

# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bangladeshi national

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 09:

A Bangladeshi national has been arrested from Karimganj district of Assam. The arrested Bangladeshi has been identified as Zakir Hussain. He hails from Zakiganj in Bangladesh. According to reports, on Monday night, the police had nabbed a group of smugglers from the neighbouring country at the India-Bangladesh border. The smugglers had crossed the Kushiara River and entered into the Indian territory. However, all the smugglers escaped from the police net and only Zakir could be arrested. The police seized two cartons of alcohol from Zakir's possession. Meanwhile, the Karimganj Police said that the arrested person has informed that some Indians are also involved in smuggling. They help the Bangladeshi smugglers in the import and export of alcohol.

### Cattle heads

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 09:

Assam police on Monday night foiled a cattle smuggling bid at Kaliabor in Nagaon district. As many as 34 cattle heads were seized from a truck that was intercepted at Bagori in Kaliabor. Sources informed that the truck was en route Meghalaya from Bokakhat. The driver of the truck, identified as Saddam Hussain, was arrested in connection to the seizure. Last week, 15 cattle heads were seized in Manikpur's Jamdaha of Bongaigaon district in Assam. They were seized with the help of Gou Suraksha (Cow Protection) Maha Sangha Bongaigaon Committee.

### women died

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 09:

A women's body was recovered who went missing after a country-made boat capsized in Ghiladhari river in Assam's Biswanath district. The deceased woman has been identified as one Deepanjali Keot. Another woman is also feared drowned and efforts are on to trace her. According to reports, around six women were travelling in the boat when it capsized in the middle of the river. It is suspected that the boat capsized due to overloading. All six women belonged to Mukhgarh area and had gone to the other side for cultivation works. The incident happened they were returning back to their home on the boat.

## Border disputes : Assam & Mizoram sign joint statement



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 09:

The state governments of Assam and Mizoram, on Tuesday signed a joint statement to resolve the decades-long border disputes amicably through dialogue. "A joint statement has been signed between Assam and Mizoram to resolve the border disputes between the two states," Assam minister Atul Bora, who was part of the Assam delegation said at a joint press conference. According to the joint statement, deputy commis-

sioners of bordering districts of both Assam and Mizoram would meet every two months to take stock of situation in the border areas. Assam minister Atul Bora further informed that the next meeting between Assam and Mizoram over border issues will be held in Guwahati in October. "Border issues and claims between Assam and Mizoram will be discussed in the next meeting," said Assam minister Atul Bora. Bora added: "Assam and Mizoram CM are very keen to resolve the vexed border issue." Meanwhile,

Mizoram home minister Lalchamliana, who represented Mizoram in the talks with the Assam delegation in Tuesday's talks stressed that "give and take policy is the basic component of any discussions like this (border talks)". "We hope that the next meeting in Guwahati will be a step forward towards resolving this vexed border disputes issue," Mizoram home minister Lalchamliana said. The Assam-Mizoram border talks were held at Aijal Club in Aizawl. The Mizoram and Assam delegations had met in August last year to

find a lasting solution to the vexed border issue after a violent clash in July. The August meeting was followed by two rounds of virtual meetings. In the virtual meeting held in early April, both teams agreed to lift up the talks to a high level and Assam was entrusted to frame modalities for the next talks. Mizoram shares a 164.6 km long inter-state boundary with Assam, which has seen flare-up several times in recent years. The decades-old boundary dispute between Mizoram and Assam mainly stemmed from two colonial demarcations in 1875 and 1933. While Mizoram accepted the demarcation under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BERF) notified in 1875, which covers vast

stretches of area now falling under Assam, as its actual boundary, the Assam government said that the demarcations made under the 1933 notification was its constitution boundary. On July 26 last year, a violent clash took place at the disputed area near Vairengte town on the NH-306 when police forces of both states exchanged fire. At least six policemen and a civilian from Assam had died and around 60 people were injured in the clash. Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma had met over the border issue in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi in November last year and agreed to form

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## PM Modi's Assets Up By ? 26 Lakh To ? 2.23 Crore, Land Holding Donated



New Delhi, August 09:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi owns assets worth over ? 2.23 crore, mostly as bank deposits, but has no immovable properties as he has donated his share in a piece of land in Gandhinagar, according to his latest disclosure about assets. He has no investment in any bond, share or mutual funds, does not own any vehicle, but has four gold rings valued at ? 1.73 lakh, according to his declaration updated till

March 31. PM Modi's movable assets rose by ? 26.13 lakh from a year ago, but he no longer owns the immovable assets which were worth ? 1.1 crore as on March 31, 2021. His assets total ? 2,23,82,504 as on March 31, 2022, according to details uploaded on the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) website. The residential plot he jointly held with three other owners, each having an equal share, was purchased by him in October 2002 when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. The latest update said, "Immovable property Survey No. 401/A was jointly held with three other joint owners and each having an equal share of 25 per cent is no more owned by the self as the same has been donated." The cash in hand with the prime minister as on March 31, 2022 was ?

35,250 and his National Savings Certificates with post office were worth ? 9,05,105 and had life insurance policies valued ? 1,89,305. Among the prime minister's Cabinet colleagues who have declared their assets, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has movables worth ? 2.54 crore and immovable assets worth 2.97 crore as on March 31, 2022. Of all the 29 Cabinet ministers, the ones who have declared their own and their dependents' assets for the last fiscal

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## 'BJP worker' Shrikant Tyagi, who assaulted Noida woman, held in UP's Meerut



New Delhi, August 09:

Shrikant Tyagi was booked by the Noida Police for allegedly abusing and assaulting a woman following a spat on the premises of

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 09:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday attended as chief guest the 27th Foundation Day celebration of the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation, or NeDFI, at

the Guwahati-based headquarter of the public financial institution. The Chief Minister, at the event, launched the "NeDFI Micro Lending Scheme", aimed at lending a helping hand to the small enterprises and entrepreneurs of the North-eastern region. This apart,

the Chief Minister also launched the "NeDFI Haat" website, a mobile-based application titled "Advancing Northeast" - a joint initia-

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## Maharashtra cabinet expansion: no women sworn in as ministers; NCP MP Supriya Sule lashes out

New Delhi, August 09:

The Maharashtra cabinet expansion of CM Eknath Shinde's two-member ministry took place on Tuesday (Aug 9) where 18 ministers were inducted. The cabinet expansion saw 9 MLAs each from BJP Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction taking oath as ministers in a grand ceremony at Mumbai's Raj Bhavan.

However, there were no women ministers inducted into the cabinet which irked many women activists and politicians. NCP MP Supriya Sule criticised the Maharashtra cabinet expansion for the absence of representation of women. As quoted by ANI, she said, "Maharashtra was the first state in the country to give

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## Assam Cabinet approves Rs 123 crore for rebuilding of houses damaged in floods



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 09:

The Assam Cabinet on Monday approved Rs 123 crore for the rebuilding of houses damaged during the recent wave of floods. The cabinet also approved ex-gratia payment

to kins of those from the state who were killed in Manipur's Noney district during the recent floods. Assam's Cabinet Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah in the post-cabinet meeting brief said that each of the families

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## Length of Earth's days are suddenly getting longer and scientists are wondering why

New Delhi, August 09:

Over millions of years, Earth's rotation has been slowing down due to friction effects associated with the tides driven by the Moon. That process adds about 2.3 milliseconds to the length of each day every century. A few billion years ago an Earth day was only about 19 hours. Atomic clocks, combined with precise astronomical measurements, have revealed that the

length of a day is suddenly getting longer, and scientists don't know why. This has critical impacts not just on our timekeeping, but also on things like GPS and other technologies that govern our modern life. Over the past few decades, Earth's rotation around its axis - which determines how long a day is - has been speeding up. This trend has been making our days shorter; in fact, in



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Soldiers attend a military parade marking the 62nd anniversary of Cote d'Ivoire's independence in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire

## Canadian province declares emergency amid worst wildfires in over 50 years

**Antario, August 09 :** Officials in Canada's easternmost province have issued a state of emergency as crews battle the worst wildfires the region has experienced in more than half a century. Sprawling blazes have consumed thousands of hectares of forest in Newfoundland and Labrador over the last two weeks and remain out of control. "Over the last 36 hours, things have changed," Premier Andrew Furey told reporters on Sunday. "We were predicting that we could manage this. However with the wind change, we are afraid that there will be significant smoke impact... This is a dynamic, evolving situation as all fires are, but we can't wait for the last minute - we have to act

now." Furey said his government issued the state of emergency "not to create panic" but to ensure the province was able to better manage the quickly changing situation. Fires have been burning for close to two weeks in central Newfoundland, aided by strong winds. The Paradise Lake fire is estimated to be more than 6,500 hectares (16,062 acres) and the Bay d'Espoir fire is more than 5,000 hectares (12,355 acres). Large wildfires are relatively rare in the Atlantic province. But a summer of dry, intense heat has left its forests vulnerable to immense and fast-moving blazes. Craig Coady, department of natural resources incident commander, told reporters that crews had witnessed

"extreme fire behaviour" in recent days that worried officials. "We expect to see that continue for today and possibly for the next few days. This is due to the high winds and low humidity." Coady said heavy smoke was complicating efforts at combating the blazes. "If the [water] bombers can't see ahead of the fire and it's too smoky, it's not safe for them to operate," he said, adding that poor air

quality was also the largest problem for residents nearby. The province has not yet ordered any evacuations, but officials have said they are prepared to order residents to leave any communities at risk. Canadian military personnel would be deployed to help with evacuation efforts, the federal emergency preparedness minister, Bill Blair, tweeted Sunday. The province also expanded its outdoor fire ban, which now

prohibits the setting of fires on or within 300 metres of forestland. The move is necessary to help reduce the likelihood new fires are created by accident or through negligence. "Last night I saw two people throwing cigarette butts and I thought that was absolutely crazy," Derrick Bragg, fisheries, forestry and agriculture minister, told reporters. "That is reckless and we do not need it."

## Woman dies in her sleep in front of children and husband on flight to UK

**London, August 09 :** A woman has died in front of her two children and husband after becoming unresponsive on a flight from Hong Kong to the UK. Helen Rhodes, who was flying back to the UK with her family after more than 15 years abroad, was found unresponsive hours into the flight on 5 August, her friend Jayne Jeje wrote in a Go Fund Me which has since raised more than £13,000. "For the remaining 8 hours of the flight, Helen lay in a breathless sleep in her seat. Although this was extremely traumatising to the family, they all had time to say what they needed to say to her," wrote Jeje, who described Helen as one of a kind, and the pulse of her community in Tung Chung, Hong Kong. "This loss is unimaginable. Helen was a devoted wife and mother. She was the glue that held her family together." Upon landing in Germany, Helen's body remained in Frankfurt as her husband, Simon, and two children, Nathan and Emma, flew to the UK. Helen's return to the UK and seeing family would have

been the first since the coronavirus pandemic began. "Sadly, she never got to see them again," wrote Jeje. Helen, a midwife, also ran her own business crafting bespoke accessories, Jeje wrote, and said she belonged to a tight-knit group, Tung Chung Mums, where more than 200 women turned to Helen for medical advice. "Helen always made herself available to help others. She was clever, witty and generous with her time," wrote Jeje. "We can only hope she knew how much she meant to us." Money raised will be put toward funeral expenses and support for the family.

**Kyiv, August 09 :** The UN secretary general has called for international inspectors to be given access to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant after Ukraine and Russia traded accusations over the shelling of Europe's largest atomic plant at the weekend. "Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing," António Guterres told a news conference in Japan on Monday, two days after attending the Hiroshima peace memorial ceremony to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing. Guterres said the International Atomic Energy Agency needed access to the plant. "We fully support the IAEA in all their efforts in relation to create the conditions of stabilisation of the plant," he said. Ukraine said renewed Russian shelling on Saturday had damaged three radiation sensors and hurt a worker at the Zaporizhzhia power plant, the second hit in

consecutive days on the site. Ukraine's ambassador to the IAEA, Yevhenii Tsybaliuk, echoed the call for international inspectors and said Russian forces were attempting to cause electricity blackouts in southern Ukraine by shelling the plant, which was captured by Russian forces in early March but is still run by Ukrainian technicians. He said Zaporizhzhia staff were "working under the barrels of Russian guns". Petro Kotin, the head of Ukraine's state nuclear power company Energoatom, said the creation of a demilitarised

zone around the site and the presence of peacekeepers "would resolve this problem". He warned of the danger of shells hitting containers of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel. If two or more containers were to be broken, "it is impossible to assess the scale" of the resulting disaster. "Such insane actions could leave to the situation spiralling out of control and it will be a Fukushima or Chernobyl," Kotin said. In a televised address on Sunday the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, accused Russia of waging "nuclear terror" that



## Attack on Ukraine nuclear plant 'suicidal', says UN chief as he urges access to site

## PM Narendra Modi, Amit Shah turning Parliament into 'Gujarat Gymkhana', says TMC MP; BJP hits back

**New Delhi, August 09 :** Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien on Monday (August 8, 2022) attacked the government over its decision to cut short the Monsoon session of Parliament and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are turning the great institution into a "Gujarat Gymkhana". His reaction came after both Houses of Parliament were adjourned sine die on Monday. "This is the seventh consecutive time Parliament session has been cut short. Stop mocking Parliament. We will fight for



its sanctity and prevent PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah from turning this great institution into the Gujarat Gymkhana," O'Brien said in a tweet. Hitting back at Mamata Banerjee's leader, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said that Derek O'Brien should stop preaching about democratic values and the sanctity of institutions. "The people of Bengal have elected BJP as the main opposition but TMC, in its arrogance, has denied BJP the post of PAC Chairman," Joshi said in a tweet. "Will Derek O'Brien care to address how many days had the West Bengal Assembly functioned? Or is the State functioning as a Mamata Gymkhana?" the BJP leader added. The Monsoon session of Parliament ended on Monday, four days ahead of schedule, after continued disruptions during the last three weeks over issues like price rise, suspension of 27

proceedings. Rajya Sabha also bid farewell to Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, whose tenure ends on August 10. During the next session, Rajya Sabha proceedings would be chaired by Jagdeep Dhakhar, who will take over on August 11. Proceedings, notably, were disrupted since the start of the Monsoon session, as opposition parties protested to press for an immediate discussion on issues like price rise and GST and later over the suspension of 23 Rajya Sabha members. Four members of Lok Sabha were also suspended.

## Ezra Miller charged with felony burglary in Vermont

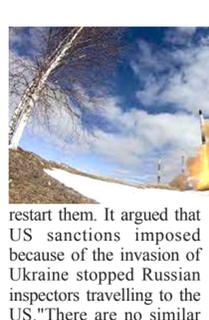
**London, August 09 :** The actor Ezra Miller has been charged with felony burglary in Stamford, Vermont, the latest in a string of alleged incidents involving the embattled star of The Flash. In a police report published on Monday, Vermont state police said they had responded to a burglary complaint in Stamford on 1 May and alleged several bottles of alcohol were taken from a residence while the homeowners were not present. After police consulted surveillance footage and interviewed witnesses, Miller was located and charged shortly before midnight on Sunday. The police report said Miller was issued a citation to appear for arraignment in Vermont superior court on 26 September. The felony charge adds to Miller's mounting legal woes and reports of erratic behaviour. The 29-year-old actor was arrested twice earlier this year in Hawaii, first for disorderly conduct and harassment at a karaoke bar in March, then second-degree assault less than a month later. The parents of 18-year-old Tokata Iron Eyes, a Native American activist, also earlier this year filed a protection order against Miller, accusing the actor in court of holding sway over their child through "violence, intimidation, threat of violence, fear, paranoia, delusions and drugs". Tokata Iron Eyes recently told Insider that those allegations were false. Attorneys for Miller didn't immediately respond to requests for comment on the Vermont felony charge or the protection order related to Tokata Iron Eyes. In July, two women

who had separately accused Miller of threatening behaviour spoke to Variety. One woman, who accused Miller of putting her in a chokehold and throwing her to the ground outside a bar in Iceland in 2020, said: "I think, 'It's just fun and games' - but then it wasn't. All of a sudden, [they're] on top of me, choking me, still screaming in my face if I want to fight." The woman blamed Miller's friends rather than the actor personally for escalating the altercation. The other woman accused the actor of harassing her and "seemingly" attempting to break down her apartment door in Berlin in early 2022, according to the report. Miller has declined to comment on the allegations published in Variety. After appearing in several films for Warner Bros and DC Films as the Flash, Miller is set to star in the upcoming standalone film The Flash, due out in June 2023. Warner Bros has been criticised for remaining committed to the film after reports of Miller's alleged behaviour emerged. Public criticism intensified last week when the studio announced it was axing the nearly completed Batgirl film, but not The Flash. David Zaslav, the chief executive of Warner Bros Discovery, referenced The Flash in an earnings report last week. "We have seen The Flash, Black Adam and Shazam 2. We are very excited about them," Zaslav said. "We think they are terrific, and we think we can make them even better." Representatives for Warner Bros did not respond to requests for comment on Monday.

warranted more international sanctions, this time on Moscow's nuclear sector. "There is no such nation in the world that could feel safe when a terrorist state fires at a nuclear plant," Zelenskyy said. Russian-installed authorities in the area said Ukrainian forces hit the site with a multiple rocket launcher, damaging administrative buildings and an area near a storage facility. The Russian embassy in Washington also released a statement itemising the damage. "Ukrainian nationalists launched an artillery strike on the territory of the specified object on 5 August. Two high-voltage power lines and a water pipeline were damaged as a result of the shelling. Only thanks to the effective and timely actions of the Russian military in covering the nuclear power facility, its critical infrastructure was not affected," the embassy said.

## Russia suspends US inspections of its nuclear weapons arsenal

**Washington, August 09 :** Russia has suspended an arrangement that allowed US and Russian inspectors to visit each other's nuclear weapons sites under the 2010 New Start treaty, in a new blow to arms control. Mutual inspections had been suspended as a health precaution since the start of the Covid pandemic, but a foreign ministry statement on Monday added another reason Russia is unwilling to



restart them. It argued that US sanctions imposed because of the invasion of Ukraine stopped Russian inspectors travelling to the US. "There are no similar obstacles to the arrival of American inspectors in Russia," the statement said. "The Russian foreign ministry raised this issue with the relevant countries, but did not receive an answer." The US state department did not immediately respond to the claim that the sanctions created an imbalance when it came to nuclear weapons inspections. A spokesperson

said: "The United States is committed to implementation of the New Start Treaty, but we keep discussions between the parties concerning treaty implementation confidential." The treaty, which limits each country's deployed strategic warheads to 1,550, and imposes limits on delivery systems, was extended for five years in February 2021. It is the last remaining arms control treaty in effect between the US and Russia, and its inspection and verification clauses are widely seen as vital in building mutual confidence and preventing nuclear miscalculation. "At a time when US and Russian relations are tense, anything that undermines stability and

nuclear predictability is a concern," said Jon Wolfsthal, who was senior director for arms control and nonproliferation in the Obama administration's national security council. "However, we continue to exchange large volumes of information with Russia about their nuclear weapons. The hope is that this is just a political road bump and not a major new obstacle to stability." While inspections have stalled, Russian nuclear forces have maintained another key part of the New Start agreement, notifications to the US on any movements or changes in status of its nuclear arsenal. "They've been stepping up notifications. It's remarkable," Rose Gottemoeller, former Nato deputy secretary general and under secretary of state for arms control and international security,

said. "Notifications come in to something called the National and Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre, which is a centre headquartered in the department of state.

Artists perform traditional Shaoying Opera, also called Yue Ju, for audiences at the Bonita Center for the Arts in San Dimas, Los Angeles



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It is for general information to all concerned that an E-Tender is hereby invited through Assam Forest Department Online Portal - www.assamforestonline.in for sale of timber lots. The tenderer has to participate online w. e. f 11/08/2022 to 25/08/2022 up to 3.00 P. M (IST) through the above said portal. The details of the timber lots along with Terms and Conditions are also available in the said portal.  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Kamrup East Division, Basistha  
Guwahati - 29  
Janasanyog/7957/22

# APDCL signs MoU with NLC India Ltd for a 1000 MW renewable power plant

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 9:** Scaling up its efforts to generate more green power to aid to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of combating climate change by producing more renewable energy, APDCL has signed a MoU with NLC India Limited for setting up a 1000 MW renewable power plant in the state. The MoU was signed by the Managing Director APDCL Rakesh Kumar and Director Planning and Projects of NLC India Limited K. Mohan Reddy in presence of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister for Coal, Mines etc Pralhad Joshi at a function held in Janata Bhawan here today. Under the MoU, the 1000 MW solar power plant to



be set up in Assam will be a joint venture project on 49:51 ratio between APDCL and NLCIL to support the increasing power requirement of the state. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma termed it a historic day for the state in the field of power generation. He said that since power requirement in Assam is increasing by leaps and bounds, the state should be in a position to produce more power to fulfil its own requirement and at the same time staying benign with the climate change. He said that once commissioned this solar power plant will serve the state in a big way by meeting its own requirement and helping Assam to contribute to Prime Minister Modi's agenda of combating climate change by producing more renewable energy. He also said that besides this 1000 MW solar power plant, the State

government is ready to have another joint venture with NLCIL for yet another 1000 MW green power project. He also said that the State government has a definite plan to reduce the state's dependence on fossil fuel and step up generation of green energy in the near future. He said that Assam should work to formulate a long term vision to plan the state's growth and development. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also thanked Union Minister for Coal, Mines etc Pralhad Joshi for his help and leadership in enabling NLCIL to go for the joint venture with the State government in power generation. He also thanked the Union Minister for his initiative in starting the operation of North Eastern Coalfields of Coal India Limited in Margherita. Union Minister for Coal, Mines etc. Pralhad Joshi

also spoke on the occasion elaborating his ministry's plan of action for the development of Assam and North East. NLCIL on this occasion also contributed Rs. 5 crore to Chief Minister's Relief Fund as the Union Minister handed over the cheque to the Chief Minister. Dr. Sarma appreciated the gesture of the company and said that the contribution would help in empowering the State government in its efforts of rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood victims in the state. Power Minister Nandita Gorlosa along with several other ministers, Principal Secretary Power Niraj Verma, CMD NLC India Limited Rakesh Kumar and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

## Suspected NSCN (K), ULFA (I) militants attack on Assam Rifles camp



**Assam Rising, Margherita, August 9 :** On the eve of Independence Day, militant outfits launched a deadly attack on the army. Suspected militants belonging to proscribed outfits NSCN (K) and ULFA (I) attacked a camp of Assam Rifles at Pangsau Pass along the Indo-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district on Tuesday morning. There is no confirmed report of any casualties in the militants' attack, but some reports claimed that one Assam Rifles jawan was killed in the attack. Reliable sources said, a joint team of NSCN (K) and ULFA (I) with heavy weapons attacked the newly built Assam Rifles camp located at Pangsau Pass on Tuesday morning at around 4. In retaliation, the Assam Rifles fired on them and a gun-fight broke out between them but no casualties have been reported, said a source. Confirming the incident Changlang Superintendent of Police (SP) Mihin Gambo said firing was reported from the Pangsau Pass area this morning. "It is immediately not known which insurgent groups were involved in the attack," SP Gambo said. Meanwhile, security forces have launched a massive operation along the Indo-Myanmar border in Changlang district. Recently, Assam Rifles have carried out massive operations against the insurgent groups in Tirap, Longding and Changlang regions of Arunachal Pradesh and managed to nab several NSCN cadres. Pangsau Pass area is one of the remotest areas in Arunachal Pradesh and shares boundary with Myanmar. Most of the insurgent groups of the Northeast have set up their camps in the jungles of Myanmar and sneak into Arunachal Pradesh through jungle routes.

## ANSS meets Education Minister over educational issues

**Assam Rising Biswanath Chariali, August 9:** A delegation from Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha (ANSS) headed by Durga Khatiwora, President met Dr Ranaj Pegu, the Education Minister at Secretariat today to have a detailed discussion on various issues. ANSS has been constantly pressuring the government since 2013 to include the Nepali subject in SET by SLET Commission, N.E. Region (Assam) while scant regard is being given to the long standing issue. It is worth mentioning that the Nepali language is included in 8th schedule of the Indian constitution since 1992 but this language has not got due recognition in comparison to those which are in the same schedule, says Dr Chintamani Sharma, the working president of the largest literary organization of India duly recognised by Sahitya Academy. Many posts of Assistant Professor in Nepali in colleges of Assam have fallen vacant owing to superannuation of teachers working in these posts but the candidates with good result



in M.A. in Nepali are still not getting a way to apply for the vacant position due to non clearing of NET/SET. As students in other subjects get an opportunity to appear in SET but the same opportunity is not provided to students of NE states for Nepali subjects. This is a sheer injustice to the Gorkha students of North East, says Mr Bhabani Prasad Sarma, Vice President of ANSS. Mr Madan Thapa, who was inducted as General Secretary of the organization in 4th central executive meeting of ANSS held at DRDA guest house, Kohora said that education minister was appraised in details about the long standing issues of ANSS and after threadbare discussion with the delegates and the respective officials, Dr Ranaj Pegu assured of inclusion of Nepali Subject in SET by SLET Commission of NE Region (Assam) from 2023. The team of ANSS also appealed education minister to incorporate Gorkha literateurs as well of Assam in 'Sahityik' (Literary) pension award who have immense contribution in Nepali literature. In 2021-22 not a single litterateur belonging to the Gorkha community was enlisted for the award. The ANSS team requested the education minister to include the members of this community in coming years for the award. Dr Ranaj Pegu assured the team that he would look into the matter seriously, stated in a press release issued by the literary organization today.

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## CDAA organized TGM

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 9:** The Chemists & Druggists Association of Assam organised a Triennial General Meeting (TGM) on August 07 (Sunday) at Institute of Engineers (India), Panbazar, Guwahati. The association discussed various issues like- Stop Online Sale till amendment

of Drug and Cosmetics Act 1940 Rule 1945, Pharmacy Act 1948 should be governed in respect to Online Sale, Patient Safety is the first priority for rational use of drugs, Implementation of E Prescription in true spirit with proper code etc, Misuse of Self Medicated Drugs, Reduction of prices

of Life Saving Drugs, Maintain Decorum of all Channel Partners Retail Wholesale and C&FA, Right to Poor Retailers should be protected, Live and Let Live Policy for small and micro business and Patient Friendly Approach from all members of the organization.

## ANSS meets Education Minister over educational issues

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 9 :** A delegation from Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha (ANSS) headed by Durga Khatiwora, President met Dr Ranaj Pegu, the Education Minister at Secretariat today to have a detailed discussion on various issues. ANSS has been constantly pressuring the government since 2013 to include the Nepali subject in SET by SLET Commission, N.E. Region (Assam) while scant regard is being given to the long standing issue. It is worth mentioning that the Nepali language is included in 8th schedule of the Indian constitution since 1992 but this language has not got due recognition in comparison to those which are in the same schedule, says Mr Bhabani Prasad Sarma, Vice President of ANSS. Mr Madan Thapa, who was inducted as General Secretary of the organization in 4th central executive meeting of ANSS held at DRDA guest house, Kohora said that education minister was appraised in details about the long standing issues of ANSS and after threadbare discussion with the delegates and the respective officials, Dr Ranaj Pegu assured of inclusion of Nepali Subject in SET by SLET Commission of NE Region (Assam) from 2023. The team of ANSS also appealed education minister to incorporate Gorkha literateurs as well of Assam in 'Sahityik' (Literary) pension award who have immense contribution in Nepali literature. In 2021-22 not a single litterateur belonging to the Gorkha community was enlisted for the award. The ANSS team requested the education minister to include the members of this community in coming years for the award. Dr Ranaj Pegu assured the team that he would look into the matter seriously, stated in a press release issued by the literary organization today.



dates with good result in M.A. in Nepali are still not getting a way to apply for the vacant position due to non clearing of NET/SET. As students in other subjects get an opportunity to appear in SET but the same opportunity is not provided to students of NE states for Nepali subjects. This is a sheer injustice to the Gorkha students of North East, says Mr Bhabani Prasad Sarma, Vice President of ANSS. Mr Madan Thapa, who was inducted as General Secretary of the organization in 4th central executive meeting of ANSS held at DRDA guest house, Kohora said that education minister was appraised in details about the long standing issues of ANSS and after threadbare discussion with the delegates and the

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## Cycle rally at Samar Dalani



**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 9:** A cycle rally was taken out today by the NCC cadets of Dakshin Nagsankar High School as a part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Samar Dalani. A total of 50 NCC cadets along with other students of the school participated in the rally. The rally was flagged off by Parbati Sarma, GP president of Dakshin Nagsankar GP which was attended by Rishiraj Sarma, vice president of the School management committee, Ballav Chapagain, headmaster of the school along with other teachers and students. The rally was taken out to make people aware of Har Ghar Tiranga, a nationwide campaign undertaken by the central government. The rally was taken out from Dakshin Nagsankar High School and proceeded through Lakhanganh, Kenduguri, Batiaroka and Samar Dalani area covering approximately 7 kilometres.

## 31st BN SSB organizes drawing competition in Gossaigaon



**Assam Rising Gossaigaon, August 9:** The 31st Battalion of SSB in collaboration with Birangona NGO keeping in par with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav for completing 75 years of Independence with a theme "Har Ghar Tiranga" organized a drawing competition here at Gossaigaon Higher Secondary School on Monday. The drawing competition was chaired by Chiranjib Bhattacharjee,

Commandant of 31st Bn SSB. Altogether 45 girls and 54 boys from 14 different schools within Gossaigaon sub-division participated in the drawing competition. The students were divided into A&B groups to conduct the drawing competition smoothly. The students who performed best were appraised and awarded. On the occasion, Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Commandant, 31st BN SSB personally made

aware the students about the campaign "Har Ghar Tiranga" under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and encouraged the students to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it proudly being an Indian to mark the 75th year of Independence. During the programme around 500 flags were distributed among the students and local residents of Gossaigaon by the soldiers of 31st Battalion of SSB.

## Freedom fighters felicitated by Biswanath district admin

**Assam Rising Biswanath Chariali, August 9:** A total of three freedom fighters and 24 widows of freedom fighters were felicitated by the Biswanath district administration today as a part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. As a part of the celebration of the upcoming 76th Independence day, eleven officials from Biswanath district administration visited the houses of the freedom fighters and felicitated them with a citation, chelenge, gamosa and a memento. The three freedom fighters including Hari Prasad Mishra (Samar

Dalani, Nagsankar), Anuram Barua (Gohpur, Majikichi) and Gangaram Barua (Roumari, Behali) were accorded warm felicitation besides the widows of 24 freedom fighters. The officials including Pranjal Das, circle officer of Biswanath revenue circle, Lukumoni Bora, circle officer Helem, Madhuriya Parashar, BDO Biswanath, Akashdeep Kakaty, circle officer Naduar, Alina Kandalula, circle officer Biswanath (attached), Mantush Chakravarti, circle officer Naduar (at-



tached), Manish Bharali, circle officer Gohpur, Debananda Nath, BDO Behali, Rajib Bora, BDO

Baghmora, Goutam Sarma, BDO, Sakomotha and Palak Kumar Sarma, BOD Sootea visited the houses of free-

dom fighters and felicitated them on behalf of Biswanath district administration.

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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Harsh response from China

The historic visit of the US House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to Taiwan has certainly triggered a harsh response from China. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been conducting a series of drills around the island that amount to a partial blockade of the Taiwan Strait. In addition, Beijing has announced sanctions against Taiwan, affecting goods from pineapple cakes (a Taiwanese delicacy) to oranges; it has also declared eight countermeasures in response to Pelosi's visit, which included cancelling dialogues between the leaders of Chinese and US military theatres and suspending the joint Sino-US talks on climate change. Tension in the Taiwan Strait has put the world on edge. The G7 foreign ministers last week called on China to "resolve cross-Strait differences by peaceful means". However, there has also been much criticism of Pelosi. For instance, in the New York Times, Thomas Friedman characterised her visit as "utterly reckless, dangerous, and irresponsible". For such critics, it could not have happened at a worse time: 1 August is PLA Day, a holiday celebrating the founding of the Chinese army. Furthermore, the visit happened right before the Beidaihe conference - a secretive gathering of Chinese Communist party elites where major policy decisions are made - and the 20th CCP congress, where President Xi Jinping is widely believed to be pursuing an unprecedented third term. The timing thus made Pelosi's visit highly provocative. Xi could hardly afford to lose face to the Americans at this critical juncture. One implication of these criticisms is that the current tension could be diffused after a few months. Once Beijing felt that it had sufficiently rebuked Pelosi and punished Taipei, the tension could subside. We are not so optimistic. Pelosi's visit was merely a trigger. The crisis reflects deeper issues in Sino-US relations. If they are not addressed, we expect more instability in the Taiwan Strait and the evolution of great power competition into great power conflict. In the past few years, policymakers, opinion leaders and members of the public in China have increasingly compared America to a "paper tiger". On the one hand, the US is believed to be pernicious. Jealously guarding its own hegemony, it does not and cannot accept China's rise, they say; since the Trump administration, Washington has started to systematically hollow out the "one China principle" with the intention of using Taiwan as a pawn to contain China. On the other hand, Washington is believed to lack resolve and capabilities. Although the US is malicious, it is also weak, runs the line. While China's 1.4 billion citizens are united in their pursuit of the "Chinese dream", America is plagued by internal contradictions ranging from partisan polarisation to racial tension. If the US did not send troops to Ukraine, surely it lacks the stomach to defend Taiwan? Notably, Hua Chunying, China's foreign ministry spokesperson, was mocking America as a "paper tiger" on Twitter just days before Pelosi went to Taiwan. This "paper tiger" line significantly complicates efforts to maintain stability across the Taiwan Strait. If Pelosi had decided to cancel her trip to Taiwan after Beijing's protest, China would probably have launched a propaganda campaign ridiculing Washington's claim that its commitment to Taiwan was "rock solid". However, whenever the US tries to signal its resolve and capabilities, Beijing is likely to interpret this as evidence of hostility. Washington is caught between Scylla and Charybdis. If the US attempts to reassure China, that risks looking like appeasement. If it signals its intention to defend the liberal international order in the Indo-Pacific, that could trigger an uncontrollable security dilemma. In the context of this dynamic, can we be confident that Beijing would not have raised tensions at some later date even if Pelosi had not visited Taiwan? How would Beijing react were the US to sell Taiwan offensive weapon systems comparable to those that have been recently supplied to Ukraine? We might debate how provocative Pelosi's visit would look in comparison with arms sales (some may perceive the former as a more overt challenge to Chinese sovereignty). But this very discussion draws attention to the underlying dynamic that makes US actions provocative to China. Focusing on Pelosi's visit distracts us from the deeper problems that plague Sino-US relations. Beijing needs to recognise how destabilising and counterproductive the "paper tiger" analogy is. It complicates any attempt to construct "guard rails" that would prevent US-China competition becoming US-China confrontation. Beijing needs to stop suggesting that the US lacks the will to guard the liberal international order in the Indo-Pacific. Jeering at America's resolve is not only dismissive and insulting but also counterproductive. Even if the US does lack resolve, taunting it serves only to fuel anti-China sentiments and force Washington to harden its position.

### Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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### Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Assam

# Digital Transformation of Transport Sector

Across the world, the transport sector has seen phenomenal growth due to technological innovations, the increased purchasing power of citizens, and improvements in the road infrastructure. Like every country, India too has an elaborate Governance mechanism to control, regulate and manage the transport sector. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways at the Central level, the respective State Transport Departments at the State levels and the Regional Transport Offices at the District/Regional level are the key agencies and establishments - which are responsible for managing this sector through policy intervention, administrative control and enforcement of rules and regulations. In recent years, these activities have been modernized with comprehensive adoption of ICT technology and change in the business processes with the ultimate objective of (a) ensuring better governance, (b) facilitating efficient services to the citizen, and (c) bringing efficiency and transparency to the system. ICT-led innovations and development in the Indian Transport Sector with a wide range of government initiatives and schemes have helped to improve the public transportation services in the country. eTransport Mission Mode Project is an important IT initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to modernize the management and operations of the Transport Sector. It is a comprehensive digital platform created with technical support from National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) facilitating all transport-related services through a centralized, web-based system operational across the country. It has successfully transformed the ser-



vice delivery mechanism of various transport-related activities (vehicle registration, driving license, enforcement, taxation, permit, fitness, etc.) and has also empowered multiple stakeholders by ensuring improved delivery of services. Some of the key applications developed and implemented under this project include Vahan (for vehicle registration), Sarathi (for driving license), mParivahan (mobile app), e-Challan (enforcement solution), PUC (pollution compliance system). Vahan and Sarathi have extended their reach to 1300+ RTOs, 30,000+ Dealer points, across 33 States/ Union Territories, covering their diverse systems and processes under a unified, common system. More than 100 online, citizen/trade services are operational and facilitate online service requests, document upload, ePayment, appointments, etc. Many of them are completely contact-less eliminating the need for visiting RTO by citizens. On average, 60,000 vehicles are registered, 80,000 licenses issued, 25 Million SMS/OTP generated, 100,000 online applications, and 100,000 online appointments are booked daily. After the core activity of process automation at the RTOs and other transport establishments has been achieved through the adoption of basic digital technology, the emphasis has now moved to citizens and other stakeholders in the sector. Applications and Services are being offered through online, contactless

of **Shri Pawan Kumar Joshi**

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manner to ensure ease in getting services. Stakeholders in the ecosystem are connected through sharing of data and integration of services. Online Check Post Application pro-

vides a convenient option for payment of inter-state entry tax without any barriers. Several mobile-based initiatives have also been launched under the eTransport project. e-Challan is a comprehensive Traffic Ticketing Solution that has been adopted by Transport Enforcement Officers and Traffic Police in 26 States. The solution equips the traffic police officers with handheld devices running e-Challan app for easy and quicker issuance of challans and accepting ePayments. The system is also linked with speed detection cameras which allow the issuance of traffic violation notices without human intervention. PUC is a web-enabled application used by around 30,000 Pollution Checking Centres across 24 states for certifying vehicular emission compliance (Pollution Under Control Certificates) as per standards and norms set by the Motor Vehicle Act/ Rule. It facilitates real-time integration of the pollution status

with various allied systems and stakeholders. For citizens, a handy mobile app to cover various transport-related services and information has been developed and launched under the eTransport Project. mParivahan is a widely popular app for the citizens that allow multiple services and tools related to Transport Sector, including Virtual Driving License and Vehicle Registration Certificate, etc. to be available through a common platform. Manufacturer-specific solutions include Homologation application for Automobile and Component Manufacturers, to ensure smooth execution of Type Approval of vehicles, Speed Limiting Device (SLD) application for approval and fitment of speed limiting devices in transport vehicles; CNG Maker application for fitment of genuine CNG Kit in vehicles. There are other recent initiatives like IRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database) for quick and accurate collection and processing of accident data from the field level. The World Bank-funded project aims at compiling detailed accident parameters for better accident management and analysis and engages all stakeholders on a single platform. VLTEAS (Vehicle Location Tracking and Emergency Alerts System)

with GPS enabled tracking device fitted in public service vehicles aims to enhance Road and Passenger safety. Under the eTransport project, the VLT Device fitment process, as well as the tracking and monitoring through Command & Control System are facilitated to different states in India. Any technology-led initiative or scheme is aimed at ensuring efficient delivery of services to the citizens. The computerization of various operations has transformed the traditional cumbersome processes, thereby ensuring increased transparency, ease of use, and readily available online services. The need for citizens and transporters to visit RTOs has been significantly reduced with the widespread adoption of the digital payments system, web-based service requests, online document upload, document verification, online appointment, etc. Transport Officials and Staff across the country now have the benefit of working with a modern, integrated system which has given a boost to their productivity. These IT-led initiatives have also contributed to the revenue of the states by provisioning new revenue streams (for example Fancy Number Auction) and reduction of leakages (through ePayment etc.). Compliance with rules and acts has increased significantly due to the adoption of applications like e-Challan Traffic Enforcement Solution, Integrated Pollution Control System, Vehicle Tracking System, etc. The top authorities comprising the Ministry, State Transport Departments are making use of the data-driven dashboards which will help them make informed decisions and thereby formulating better policies. With multiple stakeholders, the transport ecosystem has emerged as a Public Digital Platform where the exchange of data and services has grown tremendously, thus creating a constructive synergy.

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## Britain is entering a profound social emergency. Why is nobody acting like it?

The surreal, often absurd Conservative leadership election meanders on. Both candidates frantically float ideas for disrupting everything from university term dates to doctors' pensions, while the Sunday Telegraph endorses Liz Truss as "the first truly philosophy-driven leader since Margaret Thatcher", and Rishi Sunak stoically insists that he loves dancing. But we all know the gravity of the crisis that is now enveloping us, and it makes the vanities of their battle seem like some strange hallucination related to the summer's stifling heat. By the autumn, the victor - Truss, in all likelihood - may well be still trying to convince us that they are leading a national sprint towards sunlit uplands that only they can see. But the game is already up: the immediate future will be defined by skyrocketing energy prices, economic woe and a profound social emergency - and power will be a grinding matter of crisis management. Everything will become clear on 26 August, when the energy regulator Ofgem will announce the new price cap due to come into force on 1 October. Back in April, it increased by 54%, pushing up the typical annual household fuel bill to £1,971. Now, as Russia continues to choke off the supply of natural gas to western Europe, recent projections have suggested an increase of about 70%, to £3,359 a year - and in January, prices will go up again by an estimated 8%. Late last week, one group of analysts said that Ofgem's decision to alter the price cap every three months meant that annual bills could exceed £4,200. Self-evidently, these hikes - which look as if they will endure into 2024 - will also have big consequences for general inflation. Some people, meanwhile, are having a whale of a

time: last week, the oil and gas giant BP announced quarterly profits of £6.9bn, its highest figure for 14 years. What awaits us when temperatures drop, and lives become unlivable? We may well be about to enter the era of the "warm bank". In Bristol, the city council is reading "welcoming places", where people who need warmth will be able to go if their homes get too cold. Dundee is planning an array of "cosy spaces"; in Aberdeen, a city council spokesperson recently said they would be offering libraries and other public buildings to "give people the opportunity to stay warm where required". And across the country, providers of emergency food are reaching snapping point. In Hull, the city council has joined voluntary sector organisations to form the Hull Food Inequality Alliance, intended to maximise help available through the autumn and winter, and sound the alarm about a completely untenable situation. It has pointed out what ought to be completely obvious: the fact that "the current model of community food aid is not a sustainable or a morally acceptable solution to addressing poverty in the long term". Much the same applies to the one-off payments the government has introduced to parry the effects of energy price rises: £400 to all households (to be paid in instalments between October and next March), and another £300 for pensioners, and an extra "one-off cost of living payment" to 8m households on means-tested benefits, both of which will have been issued by the end of this year. This help is significant, but it is not set to be repeated. Crude lump sums, moreover, take no account of people's particular circumstances; much of the money, poverty experts say, will be swallowed up by already existing debt. Ministers would doubtless rebuff such points by also highlighting their pledge to increase benefits next April by this September's rate of inflation - but again, nothing is what it seems. By

the spring of 2023, prices look set to be rising even faster. Any increase in benefits will have to be set against Sunak's cruel decision to withdraw the £20 a week "uplift" in universal credit introduced during the pandemic. And besides,

**John Harris**

nothing on the table will fill the gaps left by benefit freezes, caps, "sanctions" and restrictions. There is an even bigger point, which is still overlooked: millions who are not entitled to targeted help will still really suffer due to rising energy prices. Put another way, this is a genuinely national crisis. Fuel poverty has traditionally been defined as when energy costs exceed 10% of a household's net income. In the financial year 2019-20, just under 20% of UK households were in that category, according to recent research by the University of York's Jonathan Bradshaw and Antonia Keung, and published by the Child Poverty Action Group. But their projection suggests that, without further measures - and even factoring in the universal £400 rebate - this figure is set to jump to well over 50% by the start of next year. In Northern Ireland, they reckon, 70% of households will be in fuel poverty; in Scotland, Wales and the north-west of England it will be about 60%. Fuel poverty, the research projects, will soon affect nearly 90% of single parents with two or more children. This kind of research, Prof Bradshaw told me, is complicated, and bound by the limits of official statistics: the basic point, he said, is to "show

that this is going to be very bad unless something else happens". Two things now define Britain's political condition. One is a post-Brexit Conservatism that frequently seems to have only the most tenuous connection to reality, practised by people who tend to get very cross whenever they are reminded of what we actually face. The other is a rising sense of crises that ought to invite convincing answers - not least from the

Labour party - but that only highlight the hollowness of Westminster's discourse. The result is a political vacuum that will be filled, one way or another - and I am not sure that talk of a "poll tax moment" adequately describes what is about to happen. Quite understandably, there will soon be more industrial disputes and strikes. Last week saw the launch of a campaign titled Don't Pay, demanding "the reduction of bills to an affordable level", under threat of the mass cancellation of direct debits.

### Letter to the Editor

## Govt. expenditure and borrowings should have control by an Authority

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter to the editor of an esteemed newspaper to caution the nation. Governments are spending taxpayers' money as they like. Highest statutes, largest stadia, several freebies, free house, free laptops, for education, for marriage, for deliveries, for widows, for youth, huge funds to other countries as development assistance etc. Governments waive interest on loans, waive recovery of loans, hike pay, perks and pensions to public representatives, borrow huge money from world Bank, International Monetary Fund etc. Governments have to pay huge amounts as interest on Government Borrowings. During the last 8 years, the government borrowings by union government is 155 lakhs of crores ( as mentioned in an eminent news daily Enadu front page .recent issue ) If we do not restrict these expenses and borrowings, by a body, or a committee, the nation will face a big disaster. The Supreme Court may decide who should be the members of that committee along with tax payers, how to be constituted. It should be constituted by the end of the month. Without approval of expenditure by this committee, the government should not incur any expenditure, except those below one lac. I earnestly suggest the public, press, and all state Governments and Union Governments, for safeguarding the taxpayers money and taking care of the economy of the Nation.

**KLRao**

Visakhapatnam.

## Gold medalist Jeremy Lalrinnunga returns to a hero's



**Aizawl, August 09 :** Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga was on Monday accorded a hero's welcome as he returned home in Aizawl after winning gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. He was received by state sports minister and Mizoram Olympic Association president Robert Romawia Royte, ruling Mizo National Front MLA from Aizawl West-I seat Zothantluanga, important officials and families, among others, at Lengpui airport near Aizawl. Addressing a brief welcome home ceremony at the lone Lengpui airport, Royte said Jeremy's success has brought laurel to not only India, but also to Mizoram. He said that the government is proud of the weightlifter. He said that Jeremy has overcome many hardships to achieve international limelight and poverty has never prevented him from having

strong determination to achieve his success. His family members supported him and contributed a lot to his achievement, he said. According to Royte, the government would organise a grand felicitation programme to honour Jeremy and Indian women hockey striker Lalremsiami, who won bronze medal at the CWG, while the latter returned to Mizoram. Citing that the government is making efforts to promote sports person in the state, the minister said that steps are being taken to set up more Sports Authority of India (SAI) centers in Mizoram. Young Jeremy thanked the government and the people of Mizoram for giving him a rousing welcome. Speaking to reporters after the welcome ceremony, the weightlifter said he will prepare for the Paris Olympic to be held in 2024 where he will participate at the 73 kilogram

category. He urged the Mizo youths to stick to their goal with a strong determination and abstain from drugs and alcohols. After the home welcome ceremony, the CWG gold medalist was taken around Aizawl city. Along all the ways, people gathered on the streets to cheer for him. The 19-year-old prodigy from Aizawl's Government Complex (recently renamed as Ainawn) locality, Jeremy set a new record on Sunday by clinching weightlifting gold at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in men's 67 kilogram category. He is the first from Mizoram to win gold medal at the CWG. The 2018 Youth Olympic champion dominated the men's 67kg competition with a total lift of 300kg (140kg+160kg), finishing ahead of Samoa's Vaipava Nevoioane, who managed a total of 293kg (127kg+166kg). Young Jeremy was introduced to weightlifting at the age of 7.

## TendongLho Rum Faat: Date, history and celebrations



**Sikkim, August 09 :** TendongLho Rum Faat is an ancient festival celebrated by the Lepcha people in Sikkim. This festival marks the auspicious occasion when ancestors of the Lepcha tribe were saved by the holy Tendong Hill from a great deluge lasting 40 days and 40 nights. Although the festival is celebrated across Sikkim, the prime venue happens to be Namchi, the home to this sacred hill in the South of Sikkim. The main highlight of the festival is the trek commencing from Ravangla up to Tendong Hill, drawing a great number of trekkers and adventure enthusiasts too. This year the TendongLho Rum Faat festival will be celebrated across Sikkim on 8 August, Monday. The celebrations usually span over three days. According to Lepcha mythology, during the time of earth's creation when the Himalayan Range was just in its initial stage of formation, a great volcanic eruption destroyed Naho and Natherpokh, the sources of Rivers Teesta and Rangeet, causing continuous rains for 40 days. There was a huge loss of life and property owing to floods caused by incessant rains. The destruction of the Lepcha tribe, who were considered to be the prime inhabitants of the earth at that time was nearly imminent. As the lower region started to flood, causing loss of life and property, the Tendong Hill rose like a horn from the head of a deity and people started climbing it to save themselves from the havoc. From that day onwards, the Lepcha tribe considered the Tendong Hill as a holy place and started worshipping it. The English translation of Tendong Hill is

the hill of the raised horn. The Lepcha tribe still celebrates this occasion to commemorate the almighty who saved their ancestors and pay respect to the hill. The primary highlight of the TendongLho Rum Faat festival is the trek starting from Ravangla to Tendong Hill. Thus, people who love to trek and are fans of an adrenaline rush through the mountain region during this festival. Apart from that, the Lepcha people make a model of the 'Holy Mountain' using nine stones on the facade of their homes and worship it. They dance and sing wearing a mask to get the blessings of the almighty. A fiesta of immense grandeur is also organized where locals and tourists get to take part in activities like cultural performances and also taste the flavours of scrumptious local dishes. The TendongLho Rum Faat festival provides a great opportunity to know and relish the Sikkim culture.

## MeCL employees to protest Electricity Amendment Bill

**Meghalaya, August 09 :** Employees of the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited (MeECL) will take part in the nation-wide protest by power engineers and employees against the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022, which will be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The BJP-led central government is slated to table the Electricity Amendment Bill in the Parliament on Monday. The new bill aims at the entry of private companies into the electricity distribution sector, which is one of the main reasons power employees and en-

gineers are holding nationwide protests. The new Electricity Bill also seeks to enable power consumers to choose from multiple service providers as in the case with telecom services. The MeECL employees under the banner of Coordination Committee of Registered Engineers and Employees (CCORMAU) are of the view that the Electricity Amendment Bill would have far-reaching adverse effects on the power sector, electricity consumers and electricity employees and engineers. The CCORMAU said, "Last year, the central government assured that the Electricity Amendment Bill would not be introduced in the Parliament

# Common people continue to suffer amid autonomy demands

**Imphal, August 09 :** Since the rise of the BJP government in 2017, Manipur has seen a significant reduction in the number of bandhs, blockades, general strikes and counter-strikes between non-state actors and the state encounters, inferring the improved law-and-order situation of the state. Despite claims by political analysts, the BJP-led coalition government under N Biren Singh has presented arguably the most citizen-oriented government the state has seen of late. The introduction of flagship policies like 'Go to Village' and 'Go to Hills' with the motto "chingmitamiamatani (hill and valley people are one)" as its clarion call for communal harmony to bridge the Hill-Valley divide in terms of development and infrastructure inequalities has significantly extended the relationship between hill people and the

state. However, when it comes to the question of autonomy that the government introduces, it reinstates the century-old unsolved problem between the hill and the valley. In August last year, the Hill Area Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Assembly recommended the new ADC Bill, maintaining that the existing autonomy had various deficiencies that resulted in the underdevelopment of the hill region. The draft of the ADC Bill seeks to amend the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971, to provide more autonomy to the HAC and 6 ADCs. Some of the provisions of this Bill include an increase in the number of the ADC constituencies, the creation of the Hill Areas Secretariat for managing and coordinating the working of all the ADCs, the setting up of the ADC's Executive Committee, more effective involvement of the HAC in development and



economic planning, including budget allocations, for the entire hill areas, among other features. In the recent assembly session, the N Biren Singh-led Manipur government did not bring this Bill, rather tabling two new Bills in the House where the 6th ADC amendment Bill has a financial aspect, but the 7th amendment Bill does not have it. This was responded to by an indefinite economic blockade by the All Tribal Students Union of Manipur (ATSUM). The government responded by

shutting down mobile internet instead of addressing the integral issue failing to find an alternative to solving the situation without violating the right to internet access which is codified in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). A comprehensive historical analysis of Manipur's political history implicitly reveals a state of "seasonal autonomy". By seasonal autonomy, we mean the seasonal interest

of political elites in dropping Bills, policies, or talks between the state and non-state actors, typically during or around the state's assembly session. During these periods, it is normal for Manipur-based organisations to call for bandhs and strikes in response to the outcome, which reveals the complexities it creates for the common people, including both the valley and hill-based common people. Suppose one quickly revisits contentions over the past five years.

## 30 students injured in police brutality in Imphal

**Imphal, August 09 :** At least 30 tribal students sustained injuries on Saturday morning when police tried to disperse the student gathered at Chingmeirong in Imphal West for a peaceful rally by throwing tear gas and lathi charges. At around 10:30 am, hundreds of tribal students studying in various colleges and universities in Imphal assembled at the Mao-Imphal market shed for a peaceful protest demanding to release immediately the five tribal student leaders arrested by Manipur Police. However, a clash broke out when the police tried to disperse the protestors before they begin the peaceful protest. Later, the student protestors tried to march toward the Manipur Legislative Assembly, but they were stopped by the police. Another clash occurred between the student protestors and police near MBC Memorial Ground where they pelted stones at each other. Speaking to a media, Ningzan Jajo, secretary, social and cultural of tribal students' union, DM College of Arts, said that "We never invite government or any other police for the physical challenge. We are here for a peaceful rally but they (police) compelled us to become violent. We are with banners to shout the slogans like 'release our leaders', but they have already shot us teargas and many of the students have been



injured. I would like to appeal to the government that until or unless they release the arrested leaders and serve justice, we will never back out from our movement." Jajo also alleged that the state government always tried to intimidate them by arresting leaders whenever there are tribal issues arises in the state. "India is a land of democracy where every one of us has equal rights to express our thoughts and expression. But just imagine, yesterday more than hundreds of people from valley-based CSOs gathered and locked the All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM) office despite the section 144 of CrPc 1973 imposed in the area," said Jajo. Where were all those policemen who disappeared when such a huge gathering happened at the ATSUM office yesterday and where are all those rules and regulations written in the Constitution of India, questioned Jajo. Two students involved in the scuffle were also arrested and taken away by the po-

lice from the spot. The police officers present at the site refused to comment in regards to the arrest of the students. It may be noted that five leaders of ATSUM, including the president and general secretary, were picked up by Imphal West police on Tuesday following the union call for a shutdown in hill districts, to demand the tabling of the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) recommended Autonomous District Councils (ADC) Amendment Bill, 2021. The arrested tribal student leaders have been remanded in police custody for four days till Friday. They will be brought to court on Saturday. On Friday, much against the students' demand, minister for tribal affairs and hills department Letpao Haokip passed the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council (sixth amendment) Bill 2022 on the last day of the budget session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, while the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council (seventh amendment) Bill 2022 was referred to HAC for further discussion, stating that there is some technical error and it requires further examination.

## Rosy Sangma's death: CBI finds shocking details

**Nagaland, August 09 :** Rosy Sangma, an air hostess from Nagaland's Dimapur, mysteriously died on June 24 last year at Alfa Health Care in Gurugram, prompting the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to initiate a probe. The CBI, on the directions of the Union Home Ministry, registered a case against doctors Anuj Bisnoi, who is also the managing director of the private hospital, and dentist Anjali Ashk. According to the FIR filed by the CBI, a copy of which is with East Mojo, the two doctors have been booked under Section 304 (death due to negligence) of the Indian Penal Code. Samuel Sangma, nephew of the deceased Rosy Sangma, had an altercation with doctors and other hospital staff after suspecting medical negligence. The next day, on June 25, the Delhi Police received information that Samuel had died by suicide at a hotel in Gurugram where he was staying. "The gross negligence of the hospital and its doctors is also clear from the fact that the critical patient of vaginal



bleeding is being treated by a dentist who is not at all qualified for the same," said the CBI in its preliminary inquiry findings. The preliminary inquiry by the CBI showed that Rosy was admitted to the hospital after severe bleeding and pain on June 24. However, Ashk was assigned to care for her as the main doctor Bisnoi arrived four and a half hours later. The investigation revealed that despite knowing about Rosy's serious condition, Bisnoi instructed Ashk, an inexperienced dentist, to treat gynaecological problems and to manage the situation. At 10.45 AM, Bisnoi had asked Rosy's relatives to bring blood from blood bank as it was an emergency. At 12.30 PM, Bisnoi sent a letter to Bijwasan police station SHO informing that the patient, who was

in a critical condition, had died. In another piece of information later, he told the police about suspected poisoning and foul play as the cause for her death and also claimed that she was not responding to the treatment. He said she was being referred to civil hospital for further treatment. "The said information is carbon copy but the time 1.30 PM is mentioned in original blue ink," the CBI said. Bisnoi prepared a discharge card of Rosy mentioning the time of admission at 6 AM and that of referral as 12 PM and also mentioned about blood transfusion, serious condition, gasping of patient and her referral to higher centre but actually "did not refer" her to any for further treatment, the CBI alleged.

## Government rolls out eSanjeevani service in Nagaland

**Kohima, August 09 :** Nagaland rolled out eSanjeevani, a national teleconsultation service of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday. The initiative will replace the state government's Naga telehealth, a telemedicine platform and assisted teleconsultation system, to alleviate the urban-rural divide in terms of health care services, Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom said at a programme here. The minister was speaking after rolling out the health scheme during a programme coinciding



with the felicitation of three health care units in the state for receiving the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) in health care service. The minister expressed confidence that

eSanjeevani will enable a patient residing in rural areas to avail of quality healthcare services. Phom also requested the officials to encourage the health care workers and the general public to

make use of the platform for the benefit and welfare of all concerned. Nagaland government Secretary for HFW, Asanglamti, said that the eSanjeevani is a teleconsultation service to provide health care services to patients sitting in their homes or by visiting the nearest health care centre. This is a safe and structured tele-based clinical consultation between a doctor and patient, she said. It is a citizen-centric online-based outpatient consultation that can be very useful for patients in remote areas, if properly implemented, Imti said.

Contd. From Page 1

## Nitish Kumar resigns as Bihar

Devi in Patna to hold talks with Tejashwi Yadav, who is likely to get the deputy chief minister's post in the new coalition government. Before this, JD(U) parliamentary board president Upendra Kushwaha shared a congratulatory message for Kumar for "assuming leadership of a new coalition in a new form". "March ahead Nitish ji. The country is waiting for you," Kushwaha added in the tweet. Hours ago, Rohini Yadav, Lalu Yadav's daughter, had shared a tweet confirming the renewal of ties of the two top veterans of Bihar's politics. "Get ready for the coronation, those with the lantern are set to return," Rohini Yadav tweeted along with a video amid a separate meeting of the Mahagathbandan MLAs.

## Border disputes : Assam

panels of their own involving all stakeholders to resolve the border dispute through dialogue. Toward this end, both leaders had also agreed to have chief minister-level talks from time to time. Mizoram share a 164.6 km boundary, which has been disputed since demarcations in 1875 and 1933. Mizoram has insisted on the demarcation under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation in 1875, which covers areas now under Assam, while Assam on maintaining those made in 1933. At least six policemen and a civilian were killed and around 60 people injured in the clash in July last year when police forces of the states exchanged fire along the disputed border. Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga and his Assam counterpart, Himanta Biswa Sarma, discussed the border issue in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi in November last year and agreed to form panels to resolve the dispute. The two agreed to have chief minister-level talks.

## Assam CM attends 27th

borrowers under this scheme. Addressing the occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated the financial institution, providing assistance to micro, small, medium and large enterprises for setting up industrial, infrastructure projects in the region, for having completed 27 years of glorious existence. "NeDFI is playing an important role in empowering our region and its people. I hope the NeDFI Micro Lending Scheme with loan size up to ₹2 lakh per beneficiary will help micro entrepreneurs in setting up and expanding their economic activities in Assam and other parts of Northeast," the Chief minister said, adding: "I urge the people of the region to take the benefits of the scheme and lead a life of self-reliance and independence and contribute towards the growth of the society." Dr. Sarma stated that the current dispensation at the Centre and the state have a clear agenda of empowering the people of the region, especially the youths, through the entrepreneurial route. This, the Chief Minister stated, would bestow financial independence and employment opportunities on the youths of the region. Dr. Sarma also said that the government of Assam has a well laid-out plans and policies in place for giving boost to the start-up environment, cluster growth and enterprise development in the state. Speaking on the "NeDFI Haat" website launched today, the Chief Minister said: "It (the website) will be a very powerful platform for market linkages to the artisans and the weavers. I am happy to learn that with the launch of this website, our products will now be made easily available all over the country as well as abroad." He further added: "It will help increase NeDFI's presence cutting across all boundaries and frontiers." The Chief Minister also spoke of the state government's One District-One Product agenda, which when fully implemented, he said, would lead to financial gains for hundreds of thousands of rural folks in the interiors of the state. Speaking on the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the Chief Minister stated that members of self-help groups have benefited immensely through their participation in the supply chain of the national flag. The campaign has helped women-led self-help groups attain financial empowerment through the sale of national flags of various sizes produced by them, Dr. Sarma added. NeDFI Chairman and Managing Director PVS LN Murty and its Executive Director SK Baruah were also present on the occasion.

## Length of Earth's days are suddenly

June 2022 we set a record for the shortest day over the past half a century or so. But despite this record, since 2020 that steady speedup has curiously switched to a slowdown, days are getting longer again, and the reason is so far a mystery. While the clocks in our phones indicate there are exactly 24 hours in a day, the actual time it takes for Earth to complete a single rotation varies ever so slightly. These changes occur over periods of millions of years to almost instantly, even earthquakes and storm events can play a role. Over millions of years, Earth's rotation has been slowing down due to friction effects associated with the tides driven by the Moon. That process adds about 2.3 milliseconds to the length of each day every century. A few billion years ago an Earth day was only about 19 hours. For the past 20,000 years, another process has been working in the opposite direction, speeding up Earth's rotation. When the last ice age ended, melting polar ice sheets reduced surface pressure, and Earth's mantle started steadily moving toward the poles. Just as a ballet dancer spins faster as they bring their arms toward their body - the axis around which they spin - so our planet's spin rate increases when this mass of mantle moves closer to Earth's axis. And this process shortens each day by about 0.6 milliseconds each century. Over decades and longer, the connection between Earth's interior and surface comes into play too. Major earthquakes can change the length of the day, although normally by small amounts. For example, the Great Tohoku Earthquake of 2011 in Japan, with a magnitude of 8.9, is believed to have sped up Earth's rotation by a relatively tiny 1.8 microseconds. Apart from these large-scale changes, over shorter periods weather and climate also have important impacts on Earth's rotation, causing variations in both directions. The fortnightly and monthly tidal cycles move mass around the planet, causing changes in the length of day by up to a millisecond in either direction. We can see tidal variations in length-of-day records over periods as long as 18.6 years. The movement of our atmosphere has a particularly strong effect, and ocean currents also play a role. Seasonal snow cover and rainfall, or groundwater extraction, alter things further. Since the 1960s, when operators of radio telescopes around the planet started to devise techniques to simultaneously observe cosmic objects like quasars, we have had very precise estimates of Earth's rate of rotation. A comparison between these estimates and an atomic clock has revealed a seemingly ever-shortening length of day over the past few years. But there's a surprising reveal once we take away the rotation speed fluctuations we know happen due to the tides and seasonal effects. Despite Earth reaching its shortest day on June 29 2022, the long-term trajectory seems to have shifted from shortening to lengthening since 2020. This change is unprecedented over the past 50 years. The reason for this change is not clear. It could be due to changes in weather systems, with back-to-back La Nina events, although these have occurred before. It could be increased melting of the ice sheets, although those have not deviated hugely from their steady rate of melt in recent years. Could it be related to the huge volcano explosion in Tonga injecting huge amounts of water into the atmosphere? Probably not, given that occurred in January 2022. Scientists have speculated this recent, mysterious change in the planet's rotational speed is related to a phenomenon called the 'Chandler wobble', a small deviation in Earth's rotation axis with a period of about 430 days. Observations from radio telescopes also show that the wobble has diminished in recent years; the two may be linked. One final possibility, which we think is plausible, is that nothing specific has changed inside or around Earth. It could just be long-term tidal effects working in parallel with other periodic processes to produce a temporary change in Earth's rotation rate. Precisely understanding Earth's rotation rate is crucial for a host of applications, navigation systems such as GPS wouldn't work without it. Also, every few years timekeepers insert leap seconds into our official timescales to make sure they don't drift out of sync with our planet. If Earth were to shift to even longer days, we may need to incorporate a 'negative leap second', this would be unprecedented, and may break the internet. The need for negative leap seconds is regarded as unlikely right now. For now, we can welcome the news that, at least for a while, we all have a few extra milliseconds each day.

## Maharashtra cabinet expansion

reservation for women. Unfortunately that there're 18 ministers in state Cabinet, when 50% of the population in the country is of women but they're not represented in this cabinet. It shows BJP's mindset." For the unversed, Maharashtra governor B S Koshiyari administered the oath of office to the ministers. The BJP MLAs who got the cabinet berths include - Chandrakant Patil, Sudhir Mungantiwar, Girish Mahajan, Suresh Khade, Radha Krishna Vikhe Patil, Ravindra Chavhan, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Vijaykumar Gavit, and Atul Save. The rebel Shiv Sena leaders who have been inducted are Dada Bhuse, Shambhuraje Desai, Sandeepan Bhumre, Uday Samant, Tanaji Sawant, Abdul Sattar, Deepak Kesarkar, Gulabrao Patil, and Sanjay Rathod. According to a close aide of Shinde, there will be another ministry expansion later. The much-awaited Maharashtra cabinet expansion took place 41 days after Eknath Shinde took oath as the Chief Minister and Devendra Fadnis took oath as Deputy Chief Minister.

## 'BJP worker' Shrikant Tyagi

arrested. He had decided to surrender before the court on Wednesday after meeting his close ones. His arrest comes a day after bulldozers tore down the illegal construction outside his house at the Grand Omaxe housing society in Noida's Sector-93B. Earlier in the day, his wife was taken into police custody again for questioning. The police picked up his wife from Srikant's flat around 6 am on Tuesday. The Noida Police had taken her into custody on Friday and questioned her for more than 24 hours. Police have also taken Srikant's relatives into custody and are questioning them. On Monday, the police arrested six of his supporters for entering the Grand Omaxe society late Sunday evening without being permitted entry and asking about the address of the woman who was manhandled by Tyagi. Tyagi was booked by the Noida Police for allegedly abusing and assaulting a woman following a spat on the premises of Grand Omaxe in Noida Sector 93B. Tyagi, following which he was on the run. The incident took place when the woman objected to plantation of some trees by Tyagi, citing violation of rules even as he claimed he was within his rights to do so.

## PM Modi's Assets Up By ? 26 Lakh

also include Dharmendra Pradhan, Jyotiraditya Scindia, RK Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, Parshottam Rupala and G Kishan Reddy. Mukhtar Abbas Navti, who was a Cabinet minister in the last fiscal and demitted office in July, has also declared his assets.

## Assam Cabinet approves Rs 123 crore

in hill areas whose houses have been either fully or severely damaged in the flood will be given over Rs 1 lakh and over Rs 95,000 to each family in plains areas. "Each family whose pucca house has been partially damaged will be given an assistance of Rs 5200 and Rs 3200 for each partially damaged kucha house. For every cattle head lost, the government will give an assistance of Rs 2100 to the owners," he said. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently said, "There are around 25,670 houses which are fully damaged and over 2.78 lakh houses partially damaged. We will also extend support to those whose houses were completely washed away. Within the next 15 days a list will be prepared. There will be 10 percent verification of beneficiary in each district. We will spend close to Rs. 400 Crore in this measure."

## Burmese wood worth of 20 lakhs seized in Srirampur: held 2

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, August-9:

Simultapu police led by Sanjay Kumar Rai i/c, Simultapu out post on Monday intercepted huge quantity of suspected Burmese timber from Srirampur NH-31(C) along with a truck and arrested the driver and handyman of the truck while it was on the way to deliver the smuggled timber in West Bengal befooling the police. According to the information available here, acting on a secret input Simultapu police led by Sanjay Rai i/c, Simultapu outpost carried out a search operation on a truck bearing registration number NL02-Q-8967 that was parked in a Dhaba. The truck was then brought to Simultapu out post after it was confirmed that there is a huge quantity of timber which was kept hidden with sacks of old bottles on the timber. The thorough checking of the truck was carried out in presence of Nabanita Sharma, SDPO Gossaigaon at Simultapu outpost and recovered 80 nos. of huge timber shells from inside the truck. Two persons who have been arrested by the police have been identified as Robin Chatterjee (27) driver of Kolkata and Deepak Dehoria (19) handyman hailing from Madhya Pradesh. In the preliminary investigation it is disclosed that the truck was heading towards Kolkata from Dimapur to deliver the smuggled timber. The market value of the seized timber would be around INR 20 lakhs, police said. While the seized timber is believed to be Burmese timber, it would be confirmed only after investigation, police said. It may be mentioned that some notorious cyclical crime along the Assam-Bengal border has been trying to secretly smuggle Burmese supari and Burmese timber out of the state in parallel with narcotics but the police in charge of the border have also succeeded in busting out such illegal activities on the basis of reliable information. Meanwhile, Sanjay Kumar Rai, i/c, Simultapu police out post vehemently told the reporters that the illegal businessman would not be spared in any way and the police operation against the prohibitory action would continue.

## NFR sportsperson felicitated

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 9: Anshul Gupta, General Manager of N. F. Railways with other senior officials welcomed Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam at N.F. Railway Headquarters today. The weightlifter was felicitated for her incredible performance in the recently concluded Commonwealth Games, 2022 where she bagged the prestigious silver medal in the 55 Kgs weight category. Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam is a proud member of N. F. Railway family.



## MoS, MoPNG Sh. Rameswar Teli dedicates IndianOil's Agartala LPG Bottling Plant to the nation

Agartala, 7th August : Sh Rameswar Teli, MoS, MoPNG & Ms. Pratima Bhowmik, MoS, Mo Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India inaugurated IndianOil's Agartala Bottling Plant & distributed free LPG Connection to Ujjwala beneficiaries. Senior officers from IndianOil including Mr P Jayadevan, ED(LPG) & Mr. G. Ramesh, ED, IndianOil AOD State Office were present at the inaugural function. Complimenting IndianOil on the achievement, Mr. Teli said "I congratulate IndianOil for completing the project on time. The plant shall prove instrumental in ascertaining energy security in Tripura and adjoining region". Ms Bhowmik also congratulated IndianOil and for commissioning the plant. The foundation stone for the plant was laid in 2017 by the then MoPNG Mr Dharmendra Pradhan & the project got completed as per schedule in February 2020. Agartala BP started commercial production in November 2021. The futuristic plant is built keeping in the view the rising energy demand in Tripura and is designed using industry best practices over a sprawling 40 acre land. IndianOil has invested Rs. 169.11 Cr and there shall be more in the days to come. The plant has a rated capacity of 60000 TMTPA and can bottle 17000 Cylinders per day - both Domestic & Commercial. It can store 1350 MT in leak proof mounded bullets of LPG and shall cater to 8 districts of Tripura viz. West, South & North Tripura, Dhalai, Unakoti, Sepahijala & Gomati. There are two 8 Bay TLDs to decant Bulk LPG received by TTs. The TTs are decanted using 2 LPG Pumps at the rate of 110 cubic meter per hour. Cylinders are filled in two electronic carousels of 24 points each that fill with automated filling system. To tackle any fire situation, the plant has three water tanks of 3700 KL each that is pumped using 3 fire engines that can pump water at the rate of 700 cubic meter per hour. For effective fire fighting, water is sprinkled in all areas of plant at a moderate speed. There are 40 Water Monitors and 34 Hydrants that help in effective fire fighting. Plant is secured by LED lit roads, automatic security system and cameras. Enhanced security is achieved by receipt, storage, filling and despatch in leak proof bulk system. The safety of employees working in the plant is given utmost priority and the plant is equipped with Fully Automated - Central Monitoring Hub, Packed Truck Mgmt., Tank Farms, ERV and Load Planning. The operationalisation of plant shall lead to even better communication, transport and connectivity in R K Nagar where approx. 300 direct & indirect employment shall be generated.

## Can't pay, won't pay: thousands in Britain vow to ignore energy bills

London, August 09 : Like millions of people across Britain, Josina, a teacher from Sheffield, is being pushed into poverty by rising energy prices. This October, when bills are set to rise again, she will have to cut back on food and other essentials if she has any hope of keeping up with the payments. "It's terrifying, especially with three teenagers in the house. They aren't old enough to be out working yet. They're relying on us, and it's a really scary thought that you potentially can't provide for your children in that way," she said. So Josina, 35, has made a decision: she is not going to pay her energy bill. She is one of thousands of activists joining a civil disobedience movement protesting at the soaring cost of energy. From 1 October, the energy price cap - the maximum amount suppliers can charge in England, Scotland and Wales - will go up, leading to further bill rises for millions of customers. The typical gas and electricity bill is expected to reach £3,358 in October, according to consultancy Cornwall Insight. In October 2021, the average annual bill was £1,400. Protesters are expected to take to the streets. But as well as more traditional campaigning methods, they also plan to pile pressure on energy suppliers and the government by ignoring their bills and cancelling their direct debits. Don't Pay UK, the anonymous group organising the campaign, says it hopes enough people will follow suit to put energy companies in "serious trouble". "We want to bring them to the table and force them to end this crisis," its website says. The movement has been condemned by the government. "This is highly irresponsible messaging, which ultimately will only push up prices for everyone else and affect personal credit ratings," a spokesperson said. "While no government can control global gas prices, we are providing £37bn of help for households, including the £400 discount on energy bills, and £1,200 of direct support for the most vulnerable households to help with the cost of living." Debt and financial experts, meanwhile, are telling people to ensure they are fully informed of the potential risks of not paying, such as increased debt, and the chance of being put on a prepayment meter, or charged extra. In extreme cases, suppliers could cut the energy off, although this is rare. Josina is aware of the risks, and says not paying is the only option for her and millions of others. In recent days, she has taken to the streets to hand out hundreds of flyers, and says the response has been "really positive". "People are angry and scared," she said. "We aren't doing this out of choice. Millions of people across this country are going to be plunged into poverty this winter. And the strike is the only way we can push back. It's not a choice that anyone's taking lightly. I would much rather not have to do this. But it's the only choice we have." Don't Pay UK, which launched in June, said more than 75,000 people had so far signed up to join the strike if radical action is not taken by the government.

## ACC, Hojai all set to celebrate Independence Day

Assam Rising,

Hojai, August 9:

Hojai District Unit

of Assam Chamber

of Commerce

Hojai is all set

to celebrate the 75th

Independence Day

"AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV"

in befitting manner

with three days

long activities. To

organize the programme's

smoothly a executive

meeting of ACC was

held at Hojai on Monday

evening, where all the

members unanimously

decided that Hojai District

Unit of Assam Chamber

of Commerce will

celebrate the Independence

Day with enthusiasm

and fervour. Informing

this Correspondent

on Tuesday Ashok

Kejariwal, General

Secretary, ACC Hojai

district said, "On 13th

August ACC will host

two big size National

Flag in front of Balaji

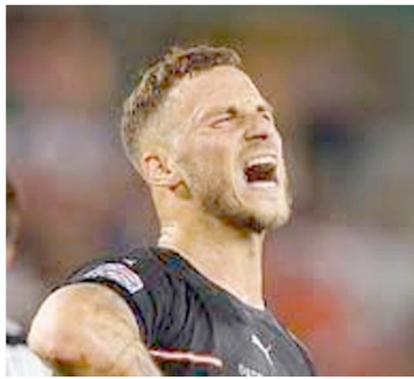
point and Bhimsaria



followed with hosting of the flags in road divider area from Jamuna irrigation canal to Dimarupur, shine board with decoration will be erected in front of irrigation's canal and municipal board, Shahid Bedi at Natun Bazar panch Ali will be decorated and on August 15 fruits will be distributed among the patients at Civil Hospital. "Along with this scheduled programme many other activities will be organized," he added. The executive was presided over by Gopal Das, president of ACC Hojai district in presence of Chaturthi Rani Biswas, Chairperson, Hojai Municipal Board and Chandan Borgohain, Circle Officer, Hojai Revenue Circle. Tusar Das, Shyam Saha, Mukundo Bora, Abdul Zabbar, Krishno Das, Naresh Agarwal, Anil Bhimsaria and many other members of Hojai District Unit of Assam Chamber of Commerce were present.

# What can Ten Hag do about the sorry decline of Manchester United?

Liverpool, August 09: Erik ten Hag: you have three weeks to save Manchester United's season. Sound ridiculous after only 90 minutes of Premier League action, even if that was a dire 2-1 home defeat by Brighton on Sunday - their first ever home loss against those opponents in 113 years? Of course it does, but this is the glaring truth that faces the new manager. And it certainly does not help that Ten Hag's ability to rebuild an embarrassingly mediocre squad is materially affected by two branches of the executive: the smarts of football director, John Murtough, and the desire of the Glazer family to splurge a serious amount of cash. The capitulation on Sunday was as if there has not been four months-plus since Ten Hag's appointment as manager to overhaul the squad, as if last season did not end with the 1-0 defeat at Crystal Palace on 22 May and Ralf Rangnick's tenure as interim head coach concluding with United in sixth, 35 yawning points behind the champions Manchester City. Brighton's visit was akin to match No 39 in an ongoing sorry campaign and the latest low point in the club's post-Sir Alex Ferguson era. The evidence is searing: nothing much has changed since the dog days of last term. When Ten Hag was appointed on 21 April, the gun was fired on a fresh recruitment drive. The prime target was



Frenkie de Jong. Murtough and the Glazers had a relative age to sign the Barcelona playmaker or walk away at a judicious juncture if, say, due diligence found that he may be reluctant to join, or there was an outstanding issue of £17m in deferred wages. But, no. Instead Ten Hag, Murtough and the Glazers continued with the pursuit of De Jong - a "game of poker", as characterised by one club executive - up to and beyond the debacle on Sunday with him still a Barcelona player and the percentage chance of signing him dwindling to single figures. There have been some signings: Christian Eriksen (free), Lisandro Martínez (£48.3m) and Tyrell Malacia (£13m). But with only Eriksen and Martínez starting against Brighton, the team that took to the Old Trafford pitch on Sunday had an all-too familiar, stale feel. Where De Jong would have lined up, there was instead the

functional pairing of Fred and Scott McTominay in a team without Raphaël Varane and Cristiano Ronaldo, the latter coming on as a second-half substitute. It was a lineup pockmarked with mediocrity. David de Gea can stop shots admirably but is a liability under the high ball and his questionable ability to fashion long-range passes like Ederson was illuminated by one agricultural hoof straight out of play. Diogo Dalot, the right-back, can dither, as was the case when nearly allowing a goal to be scored 15 seconds into the contest. Harry Maguire, retained as captain by Ten Hag, was caught out of position, as he too often is. And if Luke Shaw is of the requisite ability to be a starter for United, Marcus Rashford is very much in the last chance saloon in that regard. Can Ten Hag actually improve any or all

of the above? On the evidence of Sunday, the answer is no. But it is his job to do so. Just as Murtough's is to produce viable alternatives to the want away Ronaldo beyond Marko Arnautovic or line up Adrien Rabiot as an alternative to De Jong. The Juventus midfielder's history of ill-discipline makes him a quaint choice for the martinet like Ten Hag. One test is this: would Pep Guardiola or Jürgen Klopp go for the same players as United are currently doing? If the answer is a negative then they should not be considered, or what is the point in trying to compete with the best two teams in the land? But, here, we come to the question of the owners: are they really serious about challenging the City-Liverpool hegemony? It is nearly a decade since United were last champions and with only three trophies won in that time, the answer is surely "no". There is the mountain of debt loaded on the club by the owners -

nearly £500m as of the end of last year - and there is the series of failed managers since Ferguson, plus the roll call of middling signings of which those Ten Hag has inherited are merely the latest crop. All of this has to be termed, politely, as mismanagement. When Sheikh Mansour purchased City 14 years ago the club was transformed by the personnel and structure his ownership put in place. The result: six titles, two FA Cups and six League Cups. When Fenway Sports Group became proprietors of Liverpool in 2010, the same occurred, clear and decisive improvements in personnel and structure resulting in success: a first title for 30 years plus the Champions League, Club World Cup, FA and League Cups. Malcolm Glazer acquired United in 2005 but he inherited the genius Ferguson who had already been in place for 19 years. When the Scot left the decline began: the capitulation to Brighton was the club in microcosm.

# South Asian Cricket Academy wastes little time showing why it was needed



London, August 09: Kashif Ali learned how to bat from Mohammad Yousuf and Joe Root. There were no coaches around when he and his friends played tapeball cricket, so he watched his favourite players on YouTube, and tried to imitate them. When he was 12, his family moved from Kashmir to Luton, and three years later he played his first hardball game. By the time he was 24 he had played in the 2nd XIs of six different first-class counties - without ever making it further. Two weeks ago, Worcestershire signed him on a two-year deal. "It's what I've wanted for quite a few years now, so that felt really good." For some - including Kashif himself - the moral of this story is that if you keep faith in yourself, dreams can come true. But there is another lesson too. Kashif is one of the first graduates of the South Asian Cricket Academy, an "intervention programme" launched this year to help British Asians overcome the systemic inequalities and invisible biases that keep them out of the professional game. Kashif had been pinged around cricket's development system for years without finding a county. It has taken the Academy less than half a season to secure him a contract. The Academy was born out of a conversation between Kabir Ali, the former England all-rounder, and his club teammate Tom Brown, the Birmingham City University researcher whose work revealed that

while British Asians make up 30% of the recreational game in England, they constitute only 5% of professional cricketers. That disparity was raised at last year's DCMS hearings into accusations of structural racism within the sport; neither the ECB nor the individual counties have got close to solving it. "I kept being told that if you're good enough you'll make it regardless of your background," says Brown. Unconvinced, Brown and Kabir came up with the idea of offering British Asian cricketers tailored coaching and education, alongside match opportunities against county oppositions. Players would receive support developed for them individually, from strength and conditioning training to nutritional advice. "We wanted to show that things don't have to be done the way they've always been done," says Brown, "and we figured, even if no one got signed this year, at least we would have created a learning environment that approached things differently."

# Ryan Giggs subjected ex-partner to 'litany' of abuse, court hears



London, August 09: Ryan Giggs head-butted his former partner after subjecting her to a "litany" of physical and psychological abuse over three years, a court has heard. The former Manchester United and Wales footballer, 48, "entirely lost his self-control" and attacked his then partner, Kate Greville, and elbowed her sister in the jaw during an argument about his alleged infidelity, jurors were told. The fight at their home in Worsley, Greater Manchester, followed three years of "systematic and at times violent abuse" of Greville, 36, by the retired footballer, the jury heard. The trial at Manchester Minshull Street crown court heard details of explosive-laden and threatening messages Giggs sent his former partner. One email, after Greville had blocked Giggs on social media, read: "Please unblock me. All this blocking malarkey is poo. Promise no more naked piccies." Another email accused Greville of telling "LIES LIES LIES" and said: "Only an evil horrible cunt does that. Absolutely astonishing. Now I look an utter twat after telling three of my friends I'm going to Scotland at the weekend." Giggs added: "I'm so fucking mad now I'm scaring myself

because I could do anything." Giggs denies charges of using controlling and coercive behaviour against Greville between August 2017 and November 2020. He is also charged with assaulting Greville, causing her actual bodily harm, and of the common assault of her younger sister, Emma Greville, at their home in Worsley on 1 November 2020. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges. Peter Wright QC, prosecuting, told jurors that while Giggs was "idolised" by his supporters on the pitch, behind closed doors there was a "much uglier and more sinister side to his character", adding: "This, we say, was a private life that involved a litany of abuse, both physical and psychological, of a woman who he professed to love." He said Giggs

perpetrated "systematic and at times violent abuse of a woman who he professed to love ... while all the time preying on her vulnerabilities for his own gratification". Wright told the jury that Greville and Giggs had a "toxic" relationship and argued often about affairs the former midfielder was allegedly having. Giggs would respond with "false displays of indignation" and would "gaslight" Greville into doubting herself, the court was told. Wright told jurors that the defendant would threaten to send images of her, "of a personal nature", to her friends unless she did what he said. He physically threw her, and her belongings, out of an address they were staying at after Greville challenged him about another woman, and threw an item at her in a bust-up in a hotel room in London, the jury heard. Their relationship culminated in a "heated" confrontation at their home on 1 November 2020 when Giggs "deliberately head-butted" Kate Greville, the jury was told. He allegedly elbowed Greville's sister, Emma Greville, in the jaw when she tried to stop the pair from "grappling together down on the floor".

# Barcelona blocked by La Liga from registering new players before season



Barcelona, August 09: Barcelona still cannot register their summer signings after La Liga rejected an attempt to use the club's own funds to inflate the value of two of the asset sales they had resorted to in order to balance the books and strengthen their team. The intention now is to turn to a fourth source of extraordinary income with the sale of a further 25% of their content production company, Barça Studios, for an estimated £100m in the hope that it will allow them to include new arrivals such

as Robert Lewandowski, Andreas Christensen and Jules Koundé in the squad for their opening game against Rayo Vallecano on Saturday night. Barcelona had accounted for benefits of £667m (£562m) from the sale of two packets of future television rights and had hoped that would help enable them to comply with La Liga's financial fair play rules. They also announced the sale of just under 25% of Barça Studios, the third of the so-called "palancas" or economic "levers" they had pulled this summer. In total, including a new sponsorship deal with Spotify, the departure of players and increased revenue, Barcelona said that they had brought in more than £850m as they seek to improve their squad and fix a financial

crisis. But the league's audit found that the amount Barcelona had received directly from investors Sixth Street for two TV rights packages of 10% and 15% respectively was only £517m. The remaining £150m had been paid by the club itself, according to the Spanish radio station Cadena Cope. The operation is legal, cleared by the club's auditors Grant Thornton, but the league has recalculated the benefit on the basis that £150m of the amount is not new income. Having spent more on transfers than any club in Spain and not yet managed to reduce their salary outgoings sufficiently, that leaves Barcelona still short of the threshold where they can register all their players with La Liga. Rather than sell those packages directly to Sixth Street, Barcelona set up a venture called Locksley Investments, Cope said.

# PGA Tour heads to court to keep LIV players out of FedEx Cup



London, August 09: The PGA Tour has asked a federal judge in San Francisco to deny the appeal of three suspended players who joined Saudi-backed LIV Golf and now want to compete in the tour's lucrative postseason, arguing the players knew the consequences two months ago. Talor Gooch, Matt Jones and Hudson Swafford filed a temporary restraining order last week, separate from 10 players who filed an antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour. The hearing is scheduled for today, two days before the first of three FedEx Cup playoff events in the chase for the \$18m prize. The FedEx St Jude Championship in Memphis, Tennessee, has a \$15m purse, and the top 70 players advance to the second postseason event in Wilmington, Delaware. Gooch, Jones, and Swafford are among nine players who have joined LIV Golf and finished the regular season among the top 125 in the FedEx Cup standings. The other six who joined LIV Golf are not asking to play in the tour's postseason. In a court filing yesterday to oppose the temporary restraining order, the tour argued antitrust laws do not allow the three players "to have their cake and eat it, too."

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## Spendolini-Sirieix gold wraps up England's best diving Commonwealth Games

London, August 09 : For five long days of competition in Birmingham, the best divers in England were almost untouchable. As the final Commonwealth Games medals were handed out, though, they allowed themselves just one atrocious dive each to close. Together, Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix, Noah Williams, Kyle Kothari and Lois Toulson walked towards Sandwell Aquatics Centre's diving pool where they expertly performed celebratory belly flops in unison. They had much to celebrate. Moments earlier, the breakthrough Games of the 17-year-old Spendolini-Sirieix had a perfect conclusion as she paired up with Williams to win her second gold medal in the mixed synchro. As she did in her individual exploits, they dominated the field, scoring 333.06 to win by 14.52 points ahead of Kothari and Toulson in an English one-two finish. Clockwise from top left: Delicious Orié celebrates after defeating winning his semi-final on his way to winning men's super heavyweight gold, Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix jumps into the pool in celebration after winning the mixed synchronised 10m platform final with Noah Williams, Jake Jarman performs on the parallel bars in the men's team gymnastics competition and Marfa Ekimova competes in the rhythmic gymnastics ribbon final. Spendolini-Sirieix had already won gold in the women's 10m platform and then silver in the synchro, bringing her medal haul to three. She has had ample attention on her within the diving community for some time, her talent well known, and here in her first major games she has



flourished: "It's been incredible," she said. "I think we came in wanting to have fun and we definitely did. It's a PB for us, synchro, actually. I'm just really pleased with how we executed our dives and our synchro." Alongside her, the 22-year-old Williams has enjoyed a tremendous Games in his own right with two gold medals. Williams followed up a silver medal at the world championships alongside Matty Lee in the men's 10m synchro two months ago by winning gold with Lee in the same event on Friday. Having missed out in synchro at the Olympics due to Great

Britain's supremely deep and competitive diving squad, Lee and Tom Daley winning an iconic gold medal, Williams has made the most of his opportunities in what has become one of the best seasons of his career. This has been the best Games for England's diving squad, which departed with 15 medals in total: six gold, four silver and five bronze. They even seized an entire podium for themselves, with Daniel Goodfellow, Jordan Houlden and Jack Laugher taking gold, silver and bronze in the

men's individual 3m springboard podium. It's a reflection of the continued growth of the sport in Great Britain. Earlier on Monday, there were further indications of Great Britain's diving might as Scotland clinched their first diving medal of the competition, winning gold in the mixed synchro 3m springboard, with James Heatly and Grace Reid holding off Australia's Li Shixin and Maddison Keeney by just two points to each become Commonwealth Champions. As things stand, the mixed synchro is not an Olympic event, which Spendolini-Sirieix and Williams say allowed them to relax and enjoy their final competitive moments of the Commonwealth Games slightly more. "I think because it's not in the Olympics, some people take it less seriously. And it's at the Commonwealth Games so it's not that nobody will take it seriously here, but we're able to have a bit more fun and enjoy ourselves more," said Williams. For the divers, there is no time to step back and appreciate the progress they have made in Birmingham. They will eventually take time off, enjoy their holiday and see out the summer, but there are more frontiers to conquer. The European Championships begin in Rome on Thursday, with Monday's competitors getting only one

## 'No point sulking': underfire All Blacks coach Ian Foster faces up to renewed criticism

London, August 09 : Embattled All Blacks coach Ian Foster has urged his players to move on quickly from their Mbombela mauling and focus only on the rematch with South Africa at Ellis Park this weekend. The All Blacks' 26-10 defeat in the Rugby Championship opener was their worst in 94 years in South Africa, triggering fresh calls in New Zealand for Foster to be sacked. The three-times world champions have now slumped to a record low of fifth in the world rankings and head to Johannesburg after a fifth defeat in six Tests. With another loss to the Springboks on Saturday widely expected to make Foster's position untenable, the coach said players and

staff needed to take a deep breath. "We know there's a lot of pressure on, and we're feeling that. But our job is to look at our performance and how we can grow it," he said. "I understand the frustration, but that doesn't change what we have to do here. There's no point sulking about it for too long. We've just got to get into Ellis Park and keep growing our game and still believe." Many in New Zealand no longer believe in the team under Foster. In a front page editorial on Monday the New Zealand Herald, the country's largest newspa-



per, said Foster needed to go, calling him a "decent man who is out of his depth in a brutal business". Foster's hopes of rallying his team at Ellis Park appear bleak with injury concerns over flyhalf Beauden Barrett and his fullback brother Jordie. Beauden has a sore neck after landing heavily from a mid-air tackle by South Africa winger Kurt-Lee Arendse, who was red carded for the rash challenge, while Jordie left the field with an ankle injury.

## WNBA conditions under scrutiny after Sparks players forced to sleep in airport

Birmingham, August 09 : The working conditions of WNBA athletes have come under scrutiny again after Los Angeles Sparks players were forced to sleep at an airport when their flight was cancelled. The Sparks had beaten the Washington Mystics on Sunday night but their flight back to LA was cancelled at 1am and then rescheduled for 9am. "We're roaming the airport. It's the first time in my 11 seasons that I've ever had to sleep in the airport," Sparks player Nneka Ogumike, who is also the WNBA Players Association president, said in a



video she posted to Twitter. "But based on travel... It was only a matter of time. So, half of us are sleeping in the airport. Half of us are at a hotel. There weren't enough rooms." Sparks assistant coach Latricia Trammell tweeted a photo of airport lounge seats along with the caption: "Our beds tonight!". Trammell also included the hashtag "charter", a reference to the fact that WNBA teams are required to take commercial flights (NBA and top college teams usually fly on private jets). The WNBA fined New York Liberty last year after the team chartered private jets for some games, as it considered it an unfair advantage over other franchises with smaller budgets. WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in March that chartering flights would cost around \$20m a year and "jeopardize the financial health of the league", which lacks the huge broadcasting deals that help support the NBA. Travel problems are nothing new to WNBA players. The Chicago Sky also had to sleep in an airport earlier this season, while Olympic champion Kelsey Plum said flight delays contributed to her team, the Las Vegas Aces, losing to the Mystics in May. In the same month, the Connecticut Sun cancelled a practice session after their flight was delayed into the early hours of the following morning. Meanwhile, some players argued that flying commercial has put their health and careers at risk during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Sparks' travel problems come days after a Russian court sentenced WNBA star Brittney Griner to nine years in jail on drug charges. The Olympic champion's supporters say she was only playing in Russia, where she reportedly earned \$1.5m a year, because the WNBA's maximum salary is \$222,000.

## Birmingham got it right but future of Commonwealth Games is uncertain



Birmingham, August 09 : The men's 5,000m was not a quick race but it had an exhilarating finish. Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo won it in a sprint past the two Kenyans, Nicholas Kimeli and Jacob Krop, who had been leading since the start. Kiplimo pulled the 30,000 crowd inside Alexander Stadium up to their feet as he passed them both with 100 metres or so to go. In all the excitement no one really noticed the guy they had just swept by on the home stretch. The three of them overtook him so quickly that, if you had blinked, you would have missed him on TV. He was Rosefelo Siosi, from the Solomon Islands, and he still had three more laps to go. The crowd was just beginning to settle down again when Siosi crossed the line behind them, and kept right on running around the next bend. By the time he came around again all the runners ahead of him had finished. They were standing by the side of the track, getting their wind back. Siosi had the track to himself now. In the stands, one by one, people seemed to realise what was going on. The noise swelled, and soon they were cheering all over again, even louder now than they had for the winners. On his last lap, which took 80 seconds, Siosi got one

long standing ovation. He eventually finished in 17min 26.93sec, 90 seconds behind the field. That time, Siosi's best this season, would not even come close to making the top 1,000 in the UK rankings this year. It is hard to know exactly how low it would be, because there's a cut-off at 17min. But in the moment that didn't matter. If this all sounds oddly familiar, it is not just because it is one of those underdog stories the Commonwealth

Games always seems to produce. It is because exactly the same thing happened eight years ago, when Siosi got a standing ovation from the crowd at Hampden when he ran the last lap of the final of the 2014 Commonwealth men's 5,000m all by himself. He finished in that race in 16min 55.33sec, 90 seconds behind the field. The only real difference now was that he was 30 seconds slower. Siosi may be the most feted club runner in the history of athletics, and was, undoubtedly, one of the faces of the Games. Because, like him, they just keep stumbling on while everyone cheers them along. These ones worked well for one reason, which was that the public turned up. There were a few quiet venues, especially the ones around the fringes, but the Alexander Stadium and

the Sandwell Aquatics Centre both seemed to be just about sold out for almost every session. And for all the characteristic British grumbling about the public transport (which, yes, was often shambolic), and the prices at the concession stands (which, yes, were utterly exorbitant), everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, too. Birmingham was a good host. It felt ready for its moment. It made the Games feel as if they were happening in the city, rather than in a fenced-off quarter of it, especially at Smithfield, the inner city site that hosted a Games festival late into the evenings, and Centenary Square, where the organisers parked the huge animatronic bull that stole the opening ceremony from Simon Le Bon. Somehow the entire event seemed to be done with a sense of humour, too, which one could hear in the stadium announce-

ers' cracks about how much money it had cost the council to lay on the sunsets and see in the dance routines performed by the sand-raking team at the beach volleyball. Nor did it seem to bother anyone that many of the best competitors did not bother coming. Take the women's 100m, which ought to have been the headline event of the entire Games. It should have been a repeat of the World Championship showdown between Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson, three of the fastest women in history. It was not, because the organisers could persuade only Thompson-Herah to turn up for it. Fraser-Pryce and Jackson preferred the Diamond League meeting in Silesia. The athletes make the Olympic Games but it was the fans who bailed out the Commonwealth Games. The trouble with that is that it will quickly fade away, just like Siosi's ovation in the stadium. And in the silence that follows, the problems facing the

Games will still be there. Like the cost. For its £780m Birmingham got a rejuvenated stadium, a new aquatics centre and promises of a legacy that will sound awfully hollow to anyone who remembers hearing similar things after London 2012. The Games have undoubtedly got too big, and too expensive, for many countries to want to host them even if they could, which is one reason why they will be split between multiple sites in Victoria in 2026.

## Team England celebrate 'exceptional' Commonwealth Games medal tally

Birmingham, August 09 : England finished with a record 176 medals - 57 of them gold - at Birmingham 2022 but fell narrowly short of the goal of outperforming table-topping Australia at the home Commonwealth Games. Driven by dominance across sports such as gymnastics and diving, England beat their previous record of 174 at Glasgow 2014 and, although Australia finished ahead on the leaderboard with 178 medals, Team England's chef de mission, Mark England, hailed the efforts of his team. "This has been an absolutely exceptional Games for Team England and what's been exceptional about it, I think, is the fact that it's a very young team, an ambitious team," England said. "We've got 17-year-olds who are winning gold medals. It is by some margin the best home performance of any English



team in a Commonwealth Games. "The success was mirrored by the other home nations. Northern Ireland also registered its best Games with 18 medals, its significant success driven by an incredible Sunday in the boxing as Northern Irish boxers dominated the medal leaderboard, taking five gold medals and seven overall. Scotland produced its second-best Commonwealth Games medal haul, winning 51 medals, only three behind the record 54 won at home in Glasgow. Wales finished Birmingham 2022 with 28 medals. The success from British athletes was complemented by the positive vibes and full crowds in Birmingham as the city staged a successful event despite continued discussion about the relevance or otherwise of the Commonwealth Games today. "The people of Birmingham have showcased the best of the city, they've showcased the best of the support for the athletes, in a way that I think many people perhaps might not have imagined or maybe not previously seen," said England.

## Pete Rose dismisses questions over statutory rape claims in Phillies return

London, August 09 : Pete Rose dismissed questions on Sunday about a woman's claim she had a sexual relationship with the former MLB star when she was a minor. "It was 55 years ago, babe," Rose told a female baseball writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Rose, though, had no trouble reminiscing about the 1980 World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies team that was honored before Sunday's game. After initially getting



booed lightly, the 81-year-old Rose received a standing ovation from Phillies fans when he walked on to the Citizens Bank Park field for the first time since he received a lifetime ban from Major League Baseball in

August 1989. "They made me feel real good today," Rose said of the cheers. "I don't want to say I expected it. I guess I did expect it from Philly fans. That's the way they are. They love their sports heroes." Rose's already stained reputation suffered another blow in 2017 when the Phillies called off a planned induction into the team's Wall of Fame because of the sexual misconduct accusations levied against him. Rose

brusquely responded to the reporter's question before the game - and later apologized to her following Sunday's ceremony after initially saying, "will you forgive me if I sign 1,000 baseballs for you?" - and was just as combative on the topic after the pregame celebration. "I'm going to tell you one more time: I'm here for the Philly fans, I'm here for my teammates, OK," Rose said. "I'm here for the Philly organization and who cares what happened 50 years ago.