



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Strikes at Ukrainian nuclear plant 'alarming'...

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Ten Hag's first task is to sort out United's biggest mistake...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police official arrested

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 07:

A team of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption department, Assam on Sunday arrested a police personnel for allegedly accepting bribe. The accused identified as Sabin Pal Das is the Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Matiya Police Station in Goalpara district. Taking to twitter in regard to this case, Special DGP Law and Order, GP Singh tweeted, "We don't spare even our @assampolice personnel. Today, @DIR_VAC_ASSAM trapped and arrested red handed, Sri Sabin Pal Das, ASI of Matiya Police Station of @goalparapolice within police station Complex while accepting bribe money. Lawful action being taken." Further action has been initiated against the police personnel.

Ganja seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 07:

Assam Police on Saturday arrested one person and seized 92.550 kgs of ganja from his possession in Bajali District. The joint operation was carried out by Bajali and Nalbari Police. Police after getting a tip from sources conducted a search operation in a shop. The accused, identified as Koilash Das, was apprehended in Mahtali Gaon in Bajali. In regard to the seizure, Assam Police tweeted, "Bajali & Nalbari police conducted joint operation at Mahtali Gaon in Bajali District. During search operation in the shop of Shri Koilash Das, the police team seized 92.550 kgs Ganja from his possession and arrested accordingly."

Assam BSF jawan

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 07:

Border Security Force (BSF) jawan hailing from Assam has reportedly died in Jammu and Kashmir. The jawan has been identified as Nitul Hazarika. He was a resident of Nosungi village of Jorhat's Titabor. He was found dead at a camp in Anantnag district. Nitul was deployed as a jawan in the F Company of the 108th Battalion of the BSF. Earlier, BSF authorities of informed the family members of Nitul that he had shot himself by his service rifle. However, Nitul's family members denied all charges and alleged that there is conspiracy behind his death.

320 Fresh COVID-19 Cases In Assam, Positivity Rate at 5.49 %

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 07:

The state of Assam logged 320 fresh COVID-19 cases at a positivity rate of 5.49 per cent in the last 24

hours, a bulletin by the National Health Mission (NHM) informed. According to the bulletin, Kamrup

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New ISRO Rocket Suffers Data Loss. Ex-Chief Said

New Delhi, August 07:

Scientists and engineers at the Indian Space Research Organisation, or ISRO, are analysing whether its small-est rocket, SSLV-D1 - which experienced data loss in the final phase - was able to inject the two satellites onboard into a stable orbit. The preliminary finding on the status of the mission should be available in "few hours", Dr Madhavan Nair, ex-ISRO chief, told NDTV,



calling the mission a complex. "Thousands of pages of data will be pouring in.

Several specialists will have to go through these data. Apparently, everything

went well up to the third stage. There is some deviation in the path in the final

phase of the launch and that could be one reason or otherwise there could be some anomaly during separation," he said. The detailed finding will be available by a week, he said. "We have to really look for the next orbital cycle and see if other ground stations are able to capture. Then we will be able to reach a conclusion. It will take a few hours before we can get a preliminary finding, but a detailed finding will take a

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Jagdeep Dhankhar wins with highest margin since 1997

Key facts about India's 14th V-P

New Delhi, August 07:



National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and former West Bengal gover-

nor Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice-President of India on Saturday, sweeping away the vote bank and defeating joint opposition candidate Margaret Alva. Jagdeep Dhankhar received 528 votes while Margaret Alva got 182 votes. With securing 72.8% votes against his rival, Dhankhar's victory clearly signals the continued supremacy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP now holds all the

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Delhi Student Accused Of Raising Funds For ISIS, Family Says Charges False

New Delhi, August 07:

The family of a first-year engineering student, who was arrested from Southeast Delhi and accused of being an "active member" of ISIS by the country's anti-terrorism agency, have firmly denied the allegations. Mohsin Ahmad was a "radicalised" individual who collected funds for the global terror group and was sending the money from different

countries to Syria using cryptocurrency, the National Investigation Agency said on Sunday. Rubbishing the charges, his family said they will challenge the claims in court. They arrived in Delhi from Patna this morning. Mohsin has three sisters, and his father works in the railways. "If he was raising funds, he should have had lots of money. The day before yesterday, he messaged

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Jashn-e-Kupwara

Indian Army organises bicycle race in Jammu and Kashmir's Machhal

Kupwara, August 07:

The Indian Army organised a cycle race in Jammu and Kashmir's Machhal sector



on Sunday (August 7) to boost the energy of youth living in border districts. A total of 15 villages participated in the cycle race as

part of the two-day Jashn-e-Kupwara event organised by the Vajra Division. Jashn-e-Kupwara event is being held to promote sports and tourism in the Kupwara sector. The villagers of Chaki, TSunt, Ringpayen, Ringbala were elated at being offered

this once-in-a-lifetime adventure opportunity. The Indian Army facilitated the villagers with adventure equipment and gear to enable them to embark on the cycle race. The cyclist started their

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PM Modi's rakhi is on the way! His Pakistani sister wishes him for 2024 polls

New Delhi, August 07:

Ahead of the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pakistani sister Qamar Mohsin Shaikh sent the sacred thread-Rakhi and wished him for the 2024 general election. Speaking to ANI, Qamar said she has made

all preparations and expected to meet PM Modi this time. "I hope he (PM Modi) will call me Delhi this time. I have done all the preparations. I made this rakhi by myself by using a Reshmi ribbon with embroidery design," she added. She wrote a letter and prayed for his good health and long life. She also



wished him for the 2024 election. "I wrote a letter and prayed for long and healthy life. Keep doing good work like you are doing," she said. In the 2024 election, she said, "There is no doubt, he will be the PM again. He deserves this because he has those

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PM Modi at NITI Aayog meet

New Delhi, August 07:

A fruitful interaction was held during the NITI Aayog's seventh governing council meeting where chief minister and lieutenant governors presented the best practices from their states, said NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer. At the meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the importance of agriculture diversification and the need to be self-sufficient, especially in edible oils, the think-tanks Ramesh Chand



said at a post-meeting briefing. "We're meeting nearly half of our total demand for edible oil from

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Maharashtra Cabinet expansion soon Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis likely to get Home : Report

New Delhi, August 07:

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is likely to expand his cabinet before August 15 by inducting at least 15 ministers and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is expected to keep the crucial Home portfolio, sources said on Sunday. Top government sources said the



civic polls in the state, delayed due to the OBC reservation issue being heard by the Supreme Court, are likely to be held in October after getting a clarification from the apex court. Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in as chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June 30 after the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray due to a rebel-

lion in the Shiv Sena ranks. The duo have been functioning as a two-member cabinet since then, inviting criticism from opposition leaders, including NCP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. "Ajit Pawar is leader of the opposition. He will have to say such things.

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Fake Traffic Police Arrested In Assam's Sonitpur

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 07:

A fake traffic police was apprehended in Assam's Sonitpur on Saturday evening. According to reports, the accused, identified as Pankaj Hazarika, was levying fines on violators with



real on-duty police personnel. Police said that the

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Nitish Kumar's JD(U) not to be part of Narendra Modi-led Central government again: Party national president

New Delhi, August 07:

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) will not be a part of Union council of ministers again, a senior party leader said on Sunday (August 7). Following now ex-JD(U) leader RCP Singh's resignation, there is no representation of Nitish Kumar's party in the Narendra Modi-led Central government. JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan said in a press conference,



"We stick to our stand of 2019 when, after the Lok Sabha polls, we had de-

cided not to join the government at the Centre." "The decision not to join the Union government was taken by our leader Nitish Kumar who was then also the party's national president," Lalan Singh added. Hitting out at RCP Singh who quit JD(U) a day back, Singh said some people were trying to hurt the party. "JD(U) isn't a sinking ship, it's a sailing ship, some people are trying to damage it, Nitish Kumar

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Maharashtra Cabinet expansion soon Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis likely to get Home: Report

New Delhi, August 7 : Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is likely to expand his cabinet before August 15 by inducting at least 15 ministers and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is expected to keep the crucial Home portfolio, sources said on Sunday. Top government sources said the civic polls in the state, delayed due to the OBC reservation issue being heard by the Supreme Court, are likely to be held in October after getting a clarification from the apex court. Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in as chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June



30 after the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray due to a rebellion in the Shiv Sena ranks. The duo have been functioning as a two-member cabinet since then, inviting criticism from opposition leaders, including NCP leader and former Deputy Chief

Minister Ajit Pawar. "Ajit Pawar is leader of the opposition. He will have to say such things. Ajit dada conveniently forgets that when he was in the government there were just five ministers for the first 32 days," Fadnavis told reporters here on Sunday. The expansion of the Maharashtra cabinet will take place "before you can even imagine", Fadnavis told reporters in response to repeated questions on the induction of new ministers. Fadnavis said the BJP has embarked on a mission to improve its footprint in Maharashtra in the 2024 Lok Sabha

elections by identifying 16 parliamentary constituencies where opposition parties have had a consistent winning streak. He said these constituencies included those held by Shiv Sena leaders who have now joined the Shinde camp. "Since Shiv Sena and BJP will contest the Lok Sabha elections as a coalition, the BJP will work to ensure the victory of the sitting Lok Sabha members from these constituencies," Fadnavis said. He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been given the responsibility to coordinate efforts to better the BJP's performance in

Baramati, where the party had polled a good number of votes in the previous elections. Fadnavis said Sitharaman is likely to tour Baramati in September and travel programmes of other central BJP leaders and Union ministers tasked with responsibilities for Lok Sabha polls will be finalised soon. "In these 16 constituencies, the central BJP will concentrate its energies to better the party's performance," Fadnavis said. Baramati is currently represented by Supriya Sule, the daughter of NCP chief Sharad Pawar. The seat is considered a bastion of the Pawar family.



An Acemaker T-33 makes an aerial demonstration during the 2022 Abbotsford International Airshow in Abbotsford, Canada

Ashok Gehlot's rape laws remark sparks controversy, BJP seeks Congress's response

New Delhi, August 7 : Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot's remark, that death sentences for rape convicts have led to an increase in killings of those who are sexually assaulted, has triggered a huge row. The remarks have since garnered criticism from netizens as well as the Opposition BJP. The Congress leader made the remark on Friday during the protest by the Congress against price rise and hike in GST rates. In a video that has been shared by the Delhi Commission for Women's chief, Swati Jadhav, the Gehlot can be heard saying, "After the Nirbhaya incident, the convicts are now hanged to death. This has led to an increase in the killings of girls. The accused - after the sexual assault - kills the victim so that there is no witness. I have observed a countrywide trend that this is happening.... This is a dangerous trend. "Elucidating on his remark, Gehlot said, "The rapist feels that the victim will become a witness against the accused. In such a situation, the accused finds it right to kill the victim. The reports that are coming from all over the country show a very dangerous trend. The situation in the country is not good." With the remark stoking a controversy, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Shehzad



Poonawala on Sunday (August 7, 2022) questioned the silence of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and lashed out at Ashok Gehlot-led government in Rajasthan over rape law remarks. Poonawalla slammed the mindset of the Congress party and said it is suffering from "blame game" mentality. He said that Rajasthan CM was blaming the rape laws, which were made stringent after the Nirbhaya episode which took place under the UPA watch, instead of blaming the rapists. "In the past, Gehlot said that most of the rape cases filed by SC women are fake and even blamed rapes on rising unemployment and price rise. He also reminded about the statements of Shantilal Dhariwal, Minister in the Gehlot government, who said that Rajasthan was a 'Mardon Ka Pradesh' while justifying why Rajasthan had become number one in rapes

and women atrocities. He linked this to the rise in rapes in Rajasthan," Shehzad Poonawala said. The BJP spokesperson also wondered if the party was batting for weaker rape laws. He slammed Priyanka Vadra for remaining silent on this statement and questioned her on her continuous silence over a series of sexist and anti-women remarks made by Congress leaders. Attacking her for her politics on women's atrocities, he said that the slogan 'Ladki Hoon lad Sakte Hoon' had become 'Ladki hoon bach sakti hoon' in Rajasthan. Poonawalla further accused Congress of extending a hand of patronage to rioters and to rapists by recounting how the Karauli riots main accused was still not caught. "Over 2,000 rape cases of young girls take place in Rajasthan every year," he said.

Republican who voted to impeach Trump projected to win primary

Washington, August 7 : Dan Newhouse, one of the few Republican House members to vote in January in favor of the impeachment of Donald Trump, is poised to move forward to the general election in Washington state. Newhouse was one of 10 Republicans who voted in January to have Trump

impeached, even ahead of explosive revelations about the former president's support and endorsement of the January 6 riots just a year prior. This victory comes on the heels of another fellow Republican supporter of the impeachment, Peter Meijer, losing his votes in Michigan. Republican Loren Culp, who



has been backed by Trump in the election, was a close second to Newhouse in Washington's fourth congressional district, garnering the second highest number of Republican votes in four out of the eight counties. In some of the counties where Newhouse won, however, he received almost double the number of votes as Culp. Newhouse was up against six other Republican candidates, and will face Doug White, the district's only Democratic candidate, in November for the general election. Despite his victory, the journey has rarely been smooth for Newhouse. Following his vote for impeachment in January, six Republican leaders in his district demanded his resignation. He defended his position, claiming he "made a decision to vote based on my oath to support and defend the constitution". On 2 August, he had majority votes in three out of those six counties that had voted for his resignation.



People enjoy a weekend tour near the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, Türkiye

Gurugram rains! Waterlogging triggers traffic snarls

Gurugram, August 7 : Heavy rain lashed parts of Haryana's corporate city Gurugram on Sunday as several roads could be seen submerged in water. Waterlogging from many parts, including the prime city spots was reported bringing traffic in the city to a halt. Reportedly, rainwater entered houses in areas like Palam Vihar, Sheela Colony, Surat Nagar, Sector-14, Chakkarpur, Rajiv Nagar, Sanjay Gram and several other locations. Multiple city roads, Delhi-Jaipur Expressway were submerged in an average of 3-4 feet of water, reported IANS. "Heavy rains disrupted traffic movements in Gurugram. The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority and other departments are on the job to remove rainwater with the help of pumps and other

machines," a senior police official told. Video released by news agency ANI, shows severe waterlogging on the streets of Gurugram affecting pedestrian movement as



many commuters were seen struggling to pass by. The worst-hit areas were the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway (NH-48) service lane near Hero Honda Chowk, IFFCO Chowk, Jharsa Chowk, Sector-31, Narsinghpur, Sohna Road, Basai Chowk, Sohna Chowk, Sector 4-7-9, Hanuman Chowk, Atlas

Chowk, Artemis Road, Kanhai Chowk, Golf Course Road, Vatika Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Baghtawar Chowk, Atul Kataria Chowk, Kapashera border, Udyog



Vihar, Jobpura, Sadar Bazar, Mahavir Chowk, Dundahera near Medanta underpass and Jawala Mill. Despite the holiday, traffic was badly affected and the police struggled to keep the vehicles moving. The policemen were seen standing in knee-deep water while struggling to keep traffic going

Fire in Cuban oil depot leaves 121 injured and 17 firefighters missing

Havana, August 7 : Fire started by a lightning strike has engulfed an oil storage facility in the Cuban city of Matanzas, setting off explosions and injuring 121 people.



Seventeen firefighters were missing and one body had been found, Cuban authorities said. The blaze at the Matanzas supertanker base began during a thunderstorm on Friday night, the ministry of energy and mines tweeted. The government said later that it had asked for help

from international experts in "friendly countries" with experience in the oil sector. The official Cuban news agency said lightning hit one tank, starting a fire, and the



blaze later spread to a second tank. As military helicopters flew overhead dropping water on the blaze, a dense column of black smoke billowed from the facility and spread westward more than 100km (62 miles) toward Havana. Roberto de la Torre, head of fire operations in Matanzas,

said firefighters were spraying water on intact tanks trying to keep them cool in hopes of preventing the fire from spreading. Some of the injured were taken to Calixto García hospital in Havana, which has a prominent burn unit. The accident comes as Cuba struggles with fuel shortages. There was no immediate word on how much oil had burned or was in danger at the storage facility, which has eight giant tanks that hold oil used to fuel electricity-generating plants. "I was in the gym when I felt the first explosion. A column of smoke and terrible fire rose through the skies," resident Adiel Gonzalez told the Associated Press. "The city has a strong smell of sulphur." Authorities said about 800 people were evacuated from the Dubrocq neighbourhood

closest to the fire, while Gonzalez added that some people decided to leave the Versailles district, which is a little further from the tank farm. Many ambulances, police and fire engines were seen in the streets of Matanzas, a city with about 140,000 inhabitants on Matanzas Bay. The Cuban president, Miguel Díaz-Canel, travelled to the area of the fire early Saturday, officials said. Miguel Díaz-Canel thanked Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile for their offers of help. A support flight from Mexico arrived on Saturday night. Local meteorologist Elier Pila showed satellite images of the area with a dense plume of black smoke moving from the point of the fire westward and reaching east to Havana. "That plume can be close to 150km long," Pila wrote on his Twitter account.

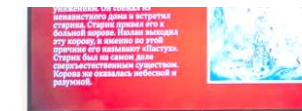
Strikes at Ukrainian nuclear plant 'alarming', says UN watchdog chief



Moscow, August 7 : The UN nuclear watchdog has called for an immediate end to all military action near Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant after it was hit by shelling, causing one of the reactors to shut down and creating a "very real risk of a nuclear disaster". Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said he was "extremely concerned" by reports of damage at the plant and called for IAEA experts to be allowed to inspect the damage. "I'm extremely concerned by the shelling yesterday at Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which underlines the very real risk of a nuclear disaster that could threaten public health and the environment in Ukraine and beyond," he said. The Ukrainian nuclear power company Energoatom said the attack had damaged a power cable and forced one of the reactors to stop working, and that "there are still risks of leaking hydrogen and radioactive substances, and the risk of fire is also high". The shelling "has caused a serious risk for the safe operation of the plant", Grossi said. "Military action jeopardising the safety and security of the nuclear power plant is completely unacceptable and must be avoided at all costs. Any military firepower directed at or from the facility would amount to playing with fire, with potentially catastrophic consequences." Kyiv accuses Russian troops of storing heavy weapons at the plant, which they seized in March and

Delhi LG suspends 11 officials for lapses in implementation of excise policy: Sources

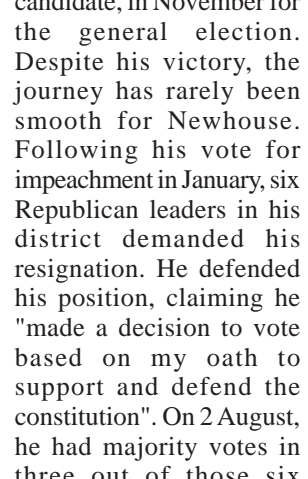
New Delhi, August 7 : Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has suspended 11 officials, including then Delhi excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna and deputy excise commissioner Anand Kumar Tiwari, over "serious lapses" in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22, sources said on Saturday. Three ad-hoc DANICS officers and six officials of the Delhi government's excise



Russian sinologist Ekaterana Salyuk gives a lecture on the Qixi Festival, or Chinese Valentine's Day, at the Pushkin Library in Vladivostok, Russia

department have also been suspended, the sources at the LG office said. The LG has taken the decision in view of the "serious lapses on the part of the officers concerned" in the implementation of the excise policy, including "irregularities in finalising the tender and extending post-tender benefits" to select vendors, they said. The action was taken by Saxena on the basis of an inquiry report filed

by the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV). A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry has already been recommended by the LG into the alleged violation of rules and procedural lapses in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22. Under the policy, implemented in November 17, 2021, private firms were issued retail licences for 849 liquor vends across the city divided into 32 zones.



District and laharighat education zone conclude Gunotsav of Char Chapari yesterday



Assam Rising
Bhuraogon, August 7: The Gunotsav of Char Chapari Primary School under Laharighat Education Zone of Morigaon district con-

cluded yesterday. The city's education department visited the char chapars yesterday to observe the Gunotsav. A team including District Education Officer

Boli Gogoi Bhuyan and Laharighat Education Sector Education Officer Abul Kasem inspected three schools in Kalai Char and Merhabhi Pitha Khaiti Char. The education department team expressed satisfaction with the 100 per cent attendance of students in the schools. The government will also request the government to establish upper primary and secondary level schools in the char chapars with the aim of reducing the quality of education and dropout rates.

92 kg ganja in Bajali: held 1

Assam Rising
Bajali, August 7: The Assam Police on Sunday seized 92.550 kg of ganja and also apprehended one person in this regard. As per reports, the nabbed person has been identified

as Koilash Das. A police team of Bajali and Nalbari district carried out a joint operation at Mahtali Gaon in Bajali based on a tip-off. The police team seized Ganja from Koilash Das's shop during the search op-

eration. On August 2nd, in a joint operation conducted by the Central Reserve Police Force and the Assam Police, narcotics worth Rs 15 crore were seized from Assam's Karbi Anglong district.

ASI caught red-handed during taking Bribe

Assam Rising
Goalpara, August 7: Sleuths of Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department apprehended a police officer for allegedly accepting bribes here on Sunday. The police officer was identified as Sabin Pal Das, ASI of Matiya police station in Assam's Goalpara district. He was caught red-handed

within the police station complex while accepting bribe money. Taking to the micro-blogging site Twitter, Assam special DGP GP Singh said, "We don't spare even our @assampolice personnel. Today, @DIR_VAC_ASSAM trapped & arrested red handed, Sri Sabin Pal Das, ASI of Matiya Police Station of @goalparapolice within

police station Complex while accepting bribe money. Lawful action being taken." Meanwhile, he is currently under police custody and further investigation is underway. In a similar incident, on Saturday, a registrar of Bhattadev University at Pathasala in the Bajali district was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe.

15 people hospitalized after suspected poisoning in Golaghat

Assam Rising
Golaghat, August 7: At least 15 people were admitted to a hospital in a case of food poisoning in Golaghat district of Assam on August 6. The incident took place at Selengi village in the Golaghat district. According to reports, the villagers were attending a religious function at the residence of one Deepak Phukan, where



they were served 'chiradoi' (flattened rice and yogurt) as 'prasad.' After several attendees had to be rushed to the Swahid Kunal Hospital in Golaghat, it was suspected that the yogurt was contaminated. A 10-year-old boy was also hospitalized, the report added. This incident has been reported merely a day after

at least nine children got sick due to suspected food poisoning at a school. The incident took place at No. 2 Bengenakhwa Primary School. According to reports, the children feel sick after having lunch at school.

Tipong Colliery of NEC reeling under heavy threat

The Assam Rising
Margherita, August 7: The North Eastern Coal fields (NEC) Coal India Ltd Margherita which has stopped its coal production in the year 2020 due to environmental issue and again this year NEC has started



coal production has started only at Tikak Colliery but unfortunately other 5 collieries such as Tirap, Tipong, Ledo, Bargolai and Namdang Colliery are non functional but unfortunately since 1 week at Tipong Colliery more than Rs 100 NEC iron, Brass, Aluminum

and precious metals has been stole by miscreants which employees and security guards are in terror as more than 500 thieves by using Max Pick up vehicle despatched the metals. On Sunday a team of Purvattar Khaadan Mazdoor Sangha

dent of Purvattar Khaadan Mazdoor Sangha affiliated to BMS said that it is unfortunate that NEC which is the only Maharatna Company set up Margherita is now reeling under heavy threat due to thieves now entering Tipong Colliery to steal precious metals openly which we suspect involvement of local youths which they supply to local scrap dealers. Kolkata is the head office of Coal India Ltd where through MSTC tender is done and than scraps can be taken from Collieries but unfortunately without the concern of NEC Coal India Ltd Margherita how thieves can steal precious metals openly which demand for heavy security forces at Tipong Colliery said Bharat Bhushan Borthakur. (With photos)

Shoot Jihadis 'wherever you find them': Ajmal

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 7: All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Badruddin Ajmal August 6 said that he has "no sympathy" for Jihadis and that the government should shoot them "wherever they find them." Amid Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's assertion that Madrassas in the state are being put under the scanner, the Dhubri Lok Sabha MP, talking to a news agency, said that if one or two bad teachers are found at the religious teaching schools, the government should impose detentions and pick them up

once inquiry completes to "do whatever they want." At the same time, Ajmal lamented, the whole Muslim community should not be tagged 'Jihadi' due to a few rotten apples here and there. "It is not jihad, it is terrorism", he added further, emphasizing on the need to use the politically correct term. He further advised that if the government wants to stop radicals, it should protect its borders and strengthen its intelligence. Ajmal made his comments amid an ongoing crackdown against suspected Jihadi elements in the State, where a Madrassa

teacher has been arrested on suspicion of indoctrinating children by showing them a selection of clips meant for radicalization. The Madrassa, located in Morigaon's Saharia village, has been demolished by the local administration. After a series of arrests, mostly in Barpeta and Morigaon districts, Ajmal, the lone AIUDF MP, and his party MLAs, have been dragged into a controversy by local BJP leaders. Pijush Hazarika, protégé of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his close confidante, recently opined that the lead-

ers of this minority-based party are "anti-national." Similar sentiments have also been publicly echoed by Bhabesh Kalita, president of the Assam BJP. In the aftermath of Mustafa Mufti's arrest, the state police are co-ordinating with central government agencies to crack down on a suspected module with alleged links to the Ansar Ul Bangla Team (ABT) operating out of Bangladesh. Special DGP (Law and Order) Gyanendra Pratap Singh, the ABT cadre operating in Barpeta has links to the modules in Bhopal and Tripura. With the emergence of such



nefarious elements in the state, attention has once again shifted to Madrassas, months after the government withdrew their funding. Only private Madrassas, like the one operated by Mufti Mustafa, are still functioning in Assam.

Three Examination Special Trains by N.F. Railway

To help aspirants appearing in RRB NTPC examination

Assam Rising
Maligaon, August 7: The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to operate three pairs of examination special trains for the help of candidates appearing for RRB NTPC examination. One special train will operate between Dibrugarh – Howrah – Dibrugarh, one between Agartala – Guwahati – Agartala and another between Silchar – Kolkata – Silchar for one trip each in both directions. Examination special train No. 05972 (Dibrugarh – Howrah), will depart from Dibrugarh at 19:25 hours on 08 th August, 2022 (Monday) to reach Howrah at 12:30 hours on 10 th August, 2022 (Wednesday). During return journey, special train no. 05971 (Howrah – Dibrugarh), will depart from Howrah at 14:35 hours on 12 th August, 2022 (Friday) to reach Dibrugarh at 05:45 hours on 14 th Au-

gust, 2022 (Sunday). This special train will consist of 20 coaches. There will be 15 Sleeper Class, 02 General Seating, 01 AC Three Tier, 01 Second Luggage, Guard & Divyaang Compartment and 01 Luggage, Brake Cum Generator Car. Another examination special train No. 05672 (Agartala – Guwahati), will depart from Agartala at 19:00 hours on 09 th August, 2022 (Tuesday) to reach Guwahati at 08:30 hours on 10 th August, 2022 (Wednesday). During return journey, special train no. 05671 (Guwahati – Agartala), will depart from Guwahati at 17:30 hours on 12 th August, 2022 (Friday) to reach Agartala at 08:30 hours on 13 th August, 2022 (Saturday). This special train will consist of 10 coaches. There will be 04 Sleeper Class, 04 General Seating and 02 Luggage cum Guard Van. One more examination



special train No. 05674 (Silchar – Kolkata), will depart from Silchar at 13:45 hours on 09 th August, 2022 (Tuesday) to reach Kolkata at 23:30 hours on 10 th August, 2022 (Wednesday). During return journey, special train no. 05673 (Kolkata – Silchar), will depart from

Kolkata at 23:30 hours on 12 th August, 2022 (Friday) to reach Silchar at 05:00 hours on 14 th August, 2022 (Sunday). This special train will consist of 20 coaches. There will be 05 AC Three Tier, 11 Sleeper Class, 02 General Seating and 02 Luggage cum Guard Van.

The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N.F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Guwal Puja celebrated in Lachan Chapari Gaon of Majuli.



Assam Rising
Majuli, August 7: The Guwal Puja was celebrated in Lachan Chapari village under

Luitparia Gaon Panchayat of Upper Majuli. Notably that, the people of the riverside Majuli celebrate Garakia Puja

every year for the welfare of cattle and cowherds. This year, about 500 cowherds celebrated Guwal Puja together.

Free Eye Check up and Cataract Treatment Camp Held

Assam Rising
Golaghat, August 7: Under the aegis of Lions Eye Hospital Jorhat and in association with Lions Club of Golaghat and its senior member Lion Akhil Kumar Nawka a free eye check up and cataract treatment camp was organized at Kamarbandha Balika LP School in Golaghat. Headmaster of the school Haren Saikia, SMC President Dharmakanta Tamuli, Lion Bhaskar Kakaty, doctors and other medical staff from Lions Eye Hospital, Jorhat were present in the camp. The camp was organized by Lion

Akhil Kumar Nawka in fond memory of his father Kamakhya Prasad Nawka. Free eye check up was offered to around two hundred people from the greater Kamarbandha area in which thirty number of patients were diagnosed with cataract. The cataract patients will be taken to Jorhat Lions Eye Hospital and after treatment they will be brought back to the place again where the camp was set up. And all these will be done free of cost. Headmaster Haren Saikia appreciated such noble work of the Lions Club.

Protest : villagers plant paddy seeds on muddy road

Assam Rising
Hailakandi, August 7: Registering a unique protest against the dilapidated road conditions in Assam, disgruntled villagers in Hailakandi district's Lala town have planted paddy seedlings on the stretch. The villagers alleged that the road, which is the link between Highway 6 and the major entrance of Lala town, has been neglected by the administration for more than ten years. With requests apparently falling on deaf ears, the locals have no other option but to show their discontent by planting saplings on the road. The villagers said the sub-divisional officers had been apprised of their perennial problem many times, but to no avail. The villagers now staged a protest demand-



ing construction work on the alleged road and lambasted their elected MLA, Jakir Hussain. "The roads in the area are bumpy and dotted with potholes. Bad road conditions are wreaking havoc among commuters, and accidents occur daily. If the concerned officials do not provide us with written

confirmation to build the road, we will ban political campaigning in our area," a local stated. Local chapters of the Kisan Mukti Sangram Samiti and Student Mukti Sangram Samiti, joining the protest, further warned that they would resort to agitation if steps were not taken to resolve their issue.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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The western attempt to interfere

A crucial event for the future of international peace and security - and global sanity - got under way at UN headquarters in New York last week, though, given the lack of political and media attention, you might be forgiven for not noticing. The review conference of the landmark 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT) involves 191 state party signatories. Few international agreements enjoy such near universal support. Nuclear-armed Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea are shameful hold-outs. Simply put, the NPT is about preventing nuclear war by encouraging disarmament, halting proliferation and promoting peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Up to now, at least, it's helped stop another nuclear catastrophe. "Another" is the operative word. The 77th anniversary of the first such catastrophe was commemorated on 6 August at Hiroshima, where an estimated 140,000 civilians died, or were condemned to an agonising death, on one day in 1945. To put that in perspective, roughly 10,000 civilians have died in Ukraine in just under six months. Western public opinion, lulled by the end of the cold war, seems to have lost sight of the immeasurable horror of atomic warfare. There are no Greenham Commons nowadays, even though new missile deployments proliferate. If recent events puncture that complacency, it won't be wholly bad. UN secretary-general António Guterres raised the alarm last week when opening the NPT conference. "Today, humanity is just one mis-understanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation," he warned. "We have been extraordinarily lucky so far. But luck is not a strategy. Nor is it a shield from geopolitical tensions boiling over into nuclear conflict." Russia illustrates Guterres's point in terrifying fashion. Having previously seized the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, in southern Ukraine, it is using it as a fortress from which to fire artillery with impunity. The UN nuclear watchdog says a disaster is in the making. Launching his invasion, Vladimir Putin placed Russia's nuclear forces on alert and issued a crude threat. Any western attempt to interfere, he said, "will lead to such consequences that you have never encountered in your history".

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

An Oxford college is about to link itself to a bikini airline. Now that's what I call classy

We are assured by officials at Oxford's Linacre College that heaps of due diligence mean it's fine for this proudly sustainable establishment to rename itself, in exchange for £155m, after a Russian-educated Vietnamese airline billionaire, Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao. The Department for Education is now similarly satisfied. But still, you can't help wondering: did anyone Google "bikini airline", as this donor's Vietjet is widely known, and somehow miss the contribution of girly calendars and mid-air burlesque to its fortunes? "We don't mind people associating the airline with the bikini image," Thao has said. "If that makes people happy, then we are happy." Supposing the college was also happy with bikini money, did its investigations extend to human rights abuses in Vietnam, where Thao chairs a company described (by the MP Julian Lewis) as "extremely close" to the government - and find this information compatible with Linacre's transformation into Thao College, the academic version of her personalised numberplate? If so, it's fabulous news for anyone with a spare £155m who has ever fancied being an Oxford college but concluded that some perceived association with abject sexism, political repression or contributions to the climate emergency might make investment in a Johnson peerage more straightforward. Oxford colleges, as Linacre defensively points out, have occasionally been renamed - though not, perhaps, after philanthropists who use degrading images of young women to boost their profits. Equally as illustrated by Linacre's sale, it would be a shame if recent disputes around people and objects with colonial associations were mistaken, by donors with enough money to soothe the cultural sacrifice, for an unshakeable attachment to tradition. Oxford's chancellor, Lord Patten, who recently condemned some students' removal of a royal portrait as "offensive and obnoxiously ignorant", has yet, it appears, to denounce the disposal of the Renaissance scholar Thomas Linacre - a contemporary of the original Faust - whose breadth

of learning the college still advertises as its model. The snub went down less well in Wigan, where Linacre was rector for four years from 1520. Nor does the disrespect to the Wigan man stop there. "The College will invite suggestions from the Benefactor in developing a new crest and finding suitable new College colours," says the part of the Thao agreement called "Promotion of the Gift". It adds: "The Benefactor may use the College name and crest for publicity purposes if agreed in advance." So, though it's too late for Hugh Hefner, there could hardly be a better time for, say, Hooters, which has met some

Catherine Bennett

resistance in the UK, to consider a renaming bid for, if not Balliol or Magdalen, certainly one of the younger colleges within this ever more broadminded university. Already Oxford's radical exercises in philanthropic acceptance - whereby its centres of learning can be named after, say, after a Trump-supporting private equity plutocrat or a chemicals company renowned for its pollution - must have given many an unloved asset-stripper ideas about a reputation refresh. But, as Linacre completes its reinvention as, essentially, Faust College, yet more implausible deals can never have looked so attainable. Assuming its approval by a privy council led by the Johnson loyalist Mark Spencer, Thao's agreement will shortly entitle her to deeper involvement in college life: "The Benefactor may, subject to the approval of the College, propose 'Thao' or other relatives [sic] name for buildings, facilities, scholarships or fellowships funded directly by the Donation or income derived from the Donation." In return, Vietjet's parent company, Sovico, promises to be net zero by 2050. The agreement notes: "The responsibility for creating and implementing the net zero plan remains exclusively with the Benefactor." The involvement of Sovico, a company engaged in fossil fuel extraction, was, next

After 75 years, the hidden memories of India's partition are rising up through Britain's generations

Two sisters handed me a piece of paper that was faded and yellow. On it were typewritten words from their father. He had died in the 1990s and his final request had been for his ashes to be divided up and scattered in three different places: the Punjabi village in modern-day Pakistan where he'd been born, the River Ganges at Haridwar in India, and by the Severn Bridge in England. These three places made up his life, from displacement to India from Pakistan during partition, and then his migration to Britain. He felt he belonged in each one of them, wanting some part of him to remain, in death as in life. Five years ago, I started collecting testimonies of the people in Britain who lived through the tumultuous events of partition. I quickly realised it was not a story from far away, but one that was all around us in Britain, with a continuing legacy. The division of British India along religious lines in 1947, into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan, resulted in the largest migration outside wartime and famine in human history. As people found themselves a minority in a new country, an estimated 10-12 million people moved across a new border, leaving homes that had been lived in for generations. About a million people were killed in communal violence. More than 75,000 women were raped, abducted and forced to convert to the "other" religion. So many families in Britain have a connection with partition, as those who migrated from the Indian subcontinent in the early postwar years were largely from places disrupted by it. They came to rebuild the country and their own lives. They arrived with those memories, which were rarely spoken out loud. But in 2017, during the 70th anniversary of partition, that silence began to break. I travelled across Britain and was told shattering stories. I met a man with a 70-year-old scar indelibly etched on his arm from a poisoned spear. I cannot forget the sound of anguish he made as he explained he was left for dead, and almost died, as a mob



entered his village. I listened as an elderly man sounded almost childlike as he described the horrors of waking up on a train platform full of dead bodies. A woman talked of overhearing her uncles planning to kill all the girls in her family to save them from dishonour, such was the fear of sexual violence. Her grandmother talked them down. So many stories like these had largely been hidden for decades, by people who live among us, and who still have nightmares from that time. And we never knew. But the partition generation told other stories too, that they want remembered. Of a people who lived side by side for generations - Muslim, Sikh, Hindu - with languages, food and culture in common. There were deep friendships; they would share each other's sorrow and joy, irrespective of religion. One man told me how a Muslim woman from his village breastfed his Sikh cousins after their mother died. What could be more intimate? There were accounts, too, of friends and strangers transcending hate to save those of the "other" religion. One man told me that on the day a Muslim mob killed his father, his Muslim neighbour saved his sister and 30 other Sikh girls by sheltering them in his home. Now, that generation wonder out loud if they will ever visit their ancestral home before they die. Will they ever see the childhood best

friend they never had time to say goodbye to? Does a favourite tree they climbed up still stand? What I never imagined when I embarked on these interviews was that the legacy of partition in the UK could be so varied and complex. Trauma and fear can be passed down, even in silence. But so too can that last-

ing tie to the land that was left, even if no one returned. Sometimes that attachment is tangible. I have seen descendants who keep earth in a jar from Bangladesh on their fireplace, or who wear a pebble from Pakistan around their neck every day, or who cherish a saved heirloom from India - all places their forefathers left 75 years

Kavita Puri

ago. These objects are often their only connection to that time and place. It is proof their family once existed in that land too, and it is meaningful to these young people today. In all this time, the border has never been able to erase this history, memories or emotion. And in the five years since the 70th anniversary, there has been a quiet awakening to this hidden past among the descendants of those who lived through it. For some families, that has meant gaining a new understanding of the very word "partition" itself, and how their elderly relatives were affected. For others, it has been the realisation that the beginnings of their family story can be traced to another country entirely, across a border. Many of those who contacted me to share their stories were third generation. They wanted to know their history beyond their ancestors who came here. They asked: "How do I question my relative about their past if the subject has never been broached before?" Others said: "I wish I had asked while my relatives were alive." They must now find

other ways to delve into their history. All around our country, these inheritors of partition are trying to piece together their family's past: starting conversations with family members, visiting archives, educating themselves on their history, doing DNA tests and, in some cases, even returning to the land long fled. The writer Elif Shafak notes that it is the third generation descended from immigrants who dig into memory: they have "older memories even than their parents. Their mothers and fathers tell them, 'This is your home, forget about all that.'" For the people I spoke to, identity, in all its complexity, matters. Of course, these are not just personal stories within families - they are part of our shared history. That's because it was a British border, drawn to divide British India as the British empire started to be dismantled. Subjects of the Raj came to Britain and are its citizens, and multiple generations live in these isles in their millions today. Partition, the end of empire and the subsequent migration to the land of the former colonial ruler, could not be a more British story - one that everyone needs to know and learn about. Yet, it is not a compulsory part of the national curriculum in England. In Wales, Black, Asian and minority ethnic histories will become mandatory teachings from September. As we approach the August anniversary, it is always bittersweet: joy at independence, but sadness at the loss suffered, which endures. A few days ago, I was emailed by a daughter to say her father, one of my interviewees, had died at the age of 92. A reminder that our link to this time is dwindling. Seventy-five years on, in Britain we are all the inheritors of partition and empire. We must decide what to do with this inheritance; decide what is remembered and what is forgotten. The legacy will live on in ways we do not yet know. It happened long ago but, somehow, I feel we are only at the beginning of coming to terms with it - both within families, and in Britain.

Fuel poverty is creating a left-out generation that will never recover from the scars

The more the Conservative leadership election heats up, the more the remaining candidates have resorted to claiming the moral high ground. Raising debt is "immoral", Rishi Sunak is saying. "High taxes are immoral," retorts Liz Truss. But there is nothing moral about indifferent leaders condemning millions of vulnerable and blameless children and pensioners to a winter of dire poverty. The reality is grim and undeniable: a financial timebomb will explode for families in October as a second round of fuel price rises in

six months sends shockwaves through every household and pushes millions over the edge. A few months ago, Jonathan Bradshaw and Antonia Keung at York University estimated that April's 54% increase in fuel prices would trap 27 million people in 10m households in fuel poverty. Now, 35 million people in 13m households - an unprecedented 49.6% of the population of the United Kingdom - are under threat of fuel poverty in October. With time running out to update the universal credit payments system before the Octo-

ber rise, Boris Johnson, Sunak and Truss must this week agree an emergency budget. If they do not, parliament should be recalled to force them to do so. For if nothing is done before yet another fuel price rise hits

Gordon Brown

in January, the fuel poor could rise to 39 million people in 15m households - 54% of the country, with big regional variations ranging from 48% in London to 60.8% in Wales and 62% in Scotland. In all, four in every five of our country's lone parents, pensioners and large families will be in fuel poverty. The scale is such that the typical fuel bill alone will eat up one-third of the statutory pension. At the start of the pandemic, 40% of children could not afford what Loughborough University has calculated is needed for a decent standard of living. At a stroke in October, more than 50% of children - 7 million - will, I estimate, be in families that have to forgo material necessities. For the poorest 10% of families, food and fuel could take up the majority of weekly outlays after housing costs. The reason the poverty problem is worsening so fast is the unravelling of the June budget, where ministers not only underestimated the coming year's average energy price rise by around £500, but announced flat rate payments that, by taking no account of family size or special needs, did least to compensate larger families and the disabled. So, while the £650 payment to universal credit claimants amounted to an extra £13 a week for a single person, it was worth only £2.60 a week each for a couple with three children - not enough to cover soaring fuel bills, far less the rising costs of essentials needed by a growing family. For generations, the welfare state has been there to take the shame out of need. Now, with the safety net full of holes, food banks - not the Department for Work and Pensions - have become the lifeline and charity, not universal credit, the last line of defence. In my home county of DfE, I'm seeing scenes reminiscent of what I have read of the hungry 1930s - children going to school ill-clad and undernourished, pensioners choosing

whether to feed their electricity meters or themselves, nurses having to leave their patients' beds after long, back-breaking overnight shifts to queue up at their food bank. Local charities are stocking up on blankets, duvets, sleeping bags and hot water bottles as they prepare for the worst winter in living memory. Churches tell me they will be offering their warm halls as heating hubs and doctors are asking how they can use social prescribing to help malnourished children and keep pensioners from freezing. Fife runs a warehouse that is a food bank, bedding bank, clothes bank, toiletries bank, hygiene bank,

ingless soundtrack rather than a strategy. But the psychological scars of poverty run very deep. I meet mothers who feel ashamed they cannot do the least, let alone the best, for their children. One has been forced to keep her child off school because she could not afford new school clothes and shoes for her fast-growing teenager. Another is ashamed to let her children invite friends home because her house is run down and bare. There are kids who don't have the clothes or pocket money to go out with friends, who cannot participate in school sports because they don't have the kit and who cannot attend after-school clubs if there is a small charge to cover



baby bank and fuel bank all rolled into one. With the help of Amazon's nearby depot and 12 local companies, 30,000 families have received 200,000 goods, worth £4m so far this year - from tinned food and school clothes to microwaves and beds. But we know charity cannot do enough. Poverty is now hitting so hard that it is far beyond the capacity of even the broadest and most generous coalition of local philanthropy and voluntary organisations to alleviate. And in communities like mine, where those with only a little have until now generously given to people who have nothing, raising funds for charity is becoming more difficult. The situation is so perilous that a group of more than 60 churches, faith groups, NGOs, metro mayors, and councillors has today come together to call on the government to make good the growing gap between need and current provision. We know the short-term consequences of rising poverty - more stunting, more family breakups, more homelessness and more children in care, all of which, because none of its targets include the reduction of poverty, make "levelling up" a mean-

the costs. We all have experience of missing out - unable to go on a trip or to a school event - and that may have been good for us in the long run, but when being left out is not a one-off or occasional event but an everyday experience, it is not character-building but confidence-destroying, carrying with it embarrassment, loneliness and often humiliation. The wounds caused by exclusion are there forever - a feeling that you can never identify with neighbours on equal terms, a reticence about involving yourself in larger groups or community activities and a suspicion of situations that leave you insecure. Yet Britain is creating a left-out generation of young boys and girls, without the cash to participate in what their friends are doing and whose childhoods are starting to resemble shameful scenes from a Dickens novel. Our agenda is not complicated: a new strategy to end family poverty that will show how a compassionate society can afford to take action and indeed cannot afford not to. When I was chancellor, our government set a target - and changed the benefits system - to abolish child poverty in a generation.

British Paints introduces new campaign with fresh brand colors



Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 7: The year 2022 led the way for new product launches and fresh brand colors as British Paints says 'HarGharMuskuraye, Jab Rang Gungunaye' in the newly launched campaign. British Paints as a brand has always been on the forefront when it comes to new innovative campaigns, the launch of products that suit

consumer needs with the best prices and various social or partner empowerment programs. On the advent of their new campaign, they put forth a rationale for everyone to sing to the tune of happiness with their high-spirited colors for homes and personal spaces. Knowing how big of a step it is for an established company to make changes in the exist-

ing brand color and campaign, looks like British Paints must've had a very strong reason to do so after persisting with the previous brand color for more than 100+ years. The great revelation clarified that the brand has chosen a 'dark yellow' and a 'navy blue' as their remarkable replacement of the previous maroon, while stating that yellow swings on the strings of happiness whereas navy blue walks the path of reliability. When combined, they form the foundation of British Paint's new campaign, 'HarGharMuskuraye Jab Rang Gungunaye' which is in continuation of their primary communication and campaign 'Rang Gungunaye'. "We at British Paints aim to offer joy and optimism to our key stakeholders. We want people to feel happy when they see

their dream house in long-lasting and protective colors. And our range of coatings for every solution plays a pivotal role in capturing this joy and making it last forever. It is important for us that our motto of painting hues of happiness into the lives of people gets reflected in our communication," says Yogesh Bhatia Singh, COO, British Paints. In addition to this, British Paints paves the way for the inauguration of 3 fresh and innovative products to their existing range of colors, namely, ShingarAll Rounder Hi-Sheen which is one solution for exterior and interior walls gifting high sheen finish to them, Expa Cool Advanced Hi-Sheen Exterior Emulsion which cools surfaces upto 5-Degree Celsius, and Optima 7 Waterproofing Exterior Emulsion with 7 years of warranty. British

Paints looked out for all the problems related to wall paints and furnished a solution to maintain ever-smiling consumers. It can be mentioned that headquartered in New Delhi, British Paints service 12000+ channel partners, OEMs, and Institutional accounts over the length and breadth of the country. This is supported by a dedicated network of 4 manufacturing units located in Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam, and 59+ branch offices. The offerings include the complete range of Architectural Coatings covering all price points and functionalities, & also a range of General Industrial Coatings plus Water Proofing Solutions. The firm plans to come strong in tier 2, 3 & 4 markets to engage all Indian Consumers with their new strategy.

Shyam Steel launches its new digital campaign featuring Olympic medallists Lovlina and Manpreet

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 7: Shyam Steel one of the leading producers and manufacturers of primary TMT Bars launched its new digital campaign featuring Olympic medallists Lovlina Borgohain and Manpreet Singh. The campaign aims to create awareness about the holistic solutions provided by the Shyam Steel ApnaGhar App amongst the individual home builders and send across the brand message that strong foundation is achieved through a perfect balance of strength and flexibility just like Shyam Steel Flexi Strong TMT bars. The digital film campaign has been designed by Creek Creatives. The campaign will be promoted heavily through social and digital media. The personality of any great individual is marked by the combination of strength and flexibility, which is also a part of Shyam Steel's core brand message. The digital film elaborates on this idea by stating that achieving one's dream requires the correct balance of strength and flexibility just like Shyam Steel flexi-strong TMT bars. Shyam Steel ApnaGhar App is a one stop solution for 'Neev se PraveshTak' which is an online platform, and a mobile App for consumers providing a holistic solution to individual home builders. The tagline 'Neev Se PraveshTak' is self-explanatory when it comes to catering home building needs for all. Through this campaign Shyam Steel has tried to reflect the essence of this App in providing expert guide for all building construction activities. The digital film with Lovlina shows her playing with a little girl and knocking out toys for the child. Once she knocks down a stationary toy, the little girl asks Lovlina to knock out a toy

that bounces back. The little girl is curious about why the toy bounces back, and Lovlina teaches her that when strength is paired with flexibility, one can bounce back from any knockout, similarly when houses are built with Shyam Steel flexi-strong TMT bars, the house is protected from any possible threats. The digital film with Manpreet highlights his journey through perseverance, strength and determination, which are also affiliated with Shyam Steel's core brand philosophy. The dream to win is achieved by having the perfect balance of strength and flexibility just like Shyam Steel Flexi Strong TMT Bars. Director of Shyam Steel Industries Ltd,

of all ages, which helps the brand build a stronger connection with its target audience in the national market. "It was a wonderful experience to work with team Shyam Steel. The campaign was focused to showcase the strength and flexibility that Shyam Steel has been delivering for the last 69 years. It was really a privilege to be associated with Shyam Steel as a production house and creating a digital campaign for them with national prominent stars of Indian sports like Lovlina Borgohain and Manpreet Singh." Sudipta Chatterjeesaid from Creek Creatives. Shyam Steel with an annual turnover of Rs 4,500 crores is now on a steady expansion mode



Mr. Lalit Beriwal, stated on the launch of the campaign "It is crucial to pay attention to durability, which depends on flexibility, in addition to strength. The campaign reflects the brand's thought in connection with Lovlina and Manpreet's grit and determination to overcome every obstacle and achieve their dreams. The campaign will also help us in making the consumers aware on the ApnaGhar App and its benefits. Lovlina and Manpreet's success as an Olympian and top athlete inspires viewers

braving the disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The Company, an integral partner of building new India, is committed to meaningfully contribute to the realization of the target of 300 million tonnes steel production by 2030-31. Shyam Steel have also signed Olympic medallists Lovlina Borgohain and Manpreet Singh as their Build India Brand Ambassadors, in addition to Sonu Sood. The brand is also associated with Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as the face of the company.

Nissan India wholesales 8337 vehicles in July 2022

Mumbai, August 7: Nissan Motor India announced domestic wholesale of 3667 units and export wholesales of 4670 units, cumulative wholesales of 8337 units for the month of July 2022. The cumulative wholesale YTD growth stood at 14% on domestic wholesale and exports. Nissan India achieved a key milestone of exporting one million Nissan vehicles in July 2022 on the philosophy of "Make in India, Make for the World". Nissan has exported vehicles to 108 countries from its Renault-Nissan Automotive India Ltd. plant in Chennai since exports com-

menced in September 2010. Rakesh Srivastava, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, commented, "Nissan India continues to build on the positive momentum of the Nissan Magnite, which was the one millionth car to be exported. The customer demand continues to grow with the launch of the RED Edition of Nissan Magnite. We are optimistic of the oncoming festival season on the strength of bookings and higher production with improvement in supply chain to meet customer demand of enjoying the Nissan Magnite in the Festivals" Launched in

July 22, at a starting ex-showroom price of 7.86 lakh, the RED Edition of Nissan Magnite offers a compelling combination of visual sophistication, power-packed performance, advanced tech-



nologies, and comfort, aimed at redefining journeys for the discerning Indian customer. Nissan Magnite launched in December

2020, currently at a starting ex-showroom price of 5.97 lakh, has been designed in Japan and made in India, underlining Nissan India's manufacturing philosophy of 'Make-In-India, Make for the

World'. The Big, Bold, Beautiful Nissan Magnite is exported to over 15 countries with the most recent launch in Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. The Nissan Magnite has received a superlative market response, with over 1 lakh domestic bookings, with 25% of bookings being generated through Nissan's digital ecosystem. Nissan Magnite comes with the best, lowest-in-class maintenance cost at just 31 paise/km (for 50,000 km). Peace of mind comes with a warranty of 2 years (50,000 km) which can be extended for up to five years (or one lakh km) at a nominal cost. Nissan customers may also book services and check costs online through the Nissan Service Cost Calculator via Nissan Service

Hub or Nissan Connect, bringing utmost transparency to the process. Nissan Magnite RED Edition customers will also enjoy 2 years of 24x7 roadside assistance in over 1500 cities. Nissan India also offers a subscription plan that enables customers to own a vehicle with a 'White Plate' and a 'Buy Back Option' in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Chennai. The plan comes with Zero Down Payment, Zero Insurance Cost, Zero Maintenance Cost, share back and save and an option to own.

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Max Life Insurance declares highest-ever PAR Bonus of Rs. 1,420 Cr. for FY21-22

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 7: Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. ("Max Life"/"Company"), has announced its highest-ever participating (PAR) bonus of Rs. 1,420 Cr. for eligible policyholders in FY21-22. With this, Max Life has surpassed the milestone of Rs. 10,000 Cr. of declared bonus for participating customers since inception. This is the Company's 20th consecutive annual bonus, 9.05% higher than the preceding fiscal year. The life insurer's annual bonus has increased at a 5-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 11%. The declared annual bonus will be added to approximately 21 lakh eligible participating policyholder's benefits, aiding their long-term financial goals. Max Life has consistently announced bonuses for eligible policyholders consistently over the past two decades that underlines its commitment to customers and superior risk-adjusted return focus. Prashant Tripathy, MD & CEO, Max Life said, "Despite pan-

demical challenges and its effect on markets, Max Life delivered strong business outcomes and declared the highest-ever policyholder bonus by maintaining a fo-

34% of the proprietary channel product mix in FY21. Max Life's participating fund has reached approximately Rs. 54,650 Cr. of assets under management (AUM) and



cusd approach towards sustainable and organic growth. It is a mark of our highly competitive fund management capabilities that we have been able to surpass the Rs. 10,000 Cr. milestone of declared bonus since inception." Over the past year, Max Life has been at the forefront of driving product innovation and creating first-in-industry propositions. The life insurer has also strengthened participating propositions that made up

has grown over 12 times in a decade. With a 5-year CAGR of ~21%, Max Life's participating fund is amongst the top participating fund (by size) in the private life insurance space. The debt assets of participating fund have yielded consistent and stable returns over the last five years. Over the past year, Max Life's individual annual premium equivalent (APE) grew by 12% to Rs. 5,14 Cr. in FY22.

Ganesh Super TMT plans to expand its production capacity to 25000 MT

Patna, August 7: Bihar has always relied on agriculture as its major source of employment and revenue. 80% of the population is employed in agricultural production which is much higher than the national average. It is the fourth largest producer of vegetables and the eight largest producers of fruits in India. The State's GDP at current prices is expected to be Rs. 7.45 trillion (US\$ 97.39 billion) in 2022-23. However, there is still a lot of scope in large-scale industrial initiatives. The Government of Bihar has been taking several initiatives to bring in industrialization in

the state. From hosting investor summits to partnering with banks to boost the MSME sector and developing infrastructure in the State in terms of roadways, bridges and building Bihar's first intermodal inland waterways cargo terminal the Government has been taking steps in the right direction to take Bihar's industrial landscape to the next step. In light of these developments, Ganesh Super TMT, the state's only listed TMT enterprise, has planned an expansion of its production capacity to 25000 MT. The new facility will be located in Muzaffarpur district. Speaking on the company's expansion plan, Shri Ashok Kumar Bajoria, Managing Director, Ganesh Foundry and Casting Limited said, "Ganesh TMT has been contributing to the growth of Bihar for 35 years. Being one of the pioneering TMT companies of the State, we want to support the Government's efforts of bringing in industrial growth in the State. Our production capacity expansion will help us meet rising demands from our patrons. This will also help create employment. Being equal stakeholders in the development of Bihar, Ganesh TMT intends to contribute effectively towards the State's socio-economic welfare." The growing demand for steel all over the world is anticipated to boost the TMT steel bar market by 2028, his is poised to reach USD 23.58 billion by the year 2028, growing at a CAGR of 9.5%. Steel demand in India might reach 170 MTPA by 2024-25, and 300

MTPA by 2030. India is presently the world's second largest steel manufacturer. The Union Steel Ministry predicts that India's steel output would double in the next decade, rising from 120 million tonnes to 240 million tonnes. The Government has waived customs duty on the import of some



raw materials used by the steel industry, a move which will lower the cost for the domestic industry and reduce the prices. Also, to increase domestic availability, the duty on exports of iron ore has been hiked up to 50 per cent, and a few steel intermediaries to 15 per cent, according to a notification. This has given the industry a much-needed boost, thereby, encouraging steel and TMT companies to expand their operations. Ganesh Super TMT bars are distinguished by their high tensile strength. Due to their increased flexibility and improved characteristics, the TMT bars provide a secure grasp that can withstand severe calamity and provide protection. Ganesh Super is the ideal combination of flexibility and strength, outperforming all competitors in terms of quality. The greatest degree of quality is maintained in the products and services owing to meticulous attention to detail at every stage of the manufacturing or delivery process.

Union bank organised Mega MSME Outreach Camp

Guwahati, August 7: Union Bank of India Regional Office Guwahati organized a Mega MSME Outreach Camp on 6 August 2022 (Saturday) at Hotel Shoolin Grand in order to give further impetus to the MSME sector in the state. Commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The camp was presided over by Mr. Prabhat Kumar Regional Head, Dr. Samir Baruah, Chairperson Banking and MSME Indian chamber of commerce North East was special invitee. The camp was attended by more than 70 entrepreneurs from various sectors. Mr. Kumar while highlighting the importance of

MSME Sector in the economy, also explained the various Schemes and Initiatives taken by the Bank for the sector. Special scheme for women entrepreneurs "Union



Nari Shakti" was well appreciated by the attendees. Total leads of more than 7220 Crores was Mobilized at the Camp and on the spot in Principal approvals of ₹101.80 crores was accorded to various entities.

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New ISRO Rocket Suffers Data

few days or a week," Dr Madhavan Nair, who retired as ISRO chairman in 2009, said.Asked whether the satellites can give details on their status or their health, Dr Madhavan Nair said, "All the launches of this kind are pre-programmed and is taken over by the computer. The first two stages go as per a predetermined trajectory, but in the final phase, to achieve a precise orbit, certain manoeuvres will have to be made. There one has to determine the actual position, velocity of the rocket and steer the rocket to achieve the final desired object. So, any fault taking place in the sensors or in the computers could lead to such a situation. So, unless those data are studied in detail, we cannot pinpoint the reason"."Once the rocket has reached a particular altitude, the spacecraft separation command is given. Since this is well above the atmosphere, the separation would have been clean. But if the orbit is not correct, then the ground station will not be able to catch the signals," he added.Dr Madhavan Nair also said ISRO coming out with a rocket in a short span was a remarkable achievement for the space agency. "This is a small rocket launcher conceived and implemented within a short possible time. The cost optimisation, the weight optimisation, and getting it into commercial market - all these aspects were considered within such a short time. This is a remarkable achievement. All the rockets have performed as desired also," he said.The SSLV is carrying Earth Observation Satellite -02 and a co-passenger satellite AzaadiSAT -- developed by the student team of 'Space Kidz India', an aerospace organisation that aims to create government school students with basic understanding and knowledge of space.The "AzaadiSAT" comprises 75 payloads built by 750 school students to mark the 75th Anniversary of Independence. The girl students who designed the satellite also witnessed the SSLV-D1 launch at the spaceport in Sriharikota.This was the maiden launch of SSLV by the space agency after the successful mission launches through its trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

PM Modi at NITI Aayog meet

imports... Overall, states were quite cooperative and are working on this aspect," Chand further said. Presentations were made on NEP 2020, G20, and the importance of exports. Vice chairman Suman Beri said the PM made important points on India's post-Covid situation, year ahead and his expectation from meeting of NITI Aayog.Beri said Modi noted the way in which Centre and states during the Covid-19 pandemic made decisions in tandem with each other. "India's federal structure and cooperative federalism emerged as a model for the world during Covid crisis, the PM said. He also talked about India's aim for 2047," Beri added.

Jagdeep Dhankhar wins with

key positions from President, V-P to Lok Sabha Speaker.Jagdeep Dhankhar's victory margin by securing 72.8% of the 725 valid votes cast during the V-P polls is the highest margin in the last six vice-presidential polls since 1997, TOI reported.While KR Narayanan still leads the list for having the highest victory margin by securing 700 of the 701 votes cast in 1992, Dhankhar's performance in the latest polls outshined Naidu's 2017 performance by 2%.The 71-year-old Jagdeep Dhankar is the first BJP nominee for the V-P post to not have started his political journey in the Sangh Parivar.Congress' Mohammad Hamid Ansari won 60.51% votes of the total 762 valid votes in the 2007 Vice-President Election. He remained V-P from 2007 to 2017.In the 2017 V-P polls, Venkaiah Naidu won with 67.89% votes of the total 760 valid votes.

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis

Ajit dada conveniently forgets that when he was in the government there were just five ministers for the first 32 days," Fadnavis told reporters here on Sunday.The expansion of the Maharashtra cabinet will take place "before you can even imagine", Fadnavis told reporters in response to repeated questions on the induction of new ministers.Fadnavis said the BJP has embarked on a mission to improve its footprint in Maharashtra in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by identifying 16 parliamentary constituencies where opposition parties have had a consistent winning streak.He said these constituencies included those held by Shiv Sena leaders who have now joined the Shinde camp.

Fake Traffic Police Arrested In

man came from Guwahati in a bus in the disguise of a traffic policeman and got off at Paruwa Chariali in Tezpur. Soon after, he called a traffic police in the vicinity and started checking vehicles that were violating rules. The other traffic police in the area got suspicious and later called their seniors.Pankaj was arrested after seniors officers reached the scene and unearthed the truth.On further investigation, it was revealed that he used to pose as fake traffic police in other places as well including Rangia, Nagaon and so on.It is also learned that the accused is a police aspirant. Due to his educational limitations, he couldn't achieve his goal and hence resorted to other ways.

Two precious gems of Maharashtra!

Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis is quite active on social media. She regularly comments on political and social issues through Twitter. Not only this, she doesn't leave a single chance to criticize Shiv Sena and Uddhav Thackeray. Now, once again a tweet by Amrita Fadnavis is attracting everyone's attention. Amrita Fadnavis has shared a photo on Twitter today, on the occasion of Friendship Day. She has shared a photo of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. By sharing this photo, she has once again tried to divide the Shiv Sena.She captioned the photo: "Ye dosti hum nahi todenge with two precious gems of Maharashtra"The tweet is now going viral. This tweet was tagged to Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis along with the hashtags #FriendshipDay2022 #Friends #friendship #FriendsForever #sundayvibes.Even after a month of coming to power, the Cabinet Expansion is due in Maharashtra. However, the process has now gained momentum. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are on a two-day visit to Delhi. During this visit, it is expected to discuss the expansion of the cabinet with top BJP leadership in Delhi.

Delhi Student Accused Of Raising

me to ask for ? 4,000 to do a coding course," one of his sisters told ."He was very helpful. He used to do social service, collecting donations and distributing food grains to the poor during Covid lockdown," she said."The allegations are totally false, we will challenge them in court. He may not even have understood what he was doing. He took two attempts to clear his engineering entrance. My brother is very naive and gullible. I don't think he knew what ISIS was," she added.Mohsin's mother said, "He came to Delhi only on July 12. He was living in Delhi with his friend and cousin."He lived in Delhi's Batla House area and was enrolled at the Jamia Millia Islamia university.Mohsin Ahmad was arrested by a search party of the NIA on Saturday, a spokesperson of the agency said, following a case filed into ISIS's online and on-ground activities on June 25."Ahmad is a radicalised and active member of ISIS. He has been arrested for his involvement in the collection of funds for ISIS from sympathisers in India as well as abroad," the spokesperson said.

Nitish Kumar's JD(U) not to be

identified those who were trying to damage it and took steps to mend it," the JD(U) national president was quoted .RCP Singh, who resigned from the Union cabinet recently after being denied another Rajya Sabha term, quit the JD(U) on Saturday (August 6), hours after the party sought an explanation from him over allegations of corruption levelled by some unidentified workers. Terming the allegations "baseless", he had called JDU a 'sinking ship'. "An attempt is being made to defame me. I don't have any land in my name. All the allegations being leveled against me are baseless. There is no cure for JDU's jealousy. I cannot go ahead with them in these circumstances," RCP Singh had said. Meanwhile, Rajiv Ranjan Singh also denied speculations of a rift between JDU and the BJP, asserting that "all is well". The rumours of discontent between the two NDA allies gained momentum after Bihar CM Nitish Kumar skipped the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today. As per PTI sources, Kumar cited post-Covid debility as the reason to excuse himself from the meeting.

320 Fresh COVID-19 Cases In

Metropolitan district, which primarily comprises the Guwahati city, reported 28 of these cases. Cachar and Dhemaji also reported 28 new COVID-19 patients each, followed by 25 in Dibrugarh and 21 in Sivasagar.Currently, the active caseload in the state stood at 4,426.The toll remained at 8,020 as the state recorded no death due to COVID-19 over the last two days. Among them were 1,347 people who had co-morbidities.So far, the state reported 7,41,502 COVID-19 cases, while 7,29,054 patients have recovered.

PM Modi's rakhi is on the way! His

capabilities and I wish him to be PM of India every time," she added. PM Modi's sister, Shaikh, also sent a rakhi and a Raksha Bandhan card to him last year.Raksha Bandhan marks the bond of love between the siblings and will be celebrated on August 11. Raksha Bandhan is celebrated on the full moon of the Savan month of the Hindu year. The month of Savan is considered an auspicious period among the Hindus and Lord Shiva is worshipped every Monday during this entire time.

Indian Army organises bicycle race

travel from Chaki village in the early hours of Sunday morning. They raced through the Machhal valley and climbed up the historically famous and scenic Zamindara Khan Gali and then reached Kupwara. The cycling adventure terminated at the Government Boys' Higher Secondary School in Kupwara. The participants were felicitated with certificates and medals.The tough and challenging cycling experience rekindled the spirit of adventure amongst the participants and widened the horizons of exploration and tourism for the participants as well as the onlookers. The locals were excited and appreciated the Indian Army's effort and are hopeful that many more such events will be organised in the future.

Israel bombs Gaza Strip for second day in 'pre-emptive operation'

London, August 7 : Residents of the Gaza Strip were bracing for the possibility of a new round of war on Saturday after two days of "pre-emptive" Israeli airstrikes against a Palestinian militant group.Israeli warplanes hit several sites in the blockaded territory on Friday, part of a surprise operation named "Breaking Dawn" that the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said thwarted alleged planned rocket attacks by Palestinian Islamic Jihad.After retaliatory fire from the militants, Israel warned on Saturday that its bombing campaign could last a week, in the worst escalation of violence since last May's 11-day conflict.Exchanges of fire continued as Israel appeared to broaden the operation on Saturday. On Sunday, authorities in the Palestinian coastal enclave updated the death toll to 24 people, including the Islamic Jihad commander for north Gaza, Tayseer Jabari, and another senior commander, Khaled Mansour. They said civilians killed included six children - among them a five-year-old girl - and a 22-year-old art student. More than 80 more people were injured.Israel meanwhile said a stray rocket from Islamic Jihad militants had been responsible for the death of multiple children in Jabalia, northern Gaza, on Saturday.While it sometimes acts independently, the Iran-backed Islamic Jihad is aligned with Hamas, the larger Islamist movement that rules the strip, and both are considered terrorist organisations by most of the international community.Whether the latest confrontation between Israel and Islamic Jihad will escalate into full-out war largely depends on whether Hamas - still licking its wounds from last year's war - decides to intervene. The group has announced its support for Islamic Jihad, and said it would also respond to the strikes. "The resistance, with all its arms and military factions, is united in this campaign and will have the last word," Hamas officials said in a statement.Islamic Jihad called the initial Israeli bombardment a "declaration of war", firing a barrage of at least 100 rockets into southern Israel on Friday night. There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage, with many rockets intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defence system, but 13 people were taken to hospital with minor injuries.Air raid sirens continued to blare in Tel Aviv and towns and cities across Israel's south on Saturday.The hostilities have left Gaza's inhabitants fearful of what could be the fifth full-scale conflict in the strip since Hamas seized control in 2007. Israel and Egypt closed the enclave's frontiers shortly after, leaving the area's 2 million residents grappling with unemployment, crumbling medical infrastructure and little electricity and clean water for the last 15 years. On Saturday, dozens of people lined up in front of bakeries and grocery stores, while the local energy authority, unable to supply the sole power station with fuel, shut down operations at midday.Hamed al-Hindi, 33, waited to buy bread for his family and elderly parents for more than an hour in downtown Gaza City. "I don't know how long this escalation will take and how bad it will be," he said."We couldn't sleep last night, the sounds of explosions didn't stop. I brought my three children to my room to keep them calm."Lamia al-Bakri, who was leaving a supermarket carrying several plastic bags, said: "Everything happened suddenly and without warning."My 10-year-old daughter kept asking me, 'Could we go to Egypt and live there, I don't want war, I'm afraid. I don't want any of us get hurt.'"I don't know why these kids must suffer for years," the 41-year-old said.The heaviest strikes yet hit four residential buildings the IDF said were linked to Islamic Jihad activity on Saturday afternoon. In each case, the Israeli military warned residents beforehand, and no casualties were reported.

Footage appears to show fresh atrocity against Ukrainian PoW

Kyiv, August 7 : Horrific video and photos have emerged that appear to show the head of a Ukrainian prisoner of war stuck on a pole outside a house in the eastern Ukrainian city of Popasna, which was captured by Russian forces in May and is close to the current frontline in the Donbas.The Ukrainian governor of Luhansk province, Serhiy Haidai, posted the gruesome photo on his Telegram channel. It has since been widely shared on social media. Ukrainians have accused Russian troops of barbaric medieval behaviour and likened the image to Lord of the Rings."They really are orcs. Twenty-first century, occupied Popasna, human skull on the fence," Haidai wrote. "There is nothing human about the Russians. We are at war with non-humans."The Guardian has not confirmed the authenticity of the photo. Geolocation tools suggest it is genuine and was taken in late July, not far from the centre of Popasna. A sign on a wall says "21 Nahirna Street".The video shows the headless and handless body of a man dressed in military uniform. A head is stuck on a wooden pole. Two hands have been placed on metal spikes on a fence either side of the head, in what looks like a front garden.The Ukrainian army retreated from Popasna in early May. The president of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, claimed his troops had seized control of the town. In July Russian forces captured the entirety of Luhansk province.On Saturday they were attempting to storm the city of Bakhmut, 18 miles (30km) west of Popasna, in neighbouring Donetsk oblast. Fierce fighting was continuing, Ukrainian officials confirmed, with the Russians edging towards the city's western outskirts.The photo is the latest apparent atrocity committed by Moscow's soldiers since Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February. Last week footage emerged of a Chechen fighter allegedly castrating a bound Ukrainian prisoner, who was then shot dead.The footage was originally posted on pro-Russian Telegram channels. On Saturday the website Bellingcat published an investigation into the incident. Citing visual clues and open source evidence, the website said a Chechen paramilitary formation was present at the scene.It identified a Russian soldier wearing a distinctive black wide-brimmed hat seen in the footage. The soldier denied taking part in the mutilation and execution, but confirmed Russia's security services had questioned him about it, Bellingcat reported.The alleged location was an abandoned sanatorium in Pryvillia, near the city of Lysychansk. Russia took control of the area, about 25 miles north of Popasna, in early July. Ukrainian forces had previously occupied the 1970s complex that overlooks the Siverskyi Donetsk River.

Five more arrested in Brazil over murders of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira

Rio de jenerio, August 7 : Brazilian police arrested another five people in connection with the murders of British journalist Dom Phillips and Brazilian Indigenous activist Bruno Pereira on Saturday, and said one of the suspects already in custody was likely the leader of an illegal fishing mafia based in the Amazon region.Although they gave few details, police said three of those detained in operations near Brazil's borders with Peru and Colombia were wanted for helping bury the bodies of Phillips and Pereira.All three are related to Amarildo da Costa Oliveira, one of three men charged last month with the double murder in a case that shocked the world and highlighted growing insecurity in the densely forested region.Phillips, 57, and Pereira, 41, went missing in the Javari valley in western Brazil on 5 June, at the end of a trip Phillips had arranged to report a book about sustainable development. Phillips had written for the Observer and the Guardian as well as other publications.Pereira, a former official with Brazil's state Indigenous agency, knew the area well and was helping the Briton with his research.The men were ambushed early one morning as they headed down the Itaquai river on their boat. Police believe their assailants shot them dead and then carried their bodies into the jungle, where they buried them in the hastily dug grave.However, two of the suspects confessed to the crime and led police to where they had buried their bodies.Police believe the killers were worried that Pereira had photographs and evidence they were fishing in prohibited areas for endangered species, including turtles and pirarucu, one of the world's largest freshwater fish.One single pirarucu can fetch up to \$1,000 at markets in Brazil and Colombia and police believe criminal mafias partner with impoverished local fishers to hunt the animals, often in Indigenous reserves where access to outsiders is prohibited.They arrested one man last month for using false ID papers and on Saturday said they had identified him as Ruben Dario da Silva Villar, AKA "Colômbia".Police "found strong indications that Colômbia is the leader and financier of an armed criminal association dedicated to the practice of illegal fishing in the Javari valley [and] responsible for the sale and export of a large amount of fish", the federal police said in a statement.Local news reports said da Silva Villar provided the local fisher with boats, motors and bait.Indigenous activists in the region welcomed the news "with great joy" and said it marked "the beginning of justice".A lawyer for the Univaja Indigenous organisation said the arrests, and particularly that of Colômbia, confirmed their original thesis - that the killings were not carried out by individuals working alone, but with the collaboration or orders of a local mafia."A criminal organisation has been working in the Javari valley for a long time and today's investigation, operation and arrests merely reinforce that," said Eliesio Marubo, Univaja's lawyer. "So we feel represented. This is the start of justice for our friends who were brutally murdered.""This reinforces the need for the state to participate in an area that was abandoned by the state," he added.

Crow brainpower study saved from Brexit cuts after appeal raises £500,000

London, August 7 : Nicola Clayton's cognitive research work is set to soar again. The Cambridge scientist's centre for studying the minds of crows, rooks and jays has been saved after the Observer revealed funding cuts were threatening it with closure.A public appeal has since raised more than £500,000, while Cambridge University has also stepped in to boost support for the Comparative Cognition Laboratory, based in the village of Madingley.The laboratory is currently home to seven rooks and 25 jays, members of the crow - or corvidae - family, birds noted for their keen intelligence, researchers have discovered. They have sophisticated social lives and can make tools, a skill that was previously thought to be possessed only by humans and a few other mammals."Our work has demonstrated that they are startlingly clever and has been providing important insights into the nature of cognition in general," Clayton told the Observer."However, our main source of funding came from the European Research Council, a grant that came to an end after the UK voted for Brexit. We were facing the imminent prospect of closure. It was horrible."After the centre's predicament was revealed in the Observer in May, Clayton was able to launch an appeal which, with extra aid from Cambridge University, means the centre should be able to continue its groundbreaking work for at least another five years and, hopefully, longer if further funds can be raised."There are so many things that we still want to learn about jays and rooks," said Clayton. "We have shown that a jay can remember the what, where and when of a specific event. But we don't know if it is aware it is the owner and author of a memory in the way that you and I are aware."We can do that because we can chat to one another about what that shared memory means. We need to find ways to determine what memory means to a bird like a jay."Clayton said it was also not known why jays and rooks were so conspicuously intelligent compared with other birds. "They don't use tools in the wild, but give them a problem in captivity that requires a tool to solve it, and they will use it - or they will make one if it is not provided."A crucial factor involved in the evolution of these avian Einsteins could be the fact that they are highly social creatures, she said. "Maintaining links with other members of their species could be important in developing their intelligence."It is another aspect of our research that we can continue with now that we have the funds to proceed. It is very heartening."Individual crows also behave in very different ways, Clayton said. "They have behavioural mannerisms that we would view as personality differences if we were talking about people. We have timid ones and we have bold ones, and we have some that are real chammers - like Romero, who makes the sound of blowing a kiss when he confronts you.Alternatively, we have Hoy, who looks like he's about to punch your lights out in a minute. They are fascinating creatures, and the fact that so many other people find them intriguing - to judge from the letters of support we have had from the public - makes it all the happier to be able to continue our research."

Third member of Cardiff family dies from 'poisoning' in Bangladesh

Dhaka, August 7 : A woman has become the latest family member of a British family of five on holiday in Bangladesh to die from a suspected poisoning.Samira Islam, 20, died on Friday after she was discovered unconscious in a locked room by police officers on 26 July. Her father, Rafiqul Islam, 51, a taxi driver, and his 16-year-old son, Mahiql, also died in the rented flat in the eastern city of Sylhet.Samira Islam's mother, Husnara, 45, and the older son, Sadiql, 24, were being treated in hospital and are said to be recovering well. They have since been released from hospital, a source told the BBC.The family, from the Riverside area of Cardiff, were on a two-month holiday visiting relatives in the country. After eating dinner on Monday 25 July, the family were found unconscious the following day by relatives who raised the alarm having heard sounds from the flat and tried unsuccessfully to open the door."Our primary suspicion is they were poisoned," said Supt Farid Uddin, adding all family members had slept in the same room, the doors were locked and there was no sign of forced entry.Samira was previously in critical condition and on life support in hospital. The police said they had collected samples to examine in a laboratory to better understand the cause of death."Our investigators are speaking with the relatives of the victims. So far we don't think they have any enmity with anyone," said Uddin.Masudul Amin, the investigating officer, said: "We are also speaking with the relatives who were in the apartment and other residents of the building. No one has been detained or arrested in this murder."Those who knew the family in Cardiff were shocked and in disbelief following the news.

From 1966 to 2022: two finals a world apart, but Lionesses' win felt even sweeter

London, August 7: It had to be. Surely? Fifty-six years and a day after being at Wembley to see Alf Ramsey's England beat West Germany to win the men's World Cup, I walked with my son towards the stadium in a state of nervous anticipation before last Sunday's Women's Euro final. As much as I cherish the memory of that historic day in 1966, standing behind the goal into which Geoff Hurst smashed his "they think it's all over" victory clincher and then roaring like three lions at the final whistle, I felt even more involved and invested this time round as the Lionesses prepared to meet Germany. Having reported on the national women's team for almost two decades until retiring four years ago, I was now a fan (wearing the autographed England shirt presented to me by the players on bowing out) with more intense pre-match nerves than I've ever suffered before games involving my club Wolves. England had been the best team in the tournament; but we were



facing our nemesis, against whom we had taken 21 matches over 31 years to record our first victory in 2015. Before that meeting, the World Cup bronze medal match in Edmonton, Canada, we had suffered some severe beatings by Germany, most notably the 6-2 hammering we took in the Euro 2009 final in Helsinki. By that time I had become accustomed to such defeats. The first against Germany I witnessed, a 3-0 reversal, had come in the group stage of the 2001 Euro finals. As someone relatively new to the women's game at the time that tournament was not just a great experience, it also blew away any reluctance I had previously felt about reporting on it. I admit to having not been

particularly happy at being despatched to my first England Women's fixture, against France at Yeovil in September 1999. I knew nothing about women's football and had no great desire to learn. But I quickly found myself enjoying it and, with much greater access to the team and management than is the case today, work became a pleasure and friendships were formed that are still standing today - it was a delight to have a beer with former captain Gill Coulter after last week's final. Karen Carney, then aged 17, wheels away in celebration after scoring the decisive goal in a 3-2 victory over Finland at Euro 2005. The sellout crowd at Wembley illustrated the recent surge in the popularity

of women's football, this after years of stuttering progress. It seemed that the game was on the march when, at the 2005 Euro finals held in England (though only in stadiums in the north-west of the country), a crowd of 29,092 watched the Lionesses' opening group match against Finland at the City of Manchester (now Etihad) Stadium. The team's first home match following that tournament, however, attracted a meagre attendance of 9,616 against Iceland at Carrow Road. It was far worse after reaching the 2009 Euro final - for the next home game just 3,681 turned up at Bloomfield Road for a World Cup qualifier against Malta. But the Football Association and in particular England's then-manager Hope Powell - perhaps the most influential person in English women's football in the last quarter of a century - continued to push for the game's wider attention and recognition. Hope Powell, pictured in 2005, is perhaps the most influential person in English women's football in the last quarter of a century. A handful of journalists, myself included, were doing likewise although

persuading sports editors to take stories was more often than not a difficult ask and the press boxes for those games could be lonely places. I covered 180 England matches in 32 different countries and rarely, outside major tournaments, saw anything like a full quota in attendance. The emptiest was at a Euro 2013 qualifier against Serbia in Belgrade: I was the only reporter there. How times have changed. A huge media pack provided massive coverage of England's Wembley triumph and of the hoped-for legacy it could inspire. While my former colleagues were reporting on the game I was watching it just as intently but also reminiscing, especially when Chloe Kelly produced her shirt-twirling celebration after stabbing in the winning goal. It didn't remind me so much of Brandi Chastain's similar celebration after her winning penalty in the 1999 Women's World Cup final, and definitely not Hurst's exhausted trot across the six-yard line after his hat-trick goal had won the 1966 World Cup final.

Jürgen Klopp hits out at Liverpool performance and laments Thiago injury

Liverpool, August 7: A disappointed Jürgen Klopp said "the most positive thing was the result" after Liverpool could only draw 2-2 at newly-promoted Fulham. Despite the £85m signing Darwin Núñez's contribution as a goalscoring substitute, the Liverpool manager felt his team had made an escape from Craven Cottage. Aleksandar Mitrovic's two goals were cancelled out by equalising strikes from Núñez and Mohamed Salah, but Klopp pronounced himself as a "12" on a 1-10 scale of disappointment. "The performance was a defeat," Klopp said. "The result wasn't a defeat but the performance was. That's why we have to figure out what happened. If we win today and not learn anything it's much worse than a point and not learning the right things. But it was not us." We started exactly the opposite way than we wanted. We are used to more dominance and we couldn't get that because we played just not good enough, not quick enough, not precise enough." Klopp was happy to credit Fulham for their part in a highly entertaining match, saying: "Don't take anything away from Fulham, they did really

well." He admitted that Liverpool "couldn't find a way into the game" and it "didn't feel good because we are used to more dominance. "The Fulham manager, Marco Silva, said his side "deserved more than a draw. "I think we matched them from the first minute until the last." While

Alcântara added to Liverpool's problems with Naby Keita, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Curtis Jones having each missed the start of the season. Klopp suggested that the Spaniard's hamstring issue would still not be enough to push Liverpool into the



congratulating his team on a fine overall performance, in which new signings João Palhinha and Andreas Pereira impressed in midfield, Silva singled out Mitrovic for praise. "It would have been enough even if he hadn't scored," said Silva. "I have to congratulate everyone from [goalkeeper] Marek [Rodak] to Mitro, but the work he did without the ball this afternoon was fantastic. "The Fulham captain, Tim Ream, echoed his manager's thoughts when saying: "We knew that if we could be aggressive and take the game to them, they would find it difficult." Beyond dropping early-season points, an injury to Thiago

transfer market. "I have said that we don't need a midfielder because we have enough," said Klopp. "A transfer must make sense now and in the long term. We have eight midfielders, it's not that we lack midfielders, they are just getting injured. But this is not a good situation. I don't like it all. For sure we have to think how we react but not panic." Núñez's impact at least lifted Klopp's mood. "You need this extra, this difference," said the manager of the Uruguayan forward. "He makes it difficult for opponents, [scored] a great goal and could have scored another one. He is involved in a lot of situations which is really good."

Ashleigh Buhai closes in on Women's Open title after taking five-shot lead

Muirfield, August 7: Just when a glimmer of hope had been provided to the field, Ashleigh Buhai slammed the door shut in the style of a champion. Buhai's third shot to Muirfield's par-five 17th had sailed long of the green. She had a dicey chip remaining. Not content to trickle her ball towards the hole and save par, the South African holed out for a birdie four. Her lead had been extended to six shots. Only elements of the past are against Buhai in this Women's Open. She has just one top 10 in 42 previous major starts, that coming in this very event in 2019. Buhai led by three at the halfway point of that tournament. Yet since this event was elevated to

Galleries were distressingly sparse as play rumbled towards conclusion; the consequence, perhaps, of tee-off times after three o'clock in the afternoon for the leaders. This represented a bad look for a tournament which has been elevated in status by the R&A. Buhai's third round of 64 was without a bogey until she left a putt short on the final green. She reached the turn in just 31, having collected four shots in a row from the 4th. Hinako Shibuno, who shot 66, and Chun In-gee, who made a 70, are joint second. Inbee Park, seeking an eighth major win, is alongside Madelene Sagström at seven under. Minjee Lee, the US Open champion,



major status, nine players have held a 54-hole lead of three strokes or more. All have prevailed on Sunday. A dropped shot at the last means Buhai's advantage was cut to five - she sits at 14 under par - but she has one hand and four fingers on the trophy. "You have to pat yourself on the back after that score in those conditions," she said. "That is one of the best rounds I have ever played. "You can never be comfortable in a major, whether you are leading or not. They say big leads are often more difficult. I've just got to keep doing what I've been doing." Buhai revealed she was sent a message of encouragement by Gary Player, her compatriot who won the 1959 Open at Muirfield. The sad thing was, precious few people were around to see Buhai and co finish their rounds.

lurks at minus five after a 70. "I think with the position I'm in and considering how many shots back I am, I can be aggressive," Lee said. "I think I can just try and make birdie every single hole. I think that's pretty much what I can do, if I can go for the pin. I think with Ash, probably she has contended a few times but it's the British Open and the final group, so I'm sure she'll have a few nerves." In a week of Muirfield firsts, there was another at the start of day three's play. Lindsey Garden, a female member at a course once infamously all-male domain, played alongside Lydia Hall because of an odd number of players having made the cut. Garden, who holds a 1.6 handicap and is a former Scotland international, admitted to being "very nervous" on the opening tee.

Unbreakable Nick Kyrgios thunders into Citi Open final after defeating Mikael Ymer

Melbourn, August 7: Nick Kyrgios is "super excited" after continuing his career-best season by powering into the final of the Citi Open in Washington. Backing up from his gruelling tournament workload so far - the Australian maverick finished off Reilly Opelka in their round of 16 clash on Friday then saved five match points in an epic quarter-final win over Frances Tiafoe

didn't face a solitary break point against Ymer, who had ousted former world No 1 Andy Murray in the first round. Ever the showman, Kyrgios brought up set point in the opener with his 80th ace of the tournament and sealed the set with a lovely serve-volley play and backhand flick overhead winner. The second set also proved a serving duel but the Swede was always going to come out second



yesterday - Kyrgios calmly dealt with Sweden's Mikael Ymer in straight sets to swagger into another decider. Kyrgios produced another imperious serving display to beat the 23-year-old Ymer 7-6(7-4) 6-3 in what was the Wimbledon runner-up's fifth semi-final appearance from his past six events. Only an abdominal strain in Mallorca tarnished the impressive streak. Yet to be broken all week in the American capital, Kyrgios

best against Kyrgios in this type of mood as the Australian reeled off the last three games to prevail in one hour, 34 minutes. Kyrgios hadn't made a final for three years but now he's reached two in less than a month, including his breakout run to his maiden grand slam title match at Wimbledon. That four-set defeat to Djokovic at the All England Club remains the 27-year-old's only loss in his past 11 matches since mid-June. "Honestly I didn't play

anywhere near my best tennis today," Kyrgios said after the match. "The past couple of matches I've been on paper, rankings-wise the underdog, but today I definitely felt like the favourite. I served pretty solid. Obviously my winning percentage behind my first serve would have been high, but from the back of the court I didn't play well at all." The difference was he stands on the fast and he makes you play that extra ball. He's an incredible athlete and I really wasn't expecting him to be that fast." Kyrgios said of his rival. "Maybe next time I might have a couple different tactics when I play him, maybe not to try and out rally him, maybe come forward a little bit more. But it was a tough-fought semi-final. I'm just happy to be in another final. Kyrgios only hit 10 aces against Ymer, compared with the 35 thunderbolts he sent down against Tiafoe in their quarter-final epic, but it was good enough for the victory. "I didn't get to sleep until 4.50am. I had so much adrenaline," Kyrgios grinned. "I ate some dinner, got some treatment, my body was so sore after last night." It was an epic battle (against Tiafoe). I didn't really do much today and I felt like my energy was a little flat today early on," the kid from

Canberra shrugged. "It's understandable - I'm only human - but my adrenaline for the final is going to be right there. I'm super excited for it." Had the ATP not stripped Wimbledon of rankings points in objection to the All England Club's banning of Russian and Belarusian players because of the invasion of Ukraine, Kyrgios would have regained his place in the world's top 15. Instead he remains at No 63 and continues to make a mockery of the men's rankings, which ridiculously also have Djokovic at world No 6, the Serbian superstar's lowest position in 15 years. Kyrgios's run in Washington guarantees the 27-year-old's rise to at least No 42 in the world and he's projected to climb to 37th if he lands a seventh pro title. And with big events coming up in Montreal and Cincinnati, Kyrgios is on track to secure an all-important seeding for the US Open starting on August 29 in New York. The most recent of Kyrgios's ATP titles came here in Washington in 2019 and he'll be hoping to snare another when he plays either Russian top seed Andrey Rublev or Japanese left-hander Yoshihito Nishioka in what will be his 11th career final.

Ten Hag's first task is to sort out United's biggest mistake bringing Ronaldo back

London, August 7: It wouldn't quite be true to say that everything was rosy at Manchester United a year ago, but they had finished second in the Premier League the previous season and had added Jadon Sancho and Raphaël Varane to the squad. The doubts around Ole Gunnar Solskjær's management meant a serious title challenge still seemed unlikely but nobody really expected them to fall to sixth, with 16 points fewer than they had gathered the

rival, it could hardly have executed it better. United played poorly for much their first game against a dismal Newcastle, but Ronaldo scored twice in a 4-1 win and that was enough. Grown men wept: the prodigal son had returned. And so the Solskjær nostalgia project was derailed by an even more intense nostalgia. The frolic in past glories obscured the chaos of the present. Solskjær's football was about sitting deep and striking on the break, but Ronaldo meant



previous season. The campaign began well enough, with a 5-1 demolition of Leeds and then four points from admittedly less-than-inspiring performances in away games at Southampton and Wolves. This seemed the familiar pattern: Solskjær's United excelled against teams who came at them and left space for the pace of their forward line to exploit, but found it harder against teams who sat deep. And then, in the final week of the transfer window, came the oddest of distractions: the reports that Cristiano Ronaldo, his relationship with Juventus fractured, was on the verge of joining Manchester City. At which point the United machine sprang into action - Sir Alex Ferguson, Rio Ferdinand, Bruno Fernandes, the generations coming together for one dreadful mistake - to ensure that he signed for United instead. If City had devised an operation to destabilise a club that was just beginning to look like it might conceivably re-emerge as a

there was no pace in the forward line. The gameplan disintegrated. United won just four of their following 13 games and Solskjær was sacked. It is impossible, of course, to know how different players' form and confidence might have been had Ronaldo not been there, although it is safe to say he has not been great for dressing-room harmony. It's true he has scored goals - 18 in the Premier League, eight more than anybody else in the squad - but United as a whole scored 16 fewer than the previous season. While those goals often got United out of difficult situations, it's also true that many of those situations were of Ronaldo's making. Would Solskjær still be in charge if Ronaldo hadn't joined? Given United might have been able to build on what had gone before, might have qualified for this season's Champions League, it's certainly possible. But instead Ronaldo remains - for now - a totem of a club that, having lost faith in its capacity to plan for the future, knows only how to look back.

South Africa power past New Zealand to pile pressure on head coach Ian Foster

Johansberg, August 7: South Africa ground down an out-of-form New Zealand to win 26-10 in the Rugby Championship opener on Saturday and pile the pressure on the All Blacks with their fifth defeat in six matches. The Springboks scored two tries at the Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit, one at the start by wing Kurt-Lee Arendse and one right at the end. Replacement Willie le Roux crossed over as the All Blacks launched a desperate late attack deep in their own 22 in an attempt to salvage some pride. The Springboks were in control throughout and had a big territorial advantage to work with, although they finished with 14 men. Arendse was issued a red card in the 75th minute - while he was lying flat out receiving medical attention - for a highly dangerous charge in the air on

Beauden Barrett. The Springboks led 19-3 with a couple of minutes to go and were grinding their way to a big victory over an All Blacks team that had been subdued by the home side's scrummaging, merciless defence and



persistent tactical kicking that kept the visitors pinned in their own half for the majority of the game. New Zealand finally broke clear in the dying

minutes with a burst by the wing Caleb Clarke. He was dragged down just short of the line by Damian Willemse but the replacement forward, Shannon Frizell, was on hand to score the All Blacks' only try with two minutes

front of their try line, allowing Le Roux to kick ahead, flop on the ball over the line and seal the win. The Springboks fly-half Handré Pollard kicked 16 points. The All Blacks must play a second Test against South Africa next week at Ellis Park in Johannesburg and the head coach Ian Foster's job is now hanging by a thread, as is the future of flanker Cane as the leader of the team. New Zealand are in the midst of their worst run in 24 years after last month's historic home series loss to Ireland. Another defeat against the world champions next weekend would likely prove to be the end for Foster. New Zealand's chief executive Mark Robinson recently refusing to guarantee his position beyond the two games against South Africa, throwing the All Blacks into some turmoil just over a year out from the Rugby World Cup in France.

remaining. The consolation barely lasted a minute as Frizell dropped a pass from the captain, Sam Cane, as the All Blacks tried to attack from in

Amusan Sets New Record, Wins Gold At Commonwealth Games

Birmingham, August 7: Nigerian athlete, Tobi Amusan has set a new record by winning the 100 meters hurdles gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the United Kingdom. The 25-year-old clocked 12.30 seconds to set a new games record. This is coming two weeks after she became the first Nigerian athlete to win a World Athletics Championship gold as she stormed to victory in the women's 100m hurdles in Oregon. Amusan, who had obliterated the world record in an astonishing semi-final where she clocked 12.12sec, powered over the line at Hayward Field in 12.06sec. Her winning time will not be recognised as a world record, however, due to a strong following win of 2.5 meters per second. Jamaica's



Britany Anderson took silver in 12.23sec, while Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico claimed bronze in 12.23. Amusan had produced a jaw-dropping world record in the semi-finals, smashing the previous bestmark of 12.20secs held by Keni Harrison of the United States in 2016. "Honestly, I believe in my abilities but I was not expecting a world record, however, due to a strong following win of 2.5 meters per second. Jamaica's

final victory. "The goal is always just to execute well and get the win. So the world record is a bonus. I knew I had it in me but I could not believe it when I saw it on the screen after the semis. "Before the final, I just tried to stay calm and to do my best. I took a deep breath knowing that I have some goals to accomplish and it worked pretty well. I knew it was very fast but not this fast."

England fall short in run chase as India reach Commonwealth Games T20 final

London, August 7: England will play for Commonwealth bronze in the women's Twenty20, letting slip a golden opportunity in their semi-final against India. With huge home support in a full house at Edgbaston, they survived a withering assault from Smriti Mandhana, who had India going at 10 runs per over while raising her fifty in 23 balls, before England pulled back the total to 164 for five. They then had the chase in hand, needing 33 runs from four overs, but after Amy Jones and Natalie Sciver were run out, England fell four runs short. India advance to the final where they will play Australia, who chased down New Zealand's 145 target with just three balls to spare in the second semi-final. India had a sizeable contingent of supporters in attendance, and the stands were rocking through the first seven overs as Mandhana put the bowlers to the sword. It was an innings that mixed the left-hander's signature elegance with immense power. She used Issy Wong's pace to hit a flat pull shot for six, added another from Sciver's medium-pace over midwicket and launched Sarah Glenn's leg-break over long-on. In between times she drove through the covers and swept the spinners to the fence with immaculate placement, breaking her own India record for the fastest half-century in the format. Shafali Verma just kept her company as they put on 73 runs from the first seven overs. That was when Freya Kemp had

Verma caught trying to hit big down the ground, then Sciver tricked Mandhana with a slower ball that she scooped to short fine-leg, ending her innings on 61 from 32 balls. That start set up India's total, with Jemimah Rodrigues adding 44 from 31, shifting around the crease to create boundary gaps over cover or midwicket. England did manage to bowl some tidy overs, keeping Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma to around a run a ball, meaning their run chase was 10-20 runs lighter than had looked likely. England started even faster than India had, despite losing Sophia Dunkley lbw for 19, but racking up 42 for one after four overs, compared to India's 40 for none. Wides and no-balls from Renuka Singh Thakur in the opening over helped the score along. Dunkley swung hard, Danni Wyatt started threading shots through the off side, and Alice Capsey was again promoted to No 3 after Dunkley fell. But the teenager who has provided a lot of England's runs made a mistake befitting her age with her score on 13, when she hared off for a second run despite the ball being on its way back to the wicketkeeper from backward point. Turning back to the non-striker's end, Capsey dived in but had turned her bat upside down and the ridge on the back lifted it. She was over her ground but not in it. Wyatt had a similarly self-inflicted dismissal on 35, stepping outside off stump but missing a scoop, the ball bounc-

ing off her pad back on to her stumps. Now it was India's turn to claw back ascendancy, bowling tightly to Sciver and Jones with quiet overs from Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav and Deepti Sharma. "They made it hard for us," Sciver said. "Bowled really well, restricted us, took away our boundary options. "The 16th over looked to have swung the match again, with



Harmanpreet turning to part-time spinner Verma for one over too many, belted by Jones and Sciver for 15. That gave England an equation they would have liked, with seven wickets in hand.

Australia beat England in torrid semi-final, but Diamonds' sparkle may not last forever

London, August 7: Bruised, battered and wounded - not in body, but in pride - the Diamonds hobbled into Saturday's Commonwealth Games semi-final against the host nation England. The historic loss to Jamaica cast its



shadow over the upcoming match. A loss was not necessarily a concern in itself - in 2015 the Diamonds lost a pool match to New Zealand and went on to win the gold medal match against the same opposition. But a loss to Ja-

maica was emblematic of a new world order. It was the first time Australia had lost to Jamaica at a major tournament. No longer are Australia and New Zealand the untouchable favourites to be feared by any and all opposition. In the not-too-distant past, a semi-final against England would have been merely a formality, a mildly testing warm up to the main event of a trans-Tasman final. But in 2022, the Diamonds came face to face with the very real possibility that for the first time ever, they may not even contest the gold medal match. The one-goal losses to England and New Zealand, in the last Commonwealth Games and World Cup finals respectively, hurt the

game. But the real key for women's rugby league comes in the shape of this year's World Cup, which like the women's Euros is being staged in England: a chance to replicate what the Lionesses have achieved by winning a major tournament on home soil. "We want to emulate exactly what they've done, win a tournament and do it in the style they did, entertaining people," says the Leeds and England half-back Courtney Winfield-Hill. "Women's rugby league has an enormous opportunity to build on the Lionesses." The Australian-born Winfield-Hill has been at the coalface of a surge in women's sport before. She was part of the inaugural women's Big Bash cricket competition before switching to rugby league, moving to England and joining Leeds when the WSL was launched. Success in a World Cup shown on terrestrial television could catapult Winfield-Hill, Emily Rudge and Jodie Cunningham into the mainstream. "When the girls that came before me were playing in fields with nobody watching, this was probably the furthest thing from their minds," Winfield-Hill says. "But it's up to us to take advantage of what's happened with the Lionesses. They've made people stand up and talk about women's sport. It's probably helped put other sports like ours into the conversation. I'm not a football fan really but even I was taking notice. It made everyone think about women's sport." World Cup organisers are waiting to see if there is a



surge in ticket sales this autumn but the early signs are good. England's group opener against Brazil on 1 November is on course to break the UK record for a standalone game of women's rugby in either code, while several Super League clubs have reported increased interest from supporters in the remainder of the WSL season. The Rugby Football League is privately plotting how to build on the Lionesses' success, too. It has launched the Inspired By programme, partly aimed at getting more girls and women involved in rugby league and building on the success of the Lionesses and the Commonwealth Games. Post-World Cup, the game has planned a series of initiatives to capitalise on any success, too. That includes the England players delivering sessions in local

communities to allow young girls who have hopefully been inspired by the World Cup to meet their role models and generate extra buzz around the sport. But the real goal for the women's game is being in a position to allow its players to go full time, a dream that could take a step closer to becoming a reality with World Cup success on home soil. "I do think we're still a long way away from that," Winfield-Hill says. "There's some brilliant work going in on the ground at domestic level, and internationally we're very strong and capable of competing with anyone. But the consistency across the board in the WSL isn't quite there between the best-resourced and least-resourced club. More central funding from our sporting bodies is what we need, really." I've seen it work successfully with cricket in Aus-

tralia. The more bodies and authorities you get investing in a game, the closer you'll get to full-time players. We do need more of that in rugby league, but hopefully the Lionesses have shown the world women's sport is worth investing in. It's now up to us as players to follow that in the World Cup. Winning it would be a huge silver bullet for our growth." The Lionesses have clearly shown how women's sport can reach heights nobody felt possible as recently as a few years ago. Rugby league has significantly more obstacles to clear when it comes to funding and mainstream attention, but it is clear now that success on home soil for an England team changes the landscape for a sport like nothing else. The platform has been laid: it is now up to the women's game to deliver.

'Do something now' Inside the Lionesses' drive to get girls playing



London, August 7: On Monday the England centre-back Lottie Wubben-Moy ducked down the aisle of the team bus as it wove its way from

the Euro 2022 victory celebrations in Trafalgar Square. The 23-year-old was on a mission. "I don't know whether it was the energy of being in London, being around people out in front of the National Portrait Gallery that were screaming our names as we were dancing in front of them, but it was a catalyst for me to then go say it to everyone and go to Leah [Williamson, the captain] and Sue [Campbell, the director of women's football at the Football Association] to say: 'We need to do something now.'" The result was a letter, signed by all 23 players in the squad that had won the team's

first major trophy. It was addressed to Tory leadership hopefuls Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, urging whichever becomes prime minister to ensure every girl in school has access to football in PE. It read: "Currently only 63% of girls can play football in PE lessons. The reality is we are inspiring young girls to play football, only for many to end up going to school and not being able to play. This is something that we all experienced growing up. We were often stopped from playing. So we made our own teams, we travelled across the country and despite the odds, we just kept playing football."





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