sana, August 04 :** The UN has announced that the warring sides in Yemen have agreed to extend the current ceasefire for a further two months. Late on Tuesday the government and the Houthi rebels committed to intensify efforts on negotiations, said Hans Grundberg, special envoy for the country. The news will bring some relief for citizens who had been bracing for war to return after what has already been an uneasy four-month truce. The UN-sponsored break in fighting and the extension agreed this week has been the longest respite Yemen has seen in the

seven-year conflict, which pitted the internationally recognised government, backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, against Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, who control most of Yemen's north. But the Arab region's poorest country remains broken by a bitter war, with some regions facing famine in what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. More than 24 million people, almost 80% of the country's population, need humanitarian aid, including 13 million children. Unicef has claimed that the war has seen the numbers of women dying in childbirth rise to an average of 12 a day, and that

six newborns die every two hours in the country's devastated health system. "We are battling a war on many fronts," said



Yemeni aid worker Ali al Jafri. "Where it is not poverty and starvation, it

is extremism or government corruption. We are under immense pressure," said Jafri, from the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC). Since 2010,

while earlier this year, faced with funding shortfalls, the World Food Programme cut support to 5 million of the country's poorest people. Yemenis gather at a camp for internally displaced persons near Sana'a, 30 July 2022. By March 2022, an estimated 4.3 million Yemenis had been displaced by fighting. The UN predicts famine this year. "Ordinary Yemenis are choosing between the vital costs of living such as rent or food," Jafri said, in a country where many of the population live on less than £1.60 a day. The cost of bread has risen sixfold, prices manipulated by the government which raises costs when the aid is in short supply and reduces when there have been deliveries from charities. The ERC recently worked with the country's Office of Trade and Commerce on a trial with 15 bakeries to see the impact of aid on price reduction. "When we donate to the bakeries, the price of bread goes down, so this is why these donations are critical in countering inflation and the problems of the

currency collapse, especially as the country is now looking for alternative sources of grain in the wake of the Ukraine war," Jafri said. During the trial in April, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the charity donated free flour to 15 bakeries for one month and managed to get retailers to reduce the price from 70 Yemeni riyals (23p) to 30 (10p) for a loaf, but the bakers refused to keep prices low, suffering as they were from inflation and rent hikes. Suhair Saeed Omer, a family medicine specialist at the Al Mahwar clinic in Mukallah, one of multiple hospitals built or renovated by Emirates Red Crescent, said Yemen cannot manage without international support. "Without foreign aid, this clinic couldn't do the important work it is doing," she said. "We simply cannot cope without it. We are lucky to have this support, but many other Yemenis are not."

months. The eruption started near the mountain Fagradalsfjall on the Reykjanes peninsula south-west of Reykjavik. White smoke initially rose from the earth before glowing magma emerged with lava spraying out of an extended crack in the Geldingadalur valley. The Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management in a statement said that tourists and residents should avoid the area due to poisonous gases, although there was no immediate risk of damage to critical infrastructure. IMO also informed that a



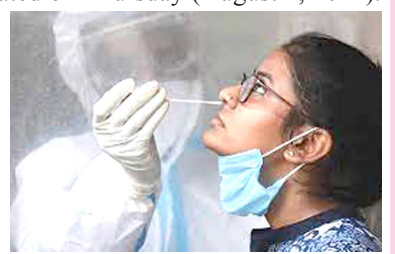
"code red" was declared to prohibit airplanes from flying over the site although helicopters were sent in to survey the situation. According to the officials, unlike the eruption in 2010 of the ice-covered Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which halted some 100,000 flights and forced hundreds of Icelanders from their homes, this eruption is not expected to spew much ash or smoke into the atmosphere.

## Covid-19 fourth wave threat: India logs 19,893 new infections, 53 deaths in last 24 hours

**New Delhi, August 04 :** India saw a single-day rise of 19,893 Covid-19 infections, taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,40,87,037, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday (August 4, 2022).

As per the latest data, the active cases declined to 1,36,478 today. The death toll climbed to 5,26,530 with 53 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am

stated. A decrease of 579 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The country also reported 20,419 recoveries in a day. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,34,24,029, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.19 per cent. The active cases comprise 0.31 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.50 per cent, the ministry said. The daily positivity rate stood at 4.94 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.64 per cent, the ministry said. The cumulative doses administered under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 205.22 crore on Thursday at 8 am, out of which 38,20,676 doses were administered in last 24 hours. The 53 new fatalities include seven from Maharashtra, five from Delhi, four each from Assam, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal, three each from Punjab and Uttarakhand, two from Karnataka and one each from Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, 15 deaths are reconciled by Kerala as per guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research.



## Sajid Javid endorses Liz Truss in fresh blow to Rishi Sunak's campaign

**London, August 04 :** Sajid Javid has endorsed Liz Truss in a damaging blow for Rishi Sunak's campaign, warning that Sunak's economic prescription would mean "sleepwalking into a high-tax, low-growth" economy. In a difficult day for Sunak, the leadership hopeful doubled down on his warnings over inflation and

mounted a fresh attack on Truss's plans for immediate tax cuts, saying any prime minister who fuelled inflation would be handing the next election to Labour. A poll from the Conservatives also gave a boost to Truss's campaign, putting her 32 points ahead with party members, a day after YouGov showed similar

results. The endorsement of Javid again exposed the major divides in the two campaigns over economic growth on the eve of the Bank of England's interest rates announcement. Javid, who worked with Sunak in the Treasury and resigned on the same day, triggering the downfall of Johnson, said Truss

was best placed to "reunite the party" and said a new approach to the economy was needed - a direct attack on Sunak. "I fought for strong fiscal rules in our last manifesto," Javid wrote in an article for the Times.

## Chrissy Teigen announces pregnancy: 'I'm feeling hopeful and amazing'



Washington, August 04: Chrissy Teigen and her

husband John Legend are expecting another child nearly two years after the couple suffered a pregnancy loss. Teigen made the announcement Wednesday on Instagram, where she posted two photos of her baby bump. She wrote that joy has "filled our home and hearts again" after a miscarriage in 2020, which she documented in intimate detail in its aftermath. "We have another on the way," wrote the 36-year-old model and cookbook author, who shares two children - Luna and Miles - with Legend. In the post, she wrote about her

fertility journey, and being too nervous to unveil her pregnancy. This article includes content provided by Instagram. We ask for your permission before anything is loaded, as they may be using cookies and other technologies. To view this content, click 'Allow and continue'. "Every appointment I've said to myself, 'OK, if it's healthy today I'll announce', but then I breathe a sigh of relief to hear a heartbeat and decide I'm just too nervous still," she wrote. "I don't think I'll ever walk out of an appointment with more excitement than nerves but so far, everything is perfect and beautiful and I'm

feeling hopeful and amazing." In 2020, the couple made a heart-wrenching announcement after losing their son, Jack, at 20 weeks of her pregnancy. Teigen was hospitalised with excessive bleeding before the miscarriage. The same year, Teigen wrote an essay explaining that doctors diagnosed her with a partial placental abruption. At the time, she urged people to share their stories and "please be kind to those pouring their hearts out". Teigen's openness about the stillbirth was praised at the time for demystifying a common and heartbreaking experience. Legend and Teigen were married in 2013.

## Antony Gormley's 'phallic' statue may damage our reputation, say students

**London, August 04 :** University students at Imperial College London are battling to prevent the installation of new sculpture by Antony Gormley over concerns that the work is "phallic". Alert, a six-metre-high stack of cantilevered steel blocks meant to resemble a squatting human figure, is scheduled to be installed in the university's newly built Dangoor Plaza in South Kensington this summer. According to Gormley, the sculpture represents a figure "balancing on the balls of the feet while squatting on its haunches". But a motion released by the Imperial College Union says the

sculpture may "hurt the image and reputation of the college" because of its "obvious" interpretation as a person baring their erect penis. Under this interpretation, the motion adds, the phallus extends "approximately three metres horizontally", about half the total height of the artwork. "While the artist's intended form may [evoke our] community of scientific research" the phallic interpretation does not. The name Alert could also be understood as referring to the statue's phallus being erect," the union said. They also claim students were not consulted about the installation, which will serve as a centrepiece of an area used by students, staff

and the public. They note that while there is "nothing inherently wrong with phallic imagery in art", the phallic

interpretation's preoccupation with the penis could be considered inappropriate for a grand public display.



Residents search for reusable materials from their charred homes after a fire at a residential area in Manila, the Philippines

No. CE/H&UA/Tech/17/Pt-II/21-22/78 NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
In continuation to the Press Notice issued vide this office No. CE/H&UA/Tech/17/Pt-II/21-22/78, dated 03/08/2022 the Chief Engineer, H&UA (Technical Cell), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites proposal from interested registered Supplier/ Bidders of who are experienced in the execution of similar work registered and having extensive experience in the relevant field of work for the following work.					
Sl No	Name of work	Approx value of work (in Lakhs)	Cost of RFP and BID Document	EMD / BID security	Last Day of Submission of Bid
1	Procurement of Office Computer and Peripherals etc. and O&M for the office of The Chief engineer and 6(six) Divisional offices of Technical cell, Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Assam	₹ 100.33 Lakhs	₹ 2,000.00	Rs. 2.01 Lakhs for Unreserved Category & Rs. 1 Lakhs for ST/SC/ OBC/MOBC / UGE (Unemployed Graduate Engineer)	10-08-2022
1. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e., www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 14:00 hrs of 0 4 - 0 8 - 2022 to 10-08-2022 2. The BID validity period of the RFP shall be 90 days from the date of submission. 3. The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. 4. The Chief Engineer, H&UA (Technical Cell), Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without showing any reason thereof. Chief Engineer (Technical Cell) Department of Housing and Urban Affairs Assam, Guwahati-03					
No. CE/H&UA/Tech-17/Pt-II/21-22/79 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
The Chief Engineer, H&UA (Technical Cell), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites BID from reputed Class-III and above Contractor/Farm registered under P.W.D, Assam and having extensive experience in the relevant field of work for the following works					
Sl No	Name of work	Approx value of work (Rs.in Lakh.)	Cost of RFP and BID Document	EMD / BID security	Period of Completion approx
1	CONSTRUCTION OF CREMATION GROUND AT HABRUBARI AT KOKRAJHAR UNDER CIDF. FOR THE YEAR 2021-22.	14.27	300.00	Rs. 28,500.00 for Unreserved Category & Rs. 14,250.00 for ST/SC/ OBC/MOBC / UGE (Unemployed Graduate Engineers)	6 months
2	DISMANTLING OF GODOWN IN DIAPILATED CONDITION IN FRONT OF INTEGRATED CONVENTION CENTRE FOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ,SONITPUR AT BATAMARI, TEZPUR. UNDER CIDF FOR THE YEAR 2021-22.	10.16	200.00	Rs. 20,000.00 for Unreserved Category & Rs. 10,000.00 for ST/SC/ OBC/MOBC / UGE (Unemployed Graduate Engineers)	1 months
Details of the bid are available at e-procurement portal website i.e., www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 1400 hrs of 05/08/2022 to 1400 hrs of 12/08/2022. Sd/- Chief Engineer (Technical Cell) Department of Housing and Urban Affairs Assam, Guwahati-03 Janasanyog/C/7648/22					







## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Terrorist groups and global jihadists

As the Taliban are largely a loose union of different factions who were strongly united as an insurgency prior to August 2021, it is plausible that one or more factions among them were hosting and protecting Zawahiri. His death will put significant pressure on these internal fissures, especially if the US continues drone strikes in Afghanistan. Because Afghanistan is landlocked, the over-the-horizon operations by US drones would have needed permission from one of the neighbouring states to enter the Afghan airspace. Iran, central Asian countries and China - which shares a mountainous border with Afghanistan - would not cooperate with the US on this. Pakistan, therefore, would be the logical option. If this US strike was carried out in cooperation with Pakistan, there are several major regional implications. Pakistan has strong relations with China, including the multibillion-dollar infrastructural project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). For nearly 20 years, Pakistan provided the Taliban sanctuary as the group waged a bloody insurgency against US, Nato and Afghan security forces that also killed tens of thousands of Afghan civilians. The former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan celebrated the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, and blamed the US for a heedless "war on terror". But Khan was unseated in a no-confidence vote in April. Pakistani-American cooperation on counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan would underline a significant thawing of relations. It may impact Islamabad's efforts to build further relations with China and Russia. However, Pakistan has been facing immense financial difficulties, with rising inflation and plummeting value of the local currency. Islamabad has been desperately trying to gain support from Washington, including by involving its army chief to secure a multibillion-dollar loan package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). By cooperating on counter-terrorism with the US, Pakistan would naturally expect American support beyond military cooperation including securing financial packages. It is too early to predict precise outcomes in Afghanistan and the region from this incident. But the US seems to have signalled that it is able to dominate the sky over the country, and that it is willing to act.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

Are you against of violence or corruption? Do you really want revolution in the social, educational, political or economical system? Do you have any questions for the Government, political or non political parties? Don't worry, be a part of The Assam Rising family. Be a citizen journalist and write to us about your problem and we will take the responsibility to publish your voice. We will give you a platform to raise your voice, because your simple voice can change society.

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## Letter to The Editor

You can send us your self-composed article, story, poem, letter to the editor or any other creative work done by you. We are responsible for publishing it in The Assam Rising. We will also find out one best contributor/writer every week and an attractive prize will be given to encourage him/her. So, without any further delay mail us your own work with full name and address to [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com).

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

## Quran has no space for casteism but Ashraaf Muslims interpret it differently



There is no mention in the Quran that one can suggest that it propagates casteism. Rather, there is a very famous verse in the holy book, in which Allah says, 'I have created you from male and female, and I have created your races and tribes, so that you can identify each other. The most honorable among you in the sight of Allah are those who fear him the most. (Sura: Huzurat Ayat No. 13) It is based on this verse that it is said that Islam does not endorse racism/

casteism and this distinction has been made only for the sake of identification and differentiation. Still, the Ashraaf ulema and other Muslim intellectuals often argue in favour of casteism. They interpret, or rather misinterpret Sura: Huzurat Ayat No. 13 to further their narrative, saying that caste can never be eradicated because it is inscribed in the Quran that castes

have been created for the purpose of identification. Drawing reference from the above verse, some scholars of the Ashraaf Ulema have also noted that as per Islam, a man will only be considered superior to a woman if he is a muttaqi (God-fearing/religious). An Arab (a resident of Arabia) obtains superiority over a non-Arabian on this basis only. Sayyid has also been considered superior to Arabic and non-Arabic

## Faiyaz Ahmad Fyzie

Muslims on the basis of the taqwa factor. But, socially, men, Arabs and Sayyids, irrespective of their obedience to taqwa, are always considered superior. Ashraaf's further say that as per the tenets of Islam, the main criteria for being 'superior' is being religious, provided one does not take pride in it. So, even though it is forbidden to take pride in being religious, it does not mean that

The sun, sand, surfing and snorkelling-the perfect picture of paradise synonymous with the Maldives has lately been marred by a fifth dimension-a scandal rocking the top levels of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party on the eve of Maldivian President Ibrahim Solih's visit to India, which began this week. But such is the trust between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Solih that India is not just ready to ignore all charges of collusion between Solih and former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed, whose brother was allegedly involved in a sex scandal, but it is rolling out the red carpet for him both in Delhi and Mumbai. Solih is seen as such a steady pair of hands that India has cast its vote in favour of him continuing to head the Maldivian Democratic Party coalition government. Presidential elections are on the anvil for September 2023 and all sides, especially New Delhi, are acutely aware that if the political chaos spreads then the only person to benefit from the mess will be Abdulla Yameen, China's favourite politician in the Maldives. Several new Memoranda of Understanding are expected after Modi meets Solih Tuesday, and both sides will review the incredible amount of work done so far, especially on the infrastructure front-the Great Male Connectivity Project is a 6.74 km-long bridge and causeway link that connects Maldives capital to



several neighbouring islands like Villingili, Gulhifalu and Thilafushi, being built by the Indian company Afcon using the \$400 line of credit and a \$100 million Indian grant. Modi and Solih will review "strategic ties", which is diplomatic jargon for how to keep the Indian Ocean safe from Chinese expansionism. Jaishankar handed over a coastal radar system to the Maldives during his visit in March that will allow both Delhi and Male to keep eyes on the several hundred islands and archipelagos that sit astride the Equator and the sea lanes free for navigation. Only last week, the chief of the Maldivian defence forces Gen. Abdulla Shamaal visited India. India's spokesperson Arindam Bagchi invoked fulsome praise to describe the relationship. "(President Solih's visit is) an opportunity to nurture the unwavering friendship between our two countries and lend further momentum to the multi-faceted partnership," he said. Behind the praise is a kernel of concern in Delhi that

several neighbouring islands like Villingili, Gulhifalu and Thilafushi, being built by the Indian company Afcon using the \$400 line of credit and a \$100 million Indian grant. Modi and Solih will review "strategic ties", which is diplomatic jargon for how to keep the Indian Ocean safe from Chinese expansionism. Jaishankar handed over a coastal radar system to the Maldives during his visit in March that will allow both Delhi and Male to keep eyes on the several hundred islands and archipelagos that sit astride the Equator and the sea lanes free for navigation. Only last week, the chief of the Maldivian defence forces Gen. Abdulla Shamaal visited India. India's spokesperson Arindam Bagchi invoked fulsome praise to describe the relationship. "(President Solih's visit is) an opportunity to nurture the unwavering friendship between our two countries and lend further momentum to the multi-faceted partnership," he said. Behind the praise is a kernel of concern in Delhi that

## Not radical enough? Starmer's caution may yet carry Labour to power

The official opposition is within touching distance of victory. As minor skirmishes break out within the party, Labour people should keep their eyes firmly fixed on that prize. All the disasters must belong to the Tories. By the end of this year, Keir Starmer may be in No 10, with the shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, next door, and with a cabinet table filled with serious new ministers hitting the ground running, after Liz Truss (let's assume it's her) has "hit the ground", as she mis-tweeted recently. The Tory cabinet will fade as if a bad dream: surely Nadine Dorries, Jacob Rees-Mogg,

Suella Braverman, Grant Shapps and the rest never happened? But right now, expect Prime Minister Truss to get a poll bounce, which is why she may grab her only election chance sooner rather than later. Even if she waits for 2023's boundary changes to come into effect, those extra five to 10 seats won't be able to outweigh the electoral damage of an escalating cost of living calamity. Nothing but trouble awaits her, shackled to those impossible pledges. Her low-tax bidding war leaves no money. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has exploded the fantasy that tax cuts bring growth. If so, the IFS says, why have countries with higher tax than ours, such as France and Germany, achieved higher growth? The Conservatives' plans only allow for unacceptable 2-3% increases in public-sector pay. Meanwhile, services are already collapsing, with backlogs of 6.6 million people waiting for NHS England operations, 60,000 court cases pending in England and Wales, and 90% of English schools waiting for urgent repairs. So where will her "smaller state" cuts come from? The damage from Brexit will harden if Truss breaks the Northern Ireland protocol, triggering an EU trade war. If she veers an inch from a rock-hard Brexit then the European Research Group will make her life hell. Her vociferous climate refusers will keep her to abolishing green levies and "not letting net zero affect business", while long-neglected infrastructure is exposed in energy and water shortages. Boris Johnson sitting behind her, yearning to return, will relish every failure. Whenever the general election comes, Labour looks likely to win: governments fall when voters suffer unmanageable drops in income. A wave of social democratic wins in Australia, Germany, US, Portugal, Norway, Finland, Denmark and others augurs well. Recent polling from Savanta ComRes, Survation, Ipsos and more put the Labour lead in double digits. Starmer beats either contender as best prime minister when "red wall" voters are asked, according to fresh polling from Redfield & Wilton Strategies. When the new Tory leader gets a poll bounce, expect impatient Labour people to panic at Starmer's caution. He only

says what he's against, they complain. Yes, to stop the Tories gleefully turning the election into another Brexit rout, it was essential (though painful) to take a stand against rejoining the single market or customs union: the word "rejoin" ignites old fires. But there's no doubt the party would make EU peace and trade deals, join the Horizon and Erasmus programmes, and agree equal

## Polly Toynbee

food and goods standards, easy visas for artists, agree EU professional qualifications and more. I back rejoin movements - but I don't think Labour should. It's the same with strikes. All of Labour backs the fight to prevent massive cuts for those whose pay fell or stagnated for a decade. Strikers stand for everyone, the unionised are pulled up by union rates. But Starmer is not wrong to think that a convincing government-in-waiting shouldn't be seen as protesters: parliament is their forum. Labour shadow ministers gnashed their teeth over the picket line grandstanding of Sam Tarry, who reacted to the prospect of being deselected in Ilford South by claiming, "I am on the side of ordinary British workers", as if the rest weren't. Mick Lynch is a great advocate, but the shadow cabinet has a more complex task than he does. The party's position, as a senior Labour official tells me, is "100% behind the right to strike" and "to make sure workers get the pay they deserve". The commitment to ending "the scourge of low pay" means Labour would introduce fair pay agreements across every sector: no zero-hour contracts, no fire-and-rehire, flexible working and the right for unions to recruit in every workplace. The £28bn Green New Deal will create good jobs setting up electric car battery factories and insulating 19m



homes. Last week's howl at Starmer and Reeves' betrayal was over renationalising utilities. But is it wise for Labour to spend billions buying these back, before spending on them or anything else? As Reeves's team pointed out, rail is effectively state-owned already. Pragmatism means super-tough regulation can do more without wasting a penny. Southern Water is imposing hose pipe bans while reportedly leaking 21m gallons a day. Who wants to pay its owner, the investment bank Macquarie, who loaded it with another £1bn debt while its CEO earns £14.8m? England's water regulator, Ofwat, warns that rising interest rates will see some water companies go bust - that needs state takeovers. As for Labour's taxes, Reeves says she will target the £174bn lost in tax relief loopholes, so "the broadest shoulders" pay most. She would take another £5bn wind-fall from energy profits. Mak-

ing private equity managers pay income tax on earnings that they pretend are "carried interest" could raise £440m annually from 2,000 people, according to the BBC: taxing earned and unearned income the same yields a lot. Charging VAT on private school fees would bring £1.7bn for state schools, where, as promised in last year's conference speech, Starmer guarantees every child the experience of arts, sports and expeditions. The shadow education secretary, Bridget Phillipson, promises universal breakfast and after-school clubs and mental health hubs. Sure Star, I'm told, will be back. There's a great deal more to come. Labour people want more radicalism now. For us, nothing can be enough. But Starmer's Labour is far less cautious than in 1997 when Tony Blair and Gordon Brown welded themselves to a crippling two-year fall in spending. The quinquessence of life on the left is Labour losing over and over again. But all the auguries say not this time.

## Letter to the Editor

### US interference in China and Taiwan issue makes the issue Big

Dear Editor,

The US interfering in the issue between China and Taiwan, makes the issue BIG. When Russia was attacking Ukraine, some countries started helping Ukraine. Ultimately Ukraine is collapsing. But the war did not end. It is continuing and the economy of some countries is in trouble. We have to strengthen UNO, and prevent wars henceforth. Wars are for loss of lives and destruction. We have to join hands for the welfare of the human race.

**KL Rao**



# Karan Shocked As Kareena Calls ShahidKapoor Her 'Ex-Husband'

**Mumbai, August 04 :** aranJohar left KareenaKapoor in utter shock when he referred to ShahidKapoor as her "ex-husband" on 'KoffeeWith Karan'. Kareena's romance with ShahidKapoor was quite the talk of the town during the initial years of her career. Shahid and Kareena were together for almost five years and they both were very vocal about their relationship. The former couple had also made a joint appearance on Karan Johar'sKoffee with Karan, where they spoke at length about their romance. When Kareena came on the latest season of KoffeeWith Karan along with Amir Khan, Karan talked about how she had been a 'Koffee' veteran. "Bebo, you have been on this show so many times. You have come in different stages of your life. Bebo has been with her husband, ex-hus..." Karan paused before correcting himself, "Not ex-husband, sorry. She's been with her ex-boyfriend. She's then



been with her contemporary and I have seen you through all these stages."Following her breakup from Shahid in 2006, Kareena went public with her relationship with her now-husband Saif Ali Khan, who she met on the sets of Tashan. "A lot happened in the making of Jab We Met and Tashan and our lives... We all kind of went our separate ways... This (Jab We Met) changed my

career and that (Tashan) changed my life. Because I did meet the man of my dreams and I did marry him. And this (relationship

with Shahid) kind of took its own course in which both Shahid and me went our separate ways," Kareena had told Film

Companion in an interview.During a rapid fire round, when Karan asked Kareena about who would not be invited to ShahidKapoor's party, she quickly answered, "Me. I don't know I'm just saying." Kareena and Saif, co-stars of films like Tashan and Omkara, married in 2012. Their first son Taimur was born in 2016. The couple welcomed their second child, Jeh, on February 21, 2021. SaifAli Khan has two older children with his first wife Amrita Singh- Sara and Ibrahim Ali Khan.Laal Singh Chaddha is directed by filmmaker Advait Chandan. It is produced by Aamir Khan Productions and Viacom18 Motion Pictures. The film will hit the theatres on August 11.

# AlluArjun Looks Uber-Cool In An All Black Attire

**Chennai, August 04 :** AlluArjun has become the talk of the town ever since his pan-India film Pushpa: The Rise has been released. The film became an instant blockbuster and broke several records at the box office. While the actor is now shooting for the sequel of the movie, on Wednesday, the South megastar was spotted at a private airport in Mumbai. In a video shared on social media by a paparazzi account, AlluArjun was seen sporting a black sweatshirt which he paired with black joggers. To complete his look, the actor wore a luxurious watch along with a pair of trendy black sunglasses. Needless to say, AlluArjun looked uber-cool in his long-hair and bearded ca-

sual avatar as he briefly posed for the fans before making his way out of the spotlight.Last week the actor was seen in a totally different look when he took to his Instagram to share a dapper picture of himself. The actor was sporting a heavy black leather jacket paired with a red printed shirt. On top of that, the amount of swag oozing from his voguish sunglasses and a neatly styled pompadour hair daubed in a salt-pepper style and perfectly contoured beard left fans swooning all over the South superstar. Some also speculated whether it was his brand new look for Pushpa 2.Written and directed by Sukumar, Pushpa-The Rise was a 2021 Indian Telugu-lan-



guage action drama that depicted the rise of a coolie in the smuggling syndicate of red sandalwood. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers in association with Muttamsetty Media, the film featured AlluArjun as the titular character alongside RashmikaMandanna. AlluArjun will be next seen in Pushpa: The Rule. Earlier, it was being said that RashmikaMandanna's

**Mumbai, August 04 :** Alia Bhatt and RanbirKapoor starrer Brahmastra is one of the most-awaited movies of the year. While the first romantic song from the film, Kesariya has been ruling hearts ever since its release, the makers are now all set to release the second song from the movie. On Thursday, the makers dropped the teaser of the song titled Deva Deva song and announced that it will be released on August 8. Dropping the teaser on her Instagram account, Alia Bhatt wrote, "The light is coming Deva Deva song out on 8th August!!"In the teaser of the song, RanbirKapoor can be seen playing with fire as he also describes the power of light. "Light is what protects us



and is bigger from the darkness. It is a special power which brings meaning to our lives," he says.Several fans took to the comment section of Alia's post to express excitement for the song. "I'm so excited for this song!! Brahm?stra will be a super hit movie in my book!!" one of the fans wrote. Another social media user commented, "Can't wait". Directed by A y a n M u k e r j i , Brahmastra is the first time that newlyweds RanbirKapoor and Alia Bhatt will share the screen. The film also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy, and Nagarjuna Akkineni in key roles. Shah Rukh Khan is also likely to play

a cameo in the movie but no official announcement regarding the same has been made so far. "SRK is supposedly playing a scientist in Brahmastra and his role is quite important to the film's story graph. His role is at least around 15-20 minutes," a source cited by the Indian Express claimed earlier in June. The film's trailer has already been released. It took fans into Ayan'sAstraverse and revealed how Ranbir will be playing the role of a young boy named Shiva on whom the destiny of Brahmastra depends. From showing Ranbir and Alia's first on-screen kiss to Mouni Roy's anti-hero role, the trailer ruled headlines for several reasons. Brahmastra will hit theatres on September 9.

# Prabhas Joins SitaRamam Pre-Release Event

**Mumbai, August 04 :** DulquerSalmaan, Mrunal Thakur and RashmikaMandanna are gearing up for the release of their upcoming movie, SitaRamam. While fans are eagerly waiting for the Telugu movie, its pre-release event was held on Wednesday in which Prabhas was invited as the chief guest. Several pictures of the Baahubali actor with Dulquer from the event are already going viral on social media. During the pre-release event, Prabhas also urged all to watch SitaRamam in theatres and called RashmikaMandanna the 'most wanted heroine'. "Some films are meant to be watched in theatres. I saw the trailer and visuals of SitaRamam. The makers went to Russia and Kashmir to shoot the film. This is a film that should be watched in theatres. The budget which the producers

# Khatter To Share Screen With Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif, Alia Bhatt For Jee Le Zaraa?

**Mumbai, August 04 :** FarhanAkhtar'sJee Le Zaraa has been making headlines for a long time now because of its ensemble cast - Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif and Priyanka Chopra. If recent reports are to be believed, IshaanKhattar has also been roped in for the movie. As reported by Pinkvilla, Ishaan will be the male lead in the movie. The source cited by the entertainment portal claims that the makers of Jee Le Zaraa will make an official announcement regarding IshaanKhatter soon."It's been a while since Ishaan came onboard for the project, and they are waiting for the right time to make the official announcement. It's an important role. Meanwhile, full-fledged pre-production work will



start next year, closer to the filming date," the source claimed.This comes just a few days after Alia Bhatt shared an update about the movie and addressed the rumours that the film has been shelved as of now. "It's happening! We will go on floors next year. Of course, we can not go on the floor this year (indicating her pregnancy). We ain't letting that film go. We are fighting for it



and we are all too excited

about it. It's going to be quite massive and we can't wait," she said during a recent media interaction.Jee Le Zaraa was announced by FarhanAkhtar in August last year.Back then, the filmmaker took to social media and wrote, "Did someone say road trip? Thrilled to announce my next film as director and what better day than 20 years of DilChahta

Hai to do it." Meanwhile, IshaanKhatter will also be seen in Phone Bhoot along with Katrina Kaif and Siddhant Chaturvedi. Directed by Gurmmeet Singh and written by Ravi Shankaran and Jsvinder Singh Bath, Phone Bhoot is produced by Excel Entertainment, headed by RiteshSiddhwani and FarhanAkhtar.



spent and the scale is huge. For example, do we stop going to the temple because there's a pooja room at home? For people in cinema, theatres are our temples. It's because of you. We should watch SitaRamam in theatres. We have Rashmika, who's the most-wanted heroine. We have a huge star cast too. We should watch it in theatres," Prabhas said as quoted by India Today.DulquerSalmaan also talked about how SitaRamam is a very special film and said, "I have seen many places during the shooting of this movie. SitaRamam is a very special film. Mrunal played the role of Sita very sincerely and beautifully. Sumanth is my big brother. Vishnu Sharma's role is excellent. TarunBhaskar's smile gives great energy. SitaRamam is a larger-than-life movie with excellent music and technical values. Everyone should watch this movie in theaters".Directed by HanuRaghavapudi, SitaRamam is produced by star producer AswiniDutt under the banner of Swapna Cinema and is presented by Vyjayanthi Movies. It will release worldwide on August 5.

# Aamir Khan on Bollywood Films Failure



**Mumbai, August 04 :** Amir Khan has spoken out about why South films have been dominating Bollywood movies at the box office. Most recently, South films like "RRR", AlluArjun-led "Pushpa" and Yash's "KGF: Chapter 2" did wonders in the Hindi-speaking belt, while most of the Bollywood films, barring Bhoool Bhulaiyaa 2 and The Kashmir Files, failed to gen-

erate buzz.During the latest episode of KoffeeWith Karan, host Karan Joharasked Aamir if there was a shift that's happened in Hindi movies recently in terms of tonality, before blaming the actor for it."There's a tonality that KGF has or Pushpa has that Hindi cinema actually used to have. We actually let go of it and you're responsible," Karan said. He further explained the reason behind it, saying, "In the year 2001, you (Aamir) came up with two films 'DilChahtaHai' and 'Lagaan', both had new sensibilities, both had a new syntax in cinema then after that you came up with a film 'Rang De

Basanti' in 2006, then you made 'Taare Zameen Par' right after that, with the result you started making a certain audience and filmmakers."To this, Aamir quickly responded, "No, you're wrong. Those were all heartland films. Those movies had emotions. Those movies had emotions. They reach the common man. It's something that you will emotionally connect to. 'Rang De Basanti' is a very emotional film. It touches the people at grassroots." Aamir then went on to explain why Hindi films couldn't be working for a larger audience. "I am not saying make action films or crude films.

singer-husband Nick Jonas took to his Instagram account and dropped an unseen picture with his lady love. In this latest click, Nick Jonas can be seen hugging Priyanka from behind as he looks straight into the lens. While Nick placed his hand around Priyanka's waist, she shied away from the camera. In the caption, Nick Jonas wrote, 'Lady in red' along with a red heart emoji. Need-

# Priyankalooks hottest as Nick drops an Unseen Picture

less to say, the two look hottest in the click.Fans were quick to shower love in the comment section. While one of the fans wrote, "Impressive. Very unusual", another social media user commented, "You're such a hot couple." "You've got a stunner," a third comment read.A large number of fans also complimented Priyanka for her red outfit.For the unversed, it was Priyanka

Chopra's first birthday after she attained motherhood earlier this year. Meanwhile, in another video from Priyanka's birthday bash that went viral on social media, the actress was seen surrounded by her loved ones including her mother Madhu Chopra, and parents-in-law Paul Kevin Jonas, Sr. and Denise Jonas. On the work front, Priyanka has several projects in her pipeline.

# Actor MithileshChaturvedi Dies of Heart Ailment



**Mumbai, August 04 :** Veteran actor MithileshChaturvedi passed away. As reported by E-Times,

the actor breathed his last on Wednesday, August 3. Reportedly, Chaturvedi was in Lucknow at the time of

his death. He was suffering from a cardiac disease and also had a heart attack earlier in the day. He was 68.Following the news of his demise, several fans took to social media to pay their last tributes to the actor. "We've lost a very fine actor and person today," one of the social media user wrote. "Day starts with a bad news. Veteran actor Mithilesh Chaturvedipasses away. Rest in peace sir (sic),"

another Tweet read.MithileshChaturvedi was a part of the entertainment industry for a very long time now. He has worked in several big Bollywood movies including Koi Mil Gaya with HrithikRoshan, GadarEkPrem Katha with Sunny Deol, Satya, Ready, BuntyAurBabli, Krrish, Taal, Ready, Asoka, Fiza, AjabPrem Ki GhazabKahani, and

HallaBol among others. Chaturvedi also featured in several television shows including Patiala Babes. In Scam 1992 web series, he played the role of Ram Jethmalani. The series was widely loved and starred Pratik Gandhi in the lead. MithileshChaturvedi was last seen in Amitabh Bachchan and AyushmannKhurrana starred GulaboSitabo which was released in April 2020.



## Contd. From Page 1

## Rima Das's Film 'Tora's Husband'

the film are played by Abhijit Das and Torali Klaita. Notably, TIFF announced the ten world premieres in its Platform program, a section comprised of first-time feature filmmakers whose voices are emerging in the cinematic landscape. The other films selected for the World Premiere are Charcoal (Carvão) by Carolina Markowicz (Argentina), Emily Frances by O'Connor (UK), The Gravity (La Gravité) by Cédric Ido (France), Hava Maimouna by Doucouré (France), How to Blow Up a Pipeline by Daniel Goldhaber (USA), Riceboy Sleeps by Anthony Shim (Canada), Subtraction (Tafrigh) by Mani Haghighi (Iran, France), Thunder (Foudre) by Carmen Jaquier (Switzerland) and Viking by Stéphane Lafleur (Canada).

## CM Dr. Sarma holds meeting

with regard to enabling the sector to cope with recurring flood, drought and other climate related stresses. Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Chairman of Assam Agriculture Commission Dr. H.S. Gupta, its members, Additional Chief Secretary to Agriculture Asish Bhutani, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Commissioner and Secretary Finance, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Jayant Narlikar and other senior officers were present at the meeting.

## CM Writes Letter CM of all states

remained intact. The Chief Minister, in his letter, stated that despite being a shining example of patriotism and love for one's motherland, Lachit Borphukon's accomplishments remain comparatively unknown in the many parts of the country. Requesting his counterparts for inclusion of Lachit Borphukon's history and valour in curriculum, the Chief Minister added that this would contribute to spread of patriotic ideals among the youths and inspire them to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation.

## China carries out precision

operations," Xinhua added. Responding to a question about the PLA's decision to kick off the drills two days after Pelosi's arrival, a military expert said that the arrangement shows the army's rational and responsible attitude as it leaves time for domestic and foreign civilian ships and airlines to evacuate their ships and adjust their flights, Global Times reported. Zhang Junshe, a senior research fellow at the Naval Research Academy of the People's Liberation Army, said that the drills include long-range live-fire shooting and conventional missile test launches. As per the international conventions, areas of military drills have to be disclosed three days in advance and 24 hours in advance under an emergency situation. "That is mainly to leave enough time for domestic and foreign ships to evacuate as well as for related civilian airlines to adjust their routes to avoid the areas. The move is intended to avoid hurting ordinary people during the drills, showing the rational and responsible attitude of the PLA," Zhang said as quoted by Global Times. Taiwan's defence ministry said that an unidentified aircraft flew above the Kinmen Islands, Taiwanese territory off China's south-eastern coast, on Wednesday night and it had fired flares in response. Major General Chang Zone-sung of the military's Kinmen Defense Command said that the Chinese drones came in a pair and flew into the Kinmen area twice on Wednesday night, at about 9 pm (6:30 pm IST) and 10 pm (7:30 pm IST). Al Jazeera reported citing Reuters News Agency. "We immediately fired flares to issue warnings and to drive them away. After that, they turned around. They came into our restricted area and that's why we dispersed them," he said. The Group of Seven developed nations has expressed concern at China's response to Pelosi's visit, calling for calm and saying the moves by the People's Republic of China (PRC) risked unnecessary escalation. Pelosi's visit, which is also the highest level of US visits in more than two decades, left China heavily infuriated and the communist nation warned the US that it will "pay the price." Pelosi's trip has heightened US-China tensions more than visits by other members of Congress because of her high-level position as leader of the House of Representatives. She is the first speaker of the house to come to Taiwan in 25 years since Newt Gingrich in 1997. The Chinese military had announced holding live-fire naval exercises in the Taiwan Strait after Pelosi's visit which is mainly seen to build security and economic momentum for the Indo-Pacific and is also seen as a move by the US to build pressure on China over its claim on Taiwan, responding to which the Pentagon also sent an aircraft carrier to the South China Sea. Earlier, China sent 27 aircraft to Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ), the island's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday hours after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi left Taipei. China which claims Taiwan as its territory and opposes any engagement by Taiwanese officials with foreign governments, announced multiple military exercises around the island, issued a series of harsh statements and even summoned the US ambassador to Beijing, Nicholas Burns, to protest against Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Moreover, China has decided to avoid meeting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cambodia.

## 1200-year-old Hindu temple in Pakistan

demolition in India, an angry mob wielding weapons stormed into the Valmiki Temple. It smashed the idols of Krishna and Valmiki, broke utensils and crockery in the kitchen and seized the gold with which the statues were embellished. The temple was demolished to rubble and the building was set on fire. The shops in the neighbourhood also caught fire and it took days for the authorities to extinguish the flames. The ETPB spokesman told Dawn newspaper that a one-man commission constituted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan presented its recommendations to the government, stating that the temple must be renovated to provide better workshop facilities to the Hindu community. But the ETPB, in the wake of the litigation, was unable to start restoration work at the temple constructed on over 10 marla land worth millions in the heart of the city, the spokesperson said. The ETPB looks after the temples and land left over by Sikhs and Hindus who migrated to India after the Partition. It oversees 200 gurdwaras and 150 temples across Pakistan.

## Six new species of miniature frog

frogs in some parts of the country. "Despite the progress made in identifying the new species, more research is needed to understand the diversity of miniature amphibians in Mexico," says Dr Smith. The researchers are hopeful that there is a future for the tiny frogs. They hope to work with the government and non-government organisations in Mexico to create connected zones where the six new species live. This would potentially give the frogs a better chance of survival because their habitats would be part of a large, interconnected area looked after by conservationists. Scientists at the University of Texas in Arlington, and researchers from the University of Cambridge and London's Natural History Museum made the discovery.



Jorhat- All Tai Ahom Students union Protest

## CJI NV Ramana recommends Justice UU Lalit as his successor to Centre

New Delhi, August 04 : Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Thursday set in motion the process of appointment of his successor by recommending the name of Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, the most senior judge, to the Centre. The CJI personally handed over the copy of his letter of recommendation to Justice Lalit. Justice Ramana, the 48th chief justice of India who took over as head of the Indian judiciary from S A Bobde on April 24, 2021, is scheduled to demit office on August 26 after a tenure of over 16 months. Justice Lalit, who would be appointed head of the judiciary on August 27, will have a tenure of less than three months as the chief justice of India. He retires on November 8 this year. Justice Ramana, who is set to demit office on August 26 on superannuation, had received a communication from the Minister of Law and Justice to nominate his successor on Wednesday. On Wednesday, a communication from the apex court said, "Today (03.08.2022) at 2130 hrs, the Secretariat of the Chief Justice of India has received a communication dated 03.08.2022 from the Minister of Law and Justice requesting the CJI to recommend the name of his successor." According to the Memorandum of Procedure, the Law Minister seeks a recommendation from the outgoing CJI to nominate his successor. Usually, the recommendation is sought within a month of the retirement of the incumbent Chief Justice of India.



Guwahati- Governor administrative oath Vice Chancellor

## Bulldozer demolishes madrassa run by terror accused in Assam

Guwahati, August 04 : A madrassa linked to a terror accused was demolished in Moirabari's Morigaon area of Assam on Thursday. Jamiul Huda madrassa was run by Mufti Mustafa, who was recently arrested for his links with Bangladesh-based terror outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team & AQIS. The development was confirmed by Aparna N, superintendent of police of Morigaon district. In Morigaon today, Jamiul Huda madrassa was demolished under Disaster Management Act & UAPA Act. 43 students were studying in this madrassa, admitted to different schools now. Mustafa alias Mufti Mustafa obtained a doctorate in Islamic Law from Bhopal in 2017, says Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. SP of Morigaon district of Assam, Aparna N. Says Mustafa alias Mufti Mustafa, who was recently arrested for links to Bangladesh-based terror outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team and AQIS, demolished Jamiul Huda Madrassa in Moirabari area run by him. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that Jamiul Hooda Madrassa was demolished in Morigaon today under Disaster Management Act and UAPA Act. 43 students were studying in this madrassa, now they are enrolled in different schools. Mustafa alias Mufti Mustafa received his doctorate in Islamic law from Bhopal in 2017. Recently, taking a big action, Assam Police arrested 12 people from 4 districts. Those who have links with the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda. SP Aparna N had told that we got information about a person named Mustafa, who runs a madrassa in Moriyabari where anti-national activities take place. He is linked to the financing of the Ansarullah Bangla team belonging to al-Qaeda in the sub-continent. A case has been registered under various sections of UAPA. Let us tell you that Mustafa alias Mufti Mustafa and Abbas Ali were arrested from Morigaon and Goalpara. Mustafa used to run a seminary, which has been demolished and is linked to the financing of al-Qaeda-related ABT in the sub-continent, while Abbas provides logistics and shelter to one of the absconding members of the ABT.

## UTA Demands Correct NRC For State

Guwahati, August 04 : The United Trust of Assam (UTA), while expressing serious



concerns over the sensational allegations, floated in regards to the process of National Register of Citizens (NRC) updation in Assam, demanded a high level probe into the irregularities, through which it is assumed that a huge number of illegal migrants enrolled their names in the draft-list of Indian citizens. Holding a protest demonstration in the city the civil society group also expressed dismay as two valid complaints, lodged by the immediate past NRC state coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma against his predecessor Prateek Hajela, have not yet been registered. The participants in the demonstration urged the Union government to identify all migrants in the state with the cut-off year of 1951 as it is applicable across the country. "We demand a correct NRC without a single name of illegal migrants for the sake of the future of indigenous Assamese populace. Moreover, we want a fair probe into all allegations including money laundering during the NRC updation process, as the government had to spend a large volume of tax-payers' money (around Rs 1600 crore) for the exercise under the supervision of the Supreme Court," said UTA president Dwijen Barthakur in a statement. It may be mentioned that the Accountant General of Assam in a provisional audit report observed that the difference of margin ranged from 45.59 to 64.27 % was exorbitant and the audit assessed that undue benefit of Rupees 155.83 crore was allowed to the system integrator (Wipro Limited) even after allowing it a 10 % reasonable profit margin. Dev Sarma in his complaint asserted that the huge amount of money indicates the issue of money laundering in the four-year long process. Even the updation process ignored the minimum wages act, as nearly 7000 data-entry-operators were paid less than the prescribed monthly wages. The operators were paid only Rs 5,500 (to 9,100) each per month, whereas Wipro received Rs 14,500 (to 17,500) accordingly from the NRC authority during 2015 to 2019. It may emerge as a disturbing matter for any law-abiding Indian national, as the operators were denied their legal dues in a process that was supervised by none other than the country's apex court. The day-long protest program was also joined by a number of distinguished personalities including Siva Prasad Sharma, Gini Roy, Jyotirmoy Bhuyan, Bidyadhar Deka, Mainamoy Baishya, Manorama Bora, etc. They also unanimously resolved to organize a series of public awareness programs across Assam to create public opinions over the NRC issue so that the government does the needful to safeguard the interest of Assamese people.



## AJYCP submits memo at Biswanath

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 4: The Biswanath district committee of AJYCP (Assam Jatiyat Abadi Yuba Chatra Parishad) had submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner of Biswanath to make stamp papers available in Biswanath district immediately. Acute shortage of stamp papers has hit the official and judicial works of Biswanath Sadar court for a couple of months. A delegation of AJYCP Biswanath district committee had submitted a memorandum and made an appeal to look into the issue of stamp paper shortage and to solve it. It was attended by Nasir Ahmed, central member of AJYCP, Diganta Barua, secretary of Biswanath district AJYCP, Nihar Saikia along with others.

## Drug dealer arrested in Laharighat

Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, August 3: Police arrested Ahia Rahman, a drug dealer, along with a suspected drug container, a mobile phone and Rs 3,500 in cash from Tengaguri Kacharigaon in Laharighat police last night. Khairul Islam Bhuragaon Morigaon

## District admin. sealed Jamiut-ul-Huda Madrassa



Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, August 4: The administration of Morigaon district sealed Jamiut-ul-Huda Madrassa on July 28 and the house of the principal of the madrassa, Mustafa Ahmed, was also evicted by bulldozers in the morning. The madrassa was established in 2018. Khairul Islam Bhuragaon Morigaon

## Azerbaijan says Armenia attacked positions near Karabakh

Karabakh, August 04 : Armenian forces have attacked Azerbaijani positions near the Karabakh region, which the two neighbors have been fighting over intermittently for 30 years, Azerbaijan's official news agency said on Sunday. "Starting from the evening of July 30 and during the night of July 31, the Armenian Armed Forces units using small arms subjected to intensive fire the Azerbaijan Army positions stationed in direction of Gadabay and Kalbajar districts of the state border," Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC. Separately, Armenia's defence ministry denied the charge, the Interfax news agency said. Relations between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military illegally occupied Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. Clashes erupted on Sept. 27, 2020, with the Armenian Army attacking civilians and Azerbaijani forces and violating several humanitarian cease-fire agreements. During the 44-day conflict, Azerbaijan liberated several cities and around 300 settlements and villages that had been occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years. The fighting ended with a Russian-brokered agreement on Nov. 10, 2020, which was seen as a victory for Azerbaijan and a defeat for Armenia. In January 2021, the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a pact to develop economic ties and infrastructure to benefit the entire region. It also included the establishment of a trilateral working group in Karabakh. After the conflict ended, Azerbaijan launched a massive reconstruction initiative in the liberated Karabakh region. Most recently, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia met in the Georgian capital Tbilisi for their first one-on-one talks since the war. They were expected to build on an agreement that Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan reached under European Union mediation in May to "advance discussions" on a future peace treaty. The two leaders met in Brussels in April and May, and European Council President Charles Michel has said their next meeting is scheduled for July or August. Following his invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, an increasingly isolated Moscow lost its status as the primary mediator in the conflict. The EU has since led the Azerbaijan-Armenia normalization process, which involves peace talks, border delimitation and the reopening of transport



Guwahati- Four key MoU's with Walmart, Flipkart and HCL signed





## WSL clubs see ticket demand surge after Lionesses' Euro 2022 win

**London, August 04** : The impact of England's Euro 2022 success was underlined on Wednesday when Women's Super League clubs reported significant increases in interest from fans. Brighton said they had sold more season tickets since Saturday - the day before the final at Wembley - than in the whole of last season and there was a similar picture elsewhere. The season starts on 9 September. Nine WSL clubs told the Guardian that sales of match and season tickets were up on last season or that they had experienced a surge in interest. The other three did not offer figures on a day when it was announced that the Lionesses' October friendly against USA at Wembley had sold out in 24 hours. Brighton, Chelsea, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester City, Tottenham and West Ham reported sizeable increases in season-ticket sales. Promoted Liverpool said they

had experienced a 254% increase and City, for whom who England's Wembley match-winner Chloe Kelly plays, said their figure had effectively doubled and was at a record level. Tottenham said they, too, had sold an unprecedented number of season tickets and West Ham reported their figure was up 20% on this time last year. Leicester's figure is up 22% on last season's total after sales opened on Wednesday last week, with a 228% increase in purchases on Sunday and Monday. Arsenal said that on Sunday and Monday they had sold 7,000 tickets for the home game against Spurs at the Emirates Stadium in September, and that more than 10,000 seats had now been bought. Reading were encouraged by their figures too and hope to match their record attendance last season of 1,500 in their opening match. Three Women's Championship clubs also reported record-breaking

season-ticket sales in the past few days: Durham, London City Lionesses and Sheffield United, whose home ground Bramall Lane hosted England's semi-final. Lewes expect to exceed their total for last season. The former England manager Hope Powell praised her club, Brighton, for staging their first two WSL games at the Amex Stadium, where the Lionesses defeated Norway 8-0 and secured a dramatic 2-1 quarter-final win against Spain. "We played three games there last season, which was brilliant," Powell said. "Playing our first two home games there, certainly after we hosted a couple of European Championship games, shows the commitment Brighton have to women's football." Women's sport more broadly is feeling a boost, with rugby union ticket sales soaring for England's September women's internationals against USA and Wales.

## James Vince guides Southern Brave to perfect start in Hundred defence

**London, August 04** : The fireworks very much happened before play started as the second season of the Hundred got under way with a deeply one-sided win for the inaugural champions, Southern Brave, who cantered over the line with 30 balls to spare to win by nine wickets. Welsh Fire mustered barely a spark throughout as they lost first the toss, then a succession of wickets and finally, inevitably, the match. The Brave captain James Vince turned his side's run chase, never the most daunting, into a gentle procession with an unbeaten innings of 71, the only thing stopping his evening from flirting with perfection coming when he was denied the chance of scoring the winning runs by Jake Ball, with the scores level, bowling a no ball. "The bowlers did a fantastic job and from there the gameplan

was fairly simple," he said. "The only way we would let them back into the game was to lose early wickets so there wasn't a huge amount of scoreboard pressure. Our new-ball bowlers bowled really well, we took early wickets and stayed in control." Those extras brought an imperfect end to what, for all the excellence of the home side's performance, was in many respects an imperfect opening game. For a start it was a little light on household names, thanks to Jonny Bairstow's announcement



ets and stayed in control." Those extras brought an imperfect end to what, for all the excellence of the home side's performance, was in many respects an imperfect opening game. For a start it was a little light on household names, thanks to Jonny Bairstow's announcement

on the eve of the tournament that he would prefer to rest than to play for Fire, and South Africa's T20 against Ireland in Bristol taking out a key player from each team. There will be better matches, greater drama, infinitely more tension on other occasions but the youthful stream of fans heading into the Ageas Bowl on a gorgeous summer's evening, with the sun straining to break through a rippled, hazy layer of cloud before finally succeeding, with a timing few players would match, just before the start of play, was in itself a convincing counter-argument to this tournament's many sceptics. Some of the novelties designed to attract the school-holiday crowd turned out not to be overwhelming successes. This game, for

example, started a few minutes late because of the amount of coloured smoke generated by the pre-match fireworks, which briefly settled like a thick, pastel-coloured fog across the ground. When the players eventually came out it seemed the fog had not so much cleared as simply shifted from the field into the heads of the visiting side. The innings started badly, with Joe Clarke out to the fourth ball without a run on the board, chipping meekly to Marcus Stoinis at cover, and never recovered. They eventually became so frantic that at one point Ben Duckett and Josh Cobb made such a hapless attempt to run a single that it ended with the bails off at both ends, both batters on the ground, Chris Jordan appealing to both umpires, a rare double video review and Cobb heading back to the bench.

## NFL to appeal Cleveland Browns star Deshaun Watson's six-game suspension

**London, August 04** : The NFL is appealing a disciplinary officer's decision to suspend Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson for six games for violating the league's personal conduct policy, giving commissioner Roger Goodell or someone he designates authority to impose a stiffer penalty. Former federal judge Sue L. Robinson issued her ruling Monday after Watson was accused by two dozen women in Texas of sexual misconduct during massage treatments while he played for the Houston Texans. In her 16-page report, Robinson described Watson's behavior as "more egregious than any before reviewed by the NFL." Robinson's punishment in her first case since being jointly appointed by the league and NFL Players Association fell well short of the indefinite suspension

of at least one year sought by the league. So, the NFL on Wednesday exercised its right to appeal, per the collective bargaining agreement. The players' union has until the end of business Friday to respond in writing. The union could challenge the appeal ruling in federal court, setting the stage for a prolonged fight. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said there's no timeline for Goodell or his designee to make a ruling. According to the league's personal conduct policy, the appeal will be processed on an expedited basis. Also, it will be "limited to consideration of the terms of discipline imposed" and "based upon a review of the existing record without reference to evidence or testimony not previously considered". The policy also states the "decision of the Commissioner or his designee, which may overturn, reduce, modify or increase the discipline previously issued, will be final and binding on all parties." This is the first time since the new CBA was signed in 2020 that the league and the NFLPA turned to a jointly appointed disciplinary officer to determine violations of the personal conduct



policy. In the past, Goodell has served as judge and jury to impose penalties on players. By appealing, the NFL is giving that power back to Goodell, who can choose another person to levy any punishment. A league official told the Associated Press before Watson's three-day disciplinary hearing concluded in June that the NFL wanted to avoid an appeal. But the league proceeded with one amid a backlash from some fans and intense public pressure in the media. Other factors include Watson's lack of remorse, which Robinson noted in her report. The NFL argued for an unprecedented punishment and wanted to fine Watson at least \$5m, a person familiar with the discussions told the AP on condi-

tion of anonymity because the hearing was private. Watson, who played four seasons with the Texans before sitting out last season and then being traded to Cleveland in March, recently settled 23 of 24 lawsuits filed by the women who alleged sexual harassment or assault during massage treatments in 2020 and 2021. Two grand juries in Texas declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints brought by 10 of the women. Robinson concluded that Watson violated three provisions of the personal conduct policy: sexual assault; conduct posing a genuine danger to the safety and well-being of another person; and conduct that undermines or puts at risk the integrity of the NFL. She declined to suspend Watson for a full year based on precedents and the league's current policy. But Robinson concluded a longer suspension could be justified if it was already outlined in the personal conduct policy. "While it may be entirely appropriate to more severely discipline players for non-violent sexual conduct, I do not believe it is appropriate to do so without notice of the extraordinary change this position portends for the NFL and its players," Robinson wrote in her report.

## Chelsea's Koulibaly on realising his Premier League dream

**Paris, August 04** : Throughout his career Kalidou Koulibaly has had to learn to be patient. Rejected by Metz at 15 for being "too introverted", in the words of the club's academy head Denis Schaeffer, the towering defender who grew up in northeastern France to Senegalese parents spent two years playing amateur football for Saint-Dié before finally being invited back to Metz. More than a decade on and having arrived at Chelsea last month for £33.8m after eight years with Napoli where he established himself as one of the world's best defenders, Koulibaly certainly couldn't be

accused of being an introvert these days. Fluent in four languages after picking up English during his spell at Genk in Belgium, the 31-year-old insists he "never stopped believing" he could fulfil his childhood dream of playing in the Premier League and makes no secret of the fact his move to Stamford Bridge has

been several years in the making after Antonio Conte first tried to sign him in 2015. "I spoke with Conte in Rome - he wanted me after my first good year in Napoli," Koulibaly recalls. "I asked respectfully to the owner that I wanted to leave for Chelsea but he told me that it wouldn't be possible."

## World Triathlon allow transgender women to keep competing in female category

**London, August 04** : World Triathlon has voted to allow transgender women to keep competing in the female category, in a ruling which goes notably against recent decisions from the governing bodies of swimming and rugby league. However, under World Triathlon's new rules, trans women will face greater restrictions before gaining approval to compete internationally - including having to lower their testosterone levels for two years rather than one, as is the case now. They must also now wait for at least four years after transitioning if they have previously competed as a male in any sporting competition rather than one. World Triathlon, which is closely linked with the International Olympic Committee, said in a statement that its new policy aimed to balance inclusion with fairness. However, it is likely to face strong opposition from campaign groups for women's sport, who have pointed to the science that overwhelming shows that transgender women retain significant advantages in speed, strength, lung capacity

and endurance even after testosterone is reduced. World Triathlon's new policy, which will be introduced next month, states: "To compete in the female category in an elite or age-group triathlon competition, a transgender athlete must demonstrate that the concentration of testosterone in the athlete's serum has been less than 2.5 nmol/L continuously for a period of at least 24 months. Also, at least 48 months must have elapsed since the transgender athlete has competed as a male in any sporting competition." The new rules only apply to international competition, with British Triathlon taking a very different stance in its policy for domestic racing. Under its new rules, transgender athletes over the age of 12 will have to compete in an open category from January next year, which is for "all individuals including male, transgender and those non-binary who were male sex at birth". In a statement, World Triathlon said its new policy was approved by the majority of the executive board, although its vice-president, Ian Howard, and president of the



athletes' committee, Tamas Toth, voted against. "We are a small International Federation, but one that has always had inclusion and gender balance in our DNA," the World Triathlon president and IOC member, Marisol Casado, said. "The policy that we

have just approved shows that we are prioritising the fairness principle but showing inclusiveness. It is fully aligned with the IOC's recommendation, and similar to what other international federations have done in the last months."

## Red Roses ride Lionesses' wave with ticket sales spike for next two matches

**London, August 04** : Rugby union ticket sales have soared for England's two September women's internationals after the Lionesses' triumphant Euro 2022 campaign. The Red Roses face the United States at Sandy Park, Exeter on 3 September, an echo of the European champions' fixture at Wembley against the USA in October which has seen its own huge spike in demand for tickets. That is before they tackle Wales at Ashton Gate in Bristol 11 days later. They are England's final two games before they embark on their World Cup campaign in New Zealand during October and November. The Lionesses were crowned European champions after beating Germany 2-1 following extra time at Wembley on Sunday, watched by a crowd of more than 87,000.

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# The game of Kho Kho is set to enter a new era

The much-awaited opening season of the Ultimate Kho Kho will roll out on Sunday, August 14 in Pune, where six teams will engage in gripping action that will culminate with the title clash on September 4. India's first-ever franchise-based professional Kho-Kho league will host its matches at the sprawling Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune. The inaugural season will witness six teams in the shape and form of Chennai Quick Guns (KLO Sports), Gujarat Giants (Adani Sportslines), Mumbai Khiladis (Badshah & Punit Balan), Odisha Juggernauts (Government of Odisha), Rajasthan Warriors (Capri Global) and Telugu Yoddhas (GMR Sports) competing for the inaugural season over 21 days. Promoted by Mr. Amit Burman, Chairman Dabur India, in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), the league aims to revolutionize this indigenous sport with a modern twist both on-air & on-ground. Ultimate Kho Kho CEO, Mr. Tenzing Niyogi said, "We would like to thank all our Six Team Owners and Sony Sports Network, who have shown their support and faith in our vision as Ultimate Kho Kho. Our objective has always been to transform Kho Kho and bring forth the new avatar in front of the masses of India to make our country a multisport nation".

A total of 34 matches will be played with two matches per day in Season 1, during the league stage. The knockout matches will be played in an exciting playoff format which will consist of a qualifier and eliminator matches. The Live broadcast will begin at 7:00 pm (IST) and continue until 10:00 pm (IST) on each match day. The revamped format of Ultimate Kho Kho promises to be an exciting and engaging game for not only the Kho Kho players but also sports enthusiasts and viewers. India's leading sports broadcasting network, Sony Sports Network will take the LIVE nail-biting action of Ultimate Kho Kho to the living rooms of the viewers and fans as the official broadcasters for the league. Ultimate Kho Kho will be LIVE on Hindi (SonyTEN 3), English (SonyTEN 1), Tamil, and Telugu (SonyTEN 4) and be available on SonyLIV.

The game of Kho Kho is set to enter a new era as a total of India's 143 best players were hand-picked by six franchises. India's first-ever franchise-based Kho-Kho league, promoted by Chairman of Dabur India, Amit Burman in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India. A total of 240 registered players, from 28 states and union territories were part of the draft process. They were divided into four categories, A, B, C and D, according to their performances in international matches, the recent National Championships and evaluation conducted by the league.

The 77-top players from Category A, offered Rs 5 lakh and the South Asian Games gold medalist Pratik Waikar, Andhra Pradesh's Pothireddy Sivareddy, Tamil Nadu's M Vignesh and Karantaka's Gowtham MK were among the 20 players who were handpicked by the franchises. While Waikar and defender Gowtham were picked by Telugu Yoddhas and Odisha Juggernauts respectively as their first



pick, Chennai Quick Guns added local boy Vignesh to their squad. The 26-year-old all-rounder and one of the best pole divers in the country, Sivareddy will represent the Gujarat side. A viewer-friendly revamped format is expected to bring about a transformation in how this indigenous sport is perceived in the country.

"Finally, the Ultimate Kho Kho drafts are over and it was a well-rounded draft which comprises players across the country. We are really happy and proud to see this first step in the progression of creating Ultimate Kho Kho as a mega league in the Indian sporting ecosystem. Now that the franchises will get to work with the players' camp and the coaching camp till August 1, our endeavor at Ultimate Kho Kho will be to market the game and make this league a grand suc-

cess," Ultimate Kho Kho CEO Tenzing Niyogi at the end of players draft.

It was Maharashtra's Mahesh Shinde, who became the first player

## ■ Kula Pradip Bhagawati

to be picked in the historic players draft. The 27-year-old defender was drafted by KLO Sports-owned Chennai Quick Guns. "We have a balanced squad of experienced and as well as youthful players so we are happy with it. Hopefully during training we will analyse their abilities based on that we will form a team. With the number of matches we will know how to form our team," said Chennai Quick Guns co-owner Srinath Chittoori.

"We had some strategies, we had some players we wanted to select. We had a plan A, B and plan C. Some players which were in our plan A were already picked by other teams but obviously because we have multiple plans

and we knew the right strategy. I think a good squad of 24 people for Mumbai Khiladis is ready. I feel it is a very balanced team. The approach is very clear, Mumbai Khiladis and their punchline is 'Khel Khila Denge', so we know we'll tell our Khiladis to play their best and go and top the ladder," said Punit Balan, co-owner of the Mumbai team.

Chennai Quick Guns, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis, Odisha Juggernauts, Rajasthan Warriors, Telugu Yoddhas did their best to pick strong squads as they will fight for the title in the Season 1. "Being the first season we have relied on the coaches input and who have gone ahead and suggested names. So we have taken a lot of players from the senior category

which is A and B, then have blended them with a lot of youngsters in C and D. So we hope that with the experience and the youth which gives the bigger speed we will be able to do well in the first season," said Colonel Vinod Bisht, CEO GMR League Games, who owns

Telugu Yoddhas.

"As far as we are concerned from the Rajasthan Warrior side, I think we had a very satisfying draft. We are I think quite sure that we will be able to come up with a very successful team and very mature team in the season to come. I think we will give a very tough fight to whoever it is and of course, it depends on how we manage the team which I ensure we will do very well," Ajit Sharan, Director Capri Global who owns Rajasthan Warriors.

"Ultimate Kho Kho is a very good opportunity for our Odisha Kho-Kho team. We have been doing very well in junior levels and as the Odisha government has owned a franchise now it's an opportunity for us to contribute towards the growth of this game. I think our team is better than all other teams because we have chosen very good players and mostly we got around 80% of our listed players," said Lilan Prasad Sahu, OSD, Dept of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt of Odisha.

"We are excited to contribute to this game-changing experience through our franchise at UKK League. UKK will bring forth our indigenous sport in a new avatar, and we look forward to being a part of yet another journey of mud to mat. The right team selection is integral to the success of a franchise

and a lot depends upon the sequence of the draft. But thanks to our coaches to have aptly strategized and selected the desired talent from a pool of 240 players," said Satyam Trivedi, Adani Sportslines which owns Gujarat Giants.

## SQUAD DETAILS

Chennai Quick Guns: Mahesh Shinde, Rajvardhan Patil, M Vignesh, Ramji Kashyap, Patta Narsaya, S Santhru, Sabin M, Amit Patil, Manoj Patil, Daasari Rao, V Kabilan, Madan, P Jai Prasath, P Anand Kumar, buchannagari Raju, Vijay Vegad, Sachin Gaur, Pritam Chougule, Balvir Singh, Katla Mohan, Venigopal S, Neelakantam Suresh, Jaswant Singh, Vignesh M. Telugu Yoddhas: Pratik Waikar, Rohan Shingade, Sudarshan, Arun S A, Arun Gunki, Deepak Madhav, Avdhut Patil, Prajwal KH, Prajwal KH, Adarsh Mohite, Prasad Rade, Subramani Y, Anukul Sarkar, Gavara Venkatesh, Sadanand Meitei, P Hemachandran, Dhruv, Chanish C, Aditya Das, Rokeson Singh, Pitu Reddy and Bojjam Ranjith. Gujarat Giants: Ranjan Shetty, Pothreddy Shivareddy, Mareppa, Suyash Gargate, Sagar Potdar, T Jagannath Das, Rutishbhai Barde, Abhinandan Patil, Akshay Bhargare, Sagar Lengare, Monoj Sarkar, Dhiraj Bhawe, S Kaviraj Raj, Vinayak Pokarde, Govind Bhat, Chinmoy Nandi, Shubham Jambhale, S Sarathkumar, Ajaykumar Mandra, Aniket Pote, Nilesh patil, Saleem Khan, Debendra Nath and Praful Bhange.

Juggernauts Odisha: Gowtham MK, Dilip Khandavi, Vishal, Jagannatha Murmu, Aditya Kudale, Nilesh Jadhav, Suraj Lande, Dipesh More, Subhasis Santra, Mahesha P, Avinash Desai, Lipun Mukhi, Dinesh Naik S, Arjun Singh, Suresh Kumar, T Vinod Kumar, Shiv Kumar Sen, Milind Chavrekar, Manoj Ghotekar, Darshanapu Sathish, Gurjinder Singh, Swayam Satyaprakash and Mukesh Prajapat. Rajasthan Warriors: Abhijit Patil, Dilraj Singh Sengar, Sushant Hajare, Akshay Ganpule, H r u s h i k e s h Murchavade, Sourabh Adavkar, Suresh Sawant, Majahar Jamadar, Mohammad Taseen, Shailesh Sankapal, Govind Yadav, SK Murtha Ali, Bharat Pradhan, Nikhil B, Yalla Satish, Jithin B, K Dhananjay Singh, Atla Reddy, Tapan Pal, Mahesh M, Biswajit Das, Ashwani Ranjan, Mukesh Maurya and Bhuvneshwar Sahu. Mumbai Khiladis: Milind Kurpe, Rohan Kore, Visag S, Shreejesh S, Vijay Hazare, Faizalkhan Pathan, Abhishek Pathrode, Gajanan Shengul, Durvesh Salunke, Rajesh Kumar, Rohit Verma, Avik Singha, Sribin KP, Saurav Kandpal, Abhishek MS, Bichu SS, Rajat Malik, Rahul Sawant, Harish M o h a m m a d , Devendra Dagur, Gaurav, Srijin J and Ummer Rather.

## Morigaon Dist. open Chess Tournament starts from August 6

Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, August 4: The Morigaon District Open Chess Tournament will be held on August 6 and 7. The competition is organized by Morigaon Higher and Multipurpose School. For more information, please contact 8761021553. The 45th All Assam Chess Championship will be held in the city of New Delhi on Wednesday. Three chefs from Morigaon have received international ratings, bringing good news to the district. The three contestants who have been ranked in the recently announced FEED ratings are Kaushik Barua (1302), Ripun Sarkar (1131), and Ishan Pratim Deka (1030) respectively. The chess players are congratulated by the Morigaon District Chess Association.

## Heather Knight out of Commonwealth Games and Hundred due to hip injury

London, August 04 : Heather Knight has been ruled out of the rest of the Commonwealth Games and the England captain will also miss the Hundred this season because of a lingering hip problem. Knight sustained the injury during the Twenty20 opener in England's multiformat series against South Africa a couple of weeks ago and had an injection before the Games to try to soothe the troubled area. However, an England and Wales Cricket Board spokesperson has confirmed the problem has "failed to settle down as expected" and Knight is now facing an extended period out of action.

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Sarusajal Sports Complex  
SAI, Paltan Bazar

17<sup>th</sup> Aug-4<sup>th</sup> Sept | Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium  
Odisha FC | NorthEast United FC  
Kerala Blasters FC | Sudeva Delhi FC | Army Green FT

**INDIRA GANDHI ATHLETIC STADIUM**

**17<sup>th</sup> AUG, WED, 5:30PM**  
ODISHA FC VS NORTHEAST UNITED FC

**19<sup>th</sup> AUG, FRI, 6PM**  
SUDEVA DELHI FC VS KERALA BLASTERS FC

**21<sup>st</sup> AUG, SUN, 3PM**  
NORTHEAST UNITED FC VS ARMY GREEN FT

**23<sup>rd</sup> AUG, TUE, 3PM**  
ODISHA FC VS KERALA BLASTERS FC

**25<sup>th</sup> AUG, THU, 3PM**  
ARMY GREEN FT VS SUDEVA DELHI FC

**27<sup>th</sup> AUG, SAT, 6PM**  
NORTHEAST UNITED FC VS KERALA BLASTERS FC

**29<sup>th</sup> AUG, MON, 6PM**  
ODISHA FC VS SUDEVA DELHI FC

**31<sup>st</sup> AUG, WED, 3PM**  
KERALA BLASTERS FC VS ARMY GREEN FT

**2<sup>nd</sup> SEP, FRI, 3PM**  
NORTHEAST UNITED FC VS SUDEVA DELHI FC

**4<sup>th</sup> SEP, SUN, 6PM**  
ARMY GREEN FT VS ODISHA FC

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