



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

P K Dutta granted bail

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

Former Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), P K Dutta, has been granted bail by the Gauhati High Court in connection to the SI exam scam case that rocked the state in the year 2021. Dutta's bail plea that was rejected last year, was challenged by advocate Dhanesh Das on behalf of the government. Dutta was arrested by the Special Branch of Darjeeling district from the Assam-Nepal border on October 6 last year while he was on his way to Assam with his son-in-law. Dutta is said to be the prime accused in the SI exam paper leak case. He was arrested with four other accused namely, Kumar Sanjit Krishna, Rupam Das, Sarat Sarma and Rubul Hazarika.

ATM fraudster

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

An Automated Teller Machines (ATM) fraudster was arrested in Assam's Nagaon district on Tuesday. According to sources, the accused, identified as Inamul Haque, pretended to help the victim to withdraw money and exchanged the ATM card with him in Kampur. With the help of the locals, the Kampur Police were able to trace the fraudster and arrest him. The police seized several ATM cards from his possession. Earlier, six persons were arrested in connection with the robbery of two ATMs at Demow in Sivasagar. One Punjab National Bank ATM at Nitai Path and another State Bank of India (SBI) ATM near central market were vandalised and robbed on September 5.

25 Popular Front of India Leaders Arrested in Assam

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

Assam police detained at least 25 leaders of Islamic outfit Popular Front of India from various locations in central and lower Assam in connection with half a fresh dozen cases. Five PFI leaders have been arrested from the Kamrup district, 10 from Goalpara, one from Karimganj, one from Udalguri, one from Darrang, three from Dhubri, two from Barpeta, and two from Baksa. Last week, Assam police arrested 10 top PFI state level leaders from various parts of the state, and



one from Delhi -- a PFI national executive council

member. In today's arrest, two categories of PFI activists have been picked up in Assam. One are those who led and organised protests, particularly in Goalpara and Kamrup districts against last

week's raids - these detentions and arrests were preventive as police sources claims they were planning larger protests. The other set of people are district level functionaries of PFI

who are arrested in connection with cases in their respective districts. While police has not officially specified the charges as yet, sources tell us that not all but some of them will be booked under strict sections of the Indian Penal Code dealing with sedition, creating communal unrest, spreading hate against the government and its schemes, and stopping government work by force. As for evidences, police sources say a lot of PFI literature which police sources claim to be seditious in nature -- electronic data including PFI tool kit and a vision document 2047 planning for Islamic state when India attains

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3-day India-Bangladesh Festival from Oct 29

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:



A three-day Silchar-Sylhet festival will be held in Silchar in Assam from October 29-31 to commemorate India's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Bangladesh's golden jubilee of Independence. In

dia Foundation, in association with 'Friends of Bangladesh', an organisation working to develop Bangladesh's relations with its neighbourhood, is the joint organiser of the three-day event. Chief Ministers of Northeast states and several Union Ministers along with foreign delegates are expected to attend the festival. BJP MP from Silchar, Rajdeep Roy said that this will be the first

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PM Narendra Modi attends former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's state funeral at Tokyo

Tokyo, September 27:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday attended the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Nippon Budokan Hall in Tokyo. PM Modi was seen along with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the funeral. Leaders from around the world have also arrived in Tokyo for the event. More than 700 for-

eign guests have flown in for the event, including about 50 current or former state leaders. Dignitaries include US Vice President Kamala Harris, Singapore's PM Lee Hsien Loong, Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc, South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, Philippines Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio, Indonesia Vice President

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CM Attends Air-Show by Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team of IAF

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday attended and watched an "Air-Show" put up by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) of the Indian Air Force in the skies over Guwahati near Lachit Ghat on the bank of river Brahmaputra. Performed by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team with 9 numbers of Hawk Mk. 132 aircrafts, the show lasted for around 30 minutes during which some of the most stunning stunts were displayed, much to the awe of the invited dignitaries and the members of the general public. Speaking to media persons present, the



Chief Minister congratulated the Indian Air Force family for putting up a spectacular show of this magnitude, and expressed hopes such events would encourage and motivate youths of the State to join

the defense services of the country. Raised in 1996, SKAT is a part of the 52nd

Over 100 tomato flu cases detected in Assam in one month

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

Over 100 cases of tomato flu have been reported in the state of Assam in the past one month. Rapid surge in the number of tomato flu cases in Assam has sent alarm bells ringing for the health department in the state. Most of the tomato flu cases in Assam have been detected from Dibrugarh district. Most of the tomato flu cases detected in the district of Dibrugarh in Assam have been reported from two schools, a senior

official of the Assam national health mission (NHM) told. "The two schools recorded 24 and 22 cases each, which were clinically confirmed based on symptoms," the official said. Notably, there has been a surge in tomato flu or tomato fever cases across different states in India. WHAT IS TOMATO FLU? Tomato flu is a self-limiting disease which primarily targets children between 1 to 10 years of age

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Manas National Park to Reopen from October 2

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

The Manas National Park will reopen for tourists from October 2, informed Director Vaibhab C Mathur. The UNESCO national heritage site was closed during the monsoon on June 5 and will reopen from Sunday. Meanwhile, on Monday the authorities of The Kaziranga National Park said that it will also re-open for tourist from October 2. This was said by the warden of Wildlife Branch of the Assam Forest Department MK Yadav. Commenting on Assam CM taking a ride at the Kaziranga National Park

with Sadhguru after the slated time, Yadav said that there is no restriction for the Chief Minister from entering inside the park after the slated timing of the park. Notably, two activists filed a police complaint against CM Sarma, the Sadhguru and state tourism minister Jayanta Malla Baruah claiming they violated the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 when they entered the national park beyond the scheduled visit time on Saturday. However, CM Sarma said, "There is no violation. According to

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Asha Parekh to be conferred with Dada Saheb Phalke award



New Delhi, September 27:

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said that veteran star Asha Parekh will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2020. It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema. The last Dadasaheb Phalke Award was conferred on South megastar

Rajinikanth. Dadasaheb Phalke award is the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema. Bollywood stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Manoj Kumar, Vinodh Khanna, Sashi Kapoor and Dev Anand are among the recipients of the prestigious award. And the next film personality to be honoured with

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Chimpanzees Seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

The Dholai police in an operation at Lailapur seized two rare species of chimpanzees. Police suspected that the chimpanzees are being smuggled from Myanmar or Indonesia. The smugglers tried to smuggle the chimpanzees through Mizoram while the police recovered it during a search operation. Meanwhile, the police have started investigation into the smuggling of chimpanzees.

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Gauhati HC upholds life term for NDFB chief Ranjan Daimari in 2008 blasts case

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27:

The Gauhati high court on Tuesday upheld the life sentence awarded to National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB-R) chief

Ranjan Daimari for his role in the serial bomb blasts of October, 2008 that killed 88 persons and injured 540 others in Assam. In January, 2019, a special court in Guwahati sentenced Daimari and nine others to

life imprisonment for murder and other charges. Four others, Muthu Ram Brahma, Prabhat Boro, Jayanti Brahma and Nilim Daimary were sentenced to 5 to 7

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Florida issues evacuation order for Tampa ahead of Hurricane Ian



Florida, September 27 : Florida officials issued a mandatory evacuation order to residents of Tampa in anticipation of Hurricane Ian, and leaders in other parts of the state are warning residents that similar orders could come within the next day as they brace for a storm that forecasters fear will be potent. Ian moved near the Cayman Islands and closer to western Cuba early on Monday on a track to hit Florida as a major hurricane this week. Hillsborough county, which covers a part of Tampa, issued a mandatory evacuation order to more than 300,000 people on Monday morning. The county also cancelled school on

Tuesday. If Ian hits Tampa directly it would be the first hurricane to do so in a century, meteorologists calculate. Officials in Sarasota county - to the south of Tampa - and Pinellas county, which covers St Petersburg, have warned residents that evacuation orders will probably come on Tuesday. The storm was forecast to intensify rapidly and hit Cuba as a major hurricane - category 3 or above - late Monday, and then become an even stronger category 4 hurricane over warm Gulf of Mexico waters before striking the west central coast of Florida as soon as Wednesday. Authorities in Cuba suspended classes in

Pinar del Río province and planned evacuations on Monday as Ian gained strength on approach to Grand Cayman and the Cuban provinces of Isla de Juventud, Pinar del Río and Artemisa. "Cuba is expecting extreme hurricane force winds, also life threatening storm surge and heavy rainfall," Daniel Brown, a senior specialist at the US National Hurricane Center, told the Associated Press early on Monday. The hurricane center said Ian should reach far-western Cuba late Monday or early Tuesday, hitting near the country's most famed tobacco fields. At 8am EDT on Monday, Ian was moving north-west at 14mph (22km/h), about 90 miles (145km) west-south-west of Grand Cayman, sustaining top winds of 75mph (120km/h). In the Cayman Islands, members of the government and opposition said they were working together "to ensure that our people are made as safe as possible - the supplies, plywood, in some cases sandbags, are distributed so that they can safely weather this storm". The hurricane center added, "Ian is not expected to spend much time over western Cuba, and additional strengthening is likely over the south-eastern Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday." Ian is likely to have an expanding wind field and will be slowing down by that time, which will have the potential to produce significant wind and storm surge impacts along the west coast of Florida. "A hurricane watch was issued for Florida's central western coast including the Tampa Bay area. Additional watches for more northern areas along the peninsula's west coast may be issued,"

Brown said. Tampa Bay - home to well-known cities Tampa, Clearwater and St Petersburg - is extremely vulnerable to flooding from storm surges, which is likely to occur as Ian continues strengthening. Forecasts show Ian as a category 3 - if not a category 4 - hurricane when it hits Tampa Bay. Florida residents were getting ready, lining up for hours in Tampa to collect bags of sand and clearing store shelves of bottled water. At a press conference Monday, Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis, who declared a state of emergency for the entire state, advised residents to take action while remaining calm. "This is a really, really big hurricane at this point," he said. "The storm surge is likely to be significant given how big the storm is." DeSantis also warned of traffic congestion as residents follow evacuation orders. Tampa-based National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Davis told CNN that Tampa residents should be prepared for a major storm. "The last major hurricane that actually made a direct hit was 100 years ago," he said. "We tell people even if they're lifelong Floridians like myself, this is something that we haven't seen in our lifetimes. So we definitely need to take it seriously." Flash and urban flooding is possible in the Florida Keys and Florida peninsula through midweek, and then heavy rainfall is possible for north Florida, the Florida panhandle and the south-east United States later this week. Joe Biden postponed a scheduled Tuesday trip to Florida for a midterm elections rally because of the pending storm. Biden also declared an emergency, authorizing his homeland security department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) to

coordinate disaster relief and provide assistance. On Monday afternoon, BP and Chevron paused production at offshore oil platforms in the gulf. Nasa plans to move its Artemis 1 lunar rocket off the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, almost 130 miles across from Tampa, on Florida's Atlantic coast, possibly adding weeks' more delay to the mission to fly a crew-capable, though unmanned, exploration capsule around the moon.



A Long March-6 rocket carrying three satellites blasts off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province

Hilaree Nelson, famed US mountaineer, missing on Nepal's Manaslu peak



Kathmandu, September 27 : Renowned US ski mountaineer Hilaree Nelson has gone missing on Nepal's Manaslu mountain, on the same day that an avalanche killed a Nepali climber on the same peak, expedition organisers and officials said. Nelson was skiing down Manaslu after having successfully summited the world's eighth-highest mountain with her partner, Jim Morrison, on Monday. She

had an accident yesterday as she was descending shortly after her summit, "Jiban Ghimire of Shangri-La Nepal Treks, which organised the expedition, told AFP on Tuesday. "We are trying to get clarity on what happened." Panorama winter mountain landscape of Kamchatka: eruption active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka, snowy volcanoes of Klyuchevskaya Group of Volcanoes

winter mountain landscape of Kamchatka: eruption active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka, snowy volcanoes of Klyuchevskaya Group of Volcanoes On the same day, an avalanche hit between camps 3 and 4 on the 8,163-metre (26,781-foot) mountain, killing a Nepali climber and injuring a dozen others, the government's tourism department said. The death was the first confirmed casualty of the autumn climbing season in Nepal. Constant rain and snow have been a challenge for the 404 paying climbers attempting to reach the summit of Manaslu this year, and bad weather was also hampering rescue efforts, with helicopters unable to fly on Monday due to the conditions. Ghimire said that the weather had improved on Tuesday and a helicopter was headed to the site of Nelson's accident. Morrison safely reached base camp and was accompanying the search

and rescue team, Ghimire added. "I haven't felt as sure-footed on Manaslu as I have on past adventure into the thin atmosphere of the high Himalaya," Nelson said in an Instagram post on Thursday. "These past weeks have tested my resilience in new ways." The 49-year-old has had a career spanning two decades and is described as "the most prolific ski mountaineer of her generation" in a profile on sponsor North Face's website. In 2012, she became the first woman to summit the highest mountain in the world, Everest, and its adjacent Lhotse within 24 hours. Six years later, she returned to Lhotse and made the first ski descent of the mountain, which earned her the National Geographic Adventurer of the Year award. Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks and foreign climbers that flock to its mountains are a major source of revenue for the country. The industry was almost completely shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, but the country reopened its peaks to mountaineers last year.

'It's a murder scene': feral pigs torment residents in New Zealand capital



Wellington, September 27 : Marauding feral pigs have blighted a central suburb in New Zealand's capital, killing kid goats at an urban farm, intimidating dogs and turning up in residents' gardens. The owners of a goat milk farm in the hills of the suburb of Brooklyn, 10 minutes from the centre of Wellington, has lost about 60 kid goats to pigs in the past few months. Often, all that is left of them are gnawed bone fragments and parts of the hooves or head. "It's a murder scene," said Naomi Steenkamp, the farm's co-owner. "If they find something they like eating, and it is a free feed - like a newborn kid - they are going to keep coming back." Wellington City Council has confirmed that the feral pig population in the suburb of Brooklyn - which backs on to farmland and re-generating bush with walking tracks - has been expanding and causing problems for locals. New Zealand's feral pig population descended from pigs brought out on colonial ships in the late 1700s. They are now well established across about roughly a third of the country and are known to damage native ecosystems and pastures, kill newborn animals such as lambs and carry bovine tuberculosis. Last month, Steenkamp's husband, Frans, shot and killed a boar that broke through their fence and came within 20 metres of their house. The 120kg animal was the largest they had come across in their five years of farming. "You do wonder if it is a ticking time bomb," she said, adding that after she posted a photo of the dead pig to social media, many other locals contacted her with their own experiences. "It was crazy how many people came out of the woodwork saying that they had pigs in their garden, pigs bailing up their dogs," she said. "One guy was feeding them and thought it was pretty cool, until it charged him." Aside from wanting to protect her own livelihood, Steenkamp is desperate to see the pigs go, so that native bush can regenerate. "I want kiwi in my backyard eventually ... but we need to get on top of pigs - it is an isolated pocket that has got out of control." It was difficult to put precise numbers on how many pigs were running wild in the area, but "there has clearly been an upsurge", said Richard Maclean, the council's spokesperson. "Given that we're now getting complaints about pigs appearing in backyards, that gives an indication that the population must be burgeoning," he said. "People tend to think of Wellington city as this pristine place where you couldn't possibly have pigs or goats," Maclean said, but the wild animals were hindering the council's efforts to regenerate native bush and bring back bird-life.

EU and US consider further sanctions on Iran over protest crackdown

London, September 27 : The EU and the US are considering further sanctions against Iran over the attempt to suppress demonstrations and strikes in universities over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in a police detention centre. Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, condemned Iran's disproportionate use of force and said all options would be on the table at the next meeting of EU foreign affairs ministers. The main options are helping to prevent the internet being shut by Iran, and further economic sanctions. Demonstrators at the street protests - now in their 10th day - have also called for greater support from the west, as well as help in



communicating with the outside world. The spokesperson for the Iranian foreign ministry, Nasser Kanaani, has condemned the US for trying to help those seeking to bypass the Iranian internet shutdown, saying the action taken by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) last Friday was "another sign this country is seeking to weaken the security and stability of Iran". More than 75 people have been killed in the Iranian authorities' crackdown against the unrest, a rights group said on Monday. The Iranian authorities' official death toll, meanwhile, remained at 41, including several members of the security forces. Traditional VPNs are not always effective in Iran, and Elon Musk, the owner of SpaceX, on Friday persuaded the US Treasury to lift any threat of sanctions if he helped Iranian protesters by introducing the Starlink satellite internet service in the country. Starlink users are able to bypass a country's terrestrial communications networks, freeing them from internet

censorship. But Musk has said his Starlink requires terminals - dish and router - inside the country - something the Iranian government is unlikely to support, requiring him to take the risk of being sued by Iran in the international courts if he presses ahead without their support. Starlink's activation in Ukraine earlier this year is not comparable since the Ukrainian government supported his move once its own communication networks were disrupted by Russia's invasion. The EU is understood to be looking at how it can encourage more software companies to sign the Danish foreign ministry-backed "Copenhagen pledge on tech for democracy", a statement on how to keep the internet open and free. The ambassadors of the UK and Norway to Iran were also summoned to the Iranian foreign ministry in protest at the two European countries' stance. The head of the Iranian judiciary has been issuing ever stronger warnings about the punishment that will be meted out to those who took to the streets or supported

those who did. In the US, Republican senators are calling for the US to announce it is withdrawing from the negotiations on the future of the Iran nuclear deal. Senator Marsha Blackburn wrote: "The Iranian government murdered a woman for not wearing a headscarf. How can Joe Biden still be pushing for a nuclear deal with a terrorist regime?" The US national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, on Sunday refused to link the protests to the US approach to the nuclear talks, saying: "We're talking about diplomacy to prevent Iran from ever getting a nuclear weapon," and adding: "If we ... succeed, the world, America and its allies will be safer." Inside Iran, protesters speaking to the Guardian said they needed help from the west to drive home the impact of the demonstrations. "The people of Iran have woken up, the regime cannot censor our voices. I am used to coming out on roads ... facing brutal violence from the police. The world should show the cruel face of this regime," said Mohammed, a 25-year-old protester who uses only a single name. "We call on the west to sanction this regime. The entire Iran has woken up to the unprecedented resistance spread in the smaller cities too."

China growth lags Asia-Pacific for first time in decades as World Bank cuts outlook

Beijing, September 27 : Covid-zero policies and the housing market crisis have put China's economic growth behind the rest of the Asia-Pacific region for the first time in more than 30 years, according to World Bank forecasts. In a biannual report released on Tuesday, the US-based institution said the annual growth outlook for East Asia and the Pacific region had been downgraded from 5% to 3.2%. However much of that decline was down to economic woes in China, which constitute's 86% of the region's economic output. The World Bank forecast GDP growth in China - the world's second largest economy - of just 2.8% for 2022, while the rest of the 23-country region was expected to grow 5.3% on average, more than double 2021's 2.6% rise. China's divergent path put its GDP growth behind its neighbours for the first time since 1990. The World Bank said high commodity prices and a post-pandemic rebound in domestic consumption were driving the Asia Pacific rise. But China's strict commitment to its zero-Covid policy had disrupted industry as well as domestic sales and exports, the World Bank said. A crisis in China's housing and property development sectors has also worsened conditions. In August, new home prices in 70 Chinese cities fell by a worse-than-expected 1.3% year on year, according to official figures, and nearly a third of all property loans are now classed as bad debts. In 2021 Chinese government figures put its annual GDP growth at 8.1% - the country's best in a decade, and predicted 5.5% for 2022. This year the World Bank had forecast a slowdown, with growth at just 5%, until Tuesday's report decreased it even further. For 2023, the world's second-largest economy was seen growing at 4.5%.



A visitor tries a new smartphone during a launch of Vivo's new products in Riyadh

No. MCH/2022/19869

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only are invited from the Govt. registered Printing Firm /contractor for supply of Electrical, Water supply, & Electronic items to the Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh. Details of tender paper, specimen of the forms with terms & condition may be obtained from our official website www.assammedicalcollege.in/ amch.edu.in from 30/09/2022.

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Preparations on for smooth Durga Puja in Hojai Eighteen Hands Maa Durga Idol is a point of attraction



Assam Rising
Hojai, September 27: Preparations for the celebration of Durga Puja in Hojai are in full swing. Members of various puja committee's are working overtime to finish work on pandals in time. While artisans are busy in giving final attractive touch to the idol of Maa Durga along with Ganesha, Laxmi, Saraswati and Kartikaye. Tent-house workers are busy in giving shape to massive theme-based welcome arches and light gates on the streets, lanes and by-lanes of the pandals. This year, Durga Puja celebrations will begin with Sasthi Puja on October 1 while immersion of the

deities has been scheduled on October 5. In Hojai, Idol of Eighteen Hands Maa Durga has always been a special attraction for the devotees. Since the year 1967, Adarsha Durga Puja Samity has been organizing this Puja. This is their 55th Year. "We believe that, when Maa Durga slaughtered Mahishasura, She was in her eighteen hands gesture. So, We started worshipping Eighteen (18) hands Maa Durga Idol." told Pramod More, Convenor, Adarsha Durga Puja Samity to this Correspondent. "Here puja is done followings all the vedic rituals, earlier puja used to be organized near Ashok Guest House near railway station but since

2020 the puja is shifted here to Jugal Kishore Kedia Bhawan.", Pratap Kayal, Co-Convenor, Adarsha Durga Puja Samity. "This year Adarsha Durga Puja Committee is geared up to celebrate the festivity with more enthusiasm and joy, the Idol is made of special soil and more emphasis is given on deco-

ration and management.", said Mohan More and Manoj Sarma, Co-Convenors, Adarsha Puja Samity. "As per mythology, it is believed that Goddess Durga was in eighteen hands posture when she slaughtered for the first time Mahishasura, but he with his power reshaped again, next Maa Durga killed him with sixteen hand posture but he reshaped once again, then finally Goddess Durga in her ten hands posture slaughtered the buffalo demon and as such generally ten hands Durga Idol is worshipped.", told an educationalist. This year Kediapuram Durga Puja committee celebrated its silver Jubilee with pomp and gaiety. There are many other Committees in Hojai where the preparation of Durga

Puja are at final stage viz., Sarbajanik Durga Bari celebrating since 1935, Govind Ashram celebrating since the year 1940, Natun Bazar Durga Puja celebrating since the year 1947, Nabakalpa Durga Puja Committee, Marwari Durgotsab Samity, Ramkrishna Mission, Sahapatty, Govindapally, Kali Bari, Krishna Nagar, Harijan Colony, Nepali Mandir. Notably, maximum Durga Puja Samiti here are working to create mass awareness on ill-effects of plastic, significance of plantation and no wastage of water and electricity through banners, tableaus. On the other hand, Hojai District Administration is fully prepared to organize the Durga Puja festival in the district smoothly.



School teachers trained by USTM on Statistical Tools

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27: The Department of Computer Science and Electronics in association with NSS Cell, USTM, conducted a Training Programme on Applications of Computer Statistical tools for the teachers of Little Star Sr. Secondary School of Ri-Bhoi district yesterday. All the teachers of this village school joined in this hands-on training programme and learned about applications of different computer tools used for maintaining students' attendance records, examination evaluation, payroll management system etc. This Training Programme was conducted

under the Best Practice of the Dept. of Computer Science & Electronics, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya. This programme is an initiative of the department to provide free training courses to the school teachers of Ri-Bhoi district under the best practice operation scheme of the department.

Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights held

Assam Rising
Biswanath Chariali, September 27: A one day workshop on the topic 'Intellectual Property Rights: Issues and Challenges' was held today at Biswanath College in presence of faculties and students of the college. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Chinta Mani Sharma where he expressed his views on how the Intellectual Property Rights domain has changed the ecosystem of innovation in the present day world. The workshop witnessed the presence of Prof. Prodeep Phukan, Director, College Develop-



ment Council, Gauhati University as the distinguished Resource Person. Phukan in his speech covered the areas related to the meaning of Intellectual Property Rights, Types of IPR, patents and many others. He also enlightened the faculties about the copyright pro-

cess of any publication of their own. Prof. Prodeep Phukan also put forward his views on the Patent Act of India, 1970. After the speech, an interactive session was held as well. Dr. Rahul Sharma, Assistant Professor from the Department of Zoology and Dr. Nabanita Sharma from the Department of Education put forward their queries related to registration of patents and copyright of research publications. The workshop was hosted by the Institutions Innovation Council in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Biswanath College.

Sensational incident in Kaliabor



Assam Rising
Kaliabor, September 27: A sensational incident took place last here in Kaliabor.

Guest House

A/C Non A/C Rooms with Car Parking At POGI Brahmaputra, Chandmari, Guwahati-21 Ph. WA : 9678009493/9707183470

An attempt to kill a man by strangling him to death in his residence. The incident took place in Natun danga village of Kaliabor's Jakhlabandha. It is learnt that the victim named Samson Teron was attacked with a sharp weapon by the miscreants. Samson was sent to TMCH in critical condition for further treatment. An investigation has been launched at the spot by the Jakhlabandha police station.

World Tourism Day celebration at Kaziranga, Assam

Assam Rising
Golaghat, September 27: On the occasion of World Tourism Day, Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) organised an event at Kaziranga to promote the tourism sector of Assam and showcase Assam's indigenous culture, nature and diversity under this year's theme 'Rethinking Tourism'. The programme began with a Cultural Procession which took off at Forest Convention Ground, Kohora to BOC Point and back covering a distance of 1.5 Km which was followed by a seminar on the theme 'Rethinking Tourism'. The Chief Guest of the event, Hon'ble Minister, Tourism Department, Govt. of Assam, Jayanta Mallabarua, inaugurated a Coffee Table Book "Anupam Assam" and announced the Heritage Walks of Assam project. The Tourism department officials presented certificates and mementoes for their outstanding contribution in the field of River Tourism, Travel Writing, Tourism Promotion, Homestay, Wildlife Conservation,



Tourist Guide. Awards were also distributed for Short Film Competition, Photography competition, and Write-up competition. On this occasion, the state Tourism Minister addressed the gathering stating, "We need to understand that tourism is a major way to scale up our economy and everyone has to work collectively in this goal including people in this sector." He added, "We will also work to improve the efficiency of the workers here and provide them proper and best training." He further announced, "Rs. 200 crore subsidy will be given to 100 tea gardens of Assam for the development of their heritage tea gardens and heritage bungalows." The event was

concluded with a vote of thanks by Rajveer Hussain (OSD Assam Tourism) followed by a cultural programme which represented various dance forms of Assam including Bihu, Satriya, Jhumur, etc. The programme provided an ideal platform to promote cultural exchange between locals and tourists of the region. World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27th throughout the world to raise awareness of the significance of tourism. Assam, the land of 'blue hills and red river' known for its breathtaking landscapes attracts thousands of tourists every year. The event was held at Kaziranga, well known for the one-horned rhinoceros.

Elephant-human conflict continues in Kaliabor



Assam Rising
Kaliabor, September 27: Human-elephant conflicts have been increasing day by day in the different parts of Kaliabor in Nagaon. The wild elephant created a nuisance in a house near Sri Sri Jakhlabandha Asina Gosai Than. The wild el-

ephant broke the wall of the house and broke the bedsheets and ransacked other belongings. The

victim's neighbours alleged that they did not get a timely response from the forest department.

Kohora river basin locals celebrate World Rivers Day

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 27: People worldwide are being affected by extreme weather conditions due to the human-induced climate change crisis. Across the globe, World Rivers Day is celebrated every fourth Sunday in September with the goal of spreading awareness and encouraging people to protect and preserve rivers. In the village of Phumen Engti, Kohora, Karbi Anglong of Assam this year's World Rivers Day celebration took place on September 25. Langkiri SHG and Phumen Engti Natural Resource Management Committee hosted the event which was supported by the region's leading biodiversity conservation organization, Aaranyak (www.aaranyak). The event was celebrated with the traditional customs of the Karbi community re-

lated to rivers and streams. The Karbis believe that nature is God and all rivers, streams, living, non-living ones have souls protected by benevolent and malevolent deities. Every year during the Rongker or Chojun (traditional festivals), the Karbi people offerings are always given to appease them and as a sign of respect and thanksgiving for protecting nature and surroundings. Karbi's believe the ritual would bring good fortune, good health, and prosperity to the whole village as water is an important component for all life forms. Three waterways running through the Phumen Engti village of Kohoras, Kohorapi, and Langkiri were honoured in a prayer ceremony performed by local priests Prem Terang and Handeswar Engti.



Dhoniram Rongphar expressed his thoughts about the World River Day Celebration saying "We hope that people come out to celebrate and honour the rivers on this day. We use water from these rivers for our daily use. If we can celebrate

this day every year this will increase the importance of protecting and saving our rivers." This event was made possible by members of the Aaranyak team of Randeep Chetia, Bhargavee Rabha, and Avinash Phangcho coordinating with the Langkiri SHG's members,

Dhoniram Rongphar, and Sanjit Bey. Aaranyak has been working with a community-based Natural Resource Management programme in Karbi Anglong district with an aim to safeguard biodiversity and human well-being.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Mahsa Amini death and protest

The wearing of the hijab by women is a social custom in many Muslim countries. It was so also in Iran but Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who ruled Iran from 1941 till he was overthrown in the Ayatollah-led Islamic Revolution in 1979, allowed, indeed, encouraged, women not to wear the hijab. His queens and other ladies of the royal household as well as those belonging to the Iranian aristocracy and the professional middle classes did not wear the hijab. At the same time the women of the conservative sections of society did not give up the 'chador', the traditional hijab of Iran. Iranian students demonstrated in front of the Indian embassy in Tehran to demand that girls should be allowed to wear the hijab in Karnataka colleges despite the prohibitions of prescribed uniforms. These protesting students claimed, according to one news report, that the hijab restrictions were discriminatory against Muslims. More significantly, they asserted that these restrictions were, as per the news story, "a violation of the basic human right to freedom of clothing". It is believed that the demonstration was 'state sponsored'. The Karnataka hijab case has been heard by the Indian Supreme Court and its judgement is reserved. The Karnataka hijab issue relates to the internal affairs of India and, in terms of international law, the government and people of Iran have no right to intervene in this controversy. Over the past week Iran has witnessed large-scale protests in several cities in which 41 people are reported to have lost their lives. These anti-establishment demonstrations were triggered because of the death on 16 September of a 22-year-old Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, while she was in the custody of the country's morality police. The Amini episode reveals the hypocrisy of the Iranian state. Why? Because it demands that other countries should respect the "basic human right to freedom of clothing" while denying this very right to its own women. Iran's Islamic revolution did away with any notion of freedom of dress for Iranian women. The zealots of the Revolution demanded that all women in Iran, including foreigners, should dress in keeping with Islamic practices. While Iranian women were mandated to cover themselves with the 'chador', it was compulsory for foreign women, including visiting women dignitaries, to cover themselves completely with a coat and their heads with scarves. At the same time the Iranians insisted that foreign women, including leaders, should not touch any males; hence, diplomats always advised visiting lady leaders of their countries never to extend their hands to Iranian male leaders!

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Italy's drift to the far right began long before the rise of Giorgia Meloni



Giorgia Meloni scored a remarkable success in yesterday's Italian election - and is all but certain to become prime minister. Her post-fascist Brothers of Italy party's 26% of the vote makes it the largest party nationally. Overall, the rightwing coalition it now leads will have a considerable majority in both houses of parliament. Part of the explanation lies in the weakness of the opposition. The eclectic Five Star Movement (15%) and the centre-left Democrats (19%) did not join

forces and, after years of failing to improve working-class living standards, were unable to rally the left's historic base. Turnout was easily the lowest in the republic's history, with only 64% of Italians voting. Yet this isn't just the story of Italy making a sudden and sharp turn to the right. It's the latest product of a long normalisation of far-right parties. The media often casts the former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi as a "moderating" influence, but he played a key role in today's far-right breakthroughs. He has boasted that he "invented the centre-right in 1994" by allying with "the League and the fascists" - "we legitimised and constitutionalised them". From the outset, Berlusconi made harsh anti-immigrant statements, routinely trivialised Mussolini's crimes and appointed lifelong neo-fascists to top jobs. Berlusconi's last government was felled by the sovereign debt crisis in 2011, and he then supported a technocratic cabinet. Then, in 2013, he was banned from public office after a

tax fraud conviction. This offered room for first the League, then Brothers of Italy to claim leadership over the rightwing coalition, foregrounding their narrative of civilisational decline and nationalist resistance. Much of Brothers of Italy's more recent rise is due to its position as the only major opposition to Mario Draghi's crossparty cabinet, which both Matteo Salvini and Berlusconi joined upon its creation in February 2021. Meloni emphasised she would pursue a "constructive" approach to Draghi and continue his distribution of post-pandemic EU funds, but without making deals with the centre-left. This entrenched her as leader of the rightwing coalition, with the other parties now promising to make her prime minister. If Italy will now have its most rightwing prime minister since 1945, this does not mean a mere return to the past. Brothers of Italy is rooted in the Movimento Sociale Italiano

(MSI), a neo-fascist party created in 1946 which ran in elections but retained a deep hostility toward the republic created at the end of the anti-fascist resistance. During Berlusconi's governments, MSI leaders formally accepted liberal-democratic values, dropped their old name and condemned Mussolini's antisemitism. Yet many still cherished the legacy of postwar neo-fascism, and Brothers of Italy was created in 2012 as an explicit reassertion of the MSI tradition. This is a party that seeks to rewrite history textbooks to highlight the crimes of anti-fascist partisans. But it also draws on other, more international far-right memes like the "great replacement" of Europeans by immigrants - a conspiracy theory that has inspired multiple terrorist attacks. Brothers of Italy has promised major changes to the political legacy of the postwar republic. One is to marginalise parliament and parties by introducing a directly

David Broder

electoral presidency. But many critics fear it will go further. This month, Brothers of Italy and the League were the only Italian parties to vote against an EU parliament resolution that damned Viktor Orbán's Hungary an "electoral autocracy". Meloni's party has also mooted a constitutional ban on "apologia for communism and Islamic extremism" - imitating catch-all measures used in Budapest to squash leftwing critics. The process of government formation usually takes at least a month, even when there is a clearly identifiable majority. Brothers of Italy leaders have insisted that they expect the outgoing government to take key measures on soaring energy bills before they arrive in office. Yet this crisis and the war in Ukraine could cause major problems. Despite her own statements, Meloni's base is mostly hostile to sanctions on Russia, and the League leader, Salvini, has raised doubts over their future.

Shutting down the internet is another brutal blow against women by the Iranian regime

Woman, life, freedom. These are the words being used repeatedly in Iranian social media posts and carried on banners in the current demonstrations across the country. Three words that may have been a poetic combination in any other context, but not for the women who pay the price of their freedom with their lives. The death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, after being detained by the morality police for her "improper hijab" has sparked widespread anger, leading to the deaths of at least 41 others. The collective fury pouring out on to the streets is a result of decades of oppression against women in Iran. If George Floyd's killing highlighted the structural racism prevalent in US society, and Mohamed Bouazizi's suicide in Tunisia paved the way for the arrival of an unforeseen Arab spring across the region, Amini's death has led to the bursting open of 44 years of Iranian women's struggle against unjust laws and lack of control over their bodies and sexuality. The first demonstration against the compulsory hijab was held in 1979. Since then, despite constant attempts to suppress it, the women's movement has persisted. Activists have seized the possibilities that digital technologies offer in recent years, with campaigns not only for changing laws and policies but also to bring to light more taboo issues such as the policing of the female body, domestic violence, violence in the workplace, sexual harassment and the Iranian #MeToo movement. This is



why the regime has moved quickly to shut down internet access, blocking social media platforms such as Instagram and WhatsApp. However, the purpose of these shutdowns is not just to hinder mobilisation or to block the sharing of videos showing police brutality. In the past few years, the Iranian regime has been developing a sophisticated surveillance system that transcends conventional internet censorship measures. The national information network makes it possible to divide Iranian cyberspace into two parallel universes: a national network and a global one - which, to the average user, look strikingly similar. The national network, through which vital public services operate and which banks and businesses are strong-armed into using, is heavily pushed by the state through advertisements, is cheaper and faster - and is likely to be exposed to government surveillance. However, the global network could be cut at any minute by the state. The government has been perfecting this system since the last uprising was brutally suppressed in 2019. Even more worryingly, these

cyber-surveillance powers could now be combined with newly implemented digital identity cards, which will allow the regime to identify protesters within seconds through CCTV cameras installed across the

Azadeh Akbari

country. These digital identity cards are now vital for accessing health services or booking national rail and air tickets - and the system's biometric data banks can be easily used to find "troublemakers", as they most probably have in identifying a woman protesting against compulsory hijab on a crowded bus, who has been arrested. It is no wonder that many protesters cover their faces and take down CCTV poles as their first move during demonstrations. Think of this when you see women who have stood eye to eye with the police and specialist counter-insurgency guards - and acknowledge their extraordinary courage. An internet shutdown may not seem like an act of violence, but when bullets are fired at protesters and nobody is able to document it, brutality is able to flourish. Since the

ratification of the new Islamic punitive law in 1993, police forces have been legally obliged to enforce hijab-wearing. Morality police patrols, which came into force in 2005, have quashed women's rights in public spaces, and can lead to the arrest of anyone not deemed dressed appropriately. Women are arrested, and transferred to the bureau against social corruption, where they are treated like criminals: their photos are taken and their personal information, including their psychological wellbeing, is recorded and archived. This hours-long, draconian procedure ends with coercing the women to cut up their "bad" clothes with scissors. Any repetition of such "crimes" is prosecuted in the courts. Anger is the natural outcome of such humiliating treatment, and one of the few outlets for this is online. The My Stealthy Freedom campaign encouraged women to stroll the streets without hijab and share the videos on social media channels. One app, Gershad, used collective mapping to help women avoid morality police patrols. In 2017, the protester Vida Movahed climbed a telecoms box on the busy "Revolution" street in Tehran, put a white headscarf on top of a stick, and stood there in silence until she was arrested. The next week, the country was full of women standing silently on telecoms boxes, waving their headscarves and often being brutally taken down. The winter of 2017-18 marked the beginning of an independent movement of ordinary women literally

standing their ground. The power of one image travelling across social media and messaging apps questioned all the injustice imposed on women for decades. Despite western leaders' reluctance to get involved in Iranian women's struggle while entering more negotiations with Iran about a nuclear deal, some new developments, such as the US government's easing sanctions on internet technologies, might be the beginning of the expansion of internet freedom in Iran. Meanwhile, profit-oriented big tech companies, such as Elon Musk's Starlink, which provides satellite internet access and is set to be activated in Iran, use the opportunity to act as heroes. The stories spread without mention of the fact that such systems need special hardware, licences from the International Telecommunication Union and connection to international payments systems that Iranian banks are cut off from due to sanctions. Alleviating one harm should not pave the way to giving big tech companies a free hand in a country where there are no clear data protection or privacy regulations. Think about the controversies Facebook's Free Basics programme caused in developing countries. Neda Agha-Soltan's face, covered with blood, became the icon of the Iranian people's struggle in 2009. Today, Amini's death has given momentum to Iranian women's fight against discrimination, state control and patriarchy. It is access to information that allows social movements to thrive and injustices and brutality to be documented. The establishment of a free global internet should become an international priority: disconnection kills.

India must re-think the zero-charge regime for digital transactions. Try this tiered approach

On 17 August 2022, the Reserve Bank of India released a discussion paper on charges in payment systems. It sought feedback on charges levied on transactions using payment instruments such as credit and debit cards, as well as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The focus on UPI, which is cross-subsidised by the exchequer as part of a high-visibility digital adoption initiative of the government, drew a lot of eyeballs. Therefore the Ministry of Finance was quick to clarify that UPI is a digital public good and would continue to remain free of any charges. In just over five years, this fast payment system has made India an undisputed leader in digital payments. Digital

payment volumes in India are 3X that of the nearest competitor - China, and roughly two out of every three digital payments in India are made through UPI. There are several reasons behind this growth. As an open network, UPI forms the bedrock of several innovative fintech products. High smartphone adoption, low data charges, and pandemic-accelerated digitisation are other factors. The Indian government has implemented a zero-charge regime to encourage the adoption of UPI. However, banks and payment intermediaries alike have questioned the sustainability of such a regime. Recently, the Parliamentary Standing

ATEESH NANDI

Committee on Finance in its report highlighted the need to relook the current practice of zero-charge UPI enables instant payments. Payments flow from one bank account to another bank account via the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) platform. Payment intermediaries (like PhonePe and PayTM) play a key role in offering seamless payment experiences to consumers and helping sellers set up digital payment acceptance solutions. Each bank and payment intermediary, apart from the NPCI itself, incurs expenses to grow, and keep the UPI network up and running. The RBI estimates that these

network enablers spend about Rs two each time an online shopper spends approximately Rs 800 through UPI. Imagine the back-end tech infrastructure of a payment system as a digital highway. The operators of such tech infrastructure typically exact a highway toll over the payments that pass through. As with physical highways, the toll ensures that the tech infrastructure is maintained and periodically upgraded. Since online sellers rely on these digital highways for their business, the highway toll - merchant discount rate (MDR) in case of digital payments - is typically collected from them, and distributed among the network enablers. MDR is imposed on various payment instruments around the world. Now if a physical highway were to waive all tolls, it would likely see a concentration of traffic, and would hence need more upkeep. Similarly, if MDR is zero for a particular mode of digital payment, both users and sellers would be incentivised to adopt it over other modes. However, those who operate the back-end tech infrastructure would get squeezed as transaction volumes and running costs would rise in the absence of any revenue generation. This is exactly what is happening with UPI. As per the Finance (No. 2) Act of 2019, UPI network enablers are prohibited from imposing any charges, including MDR, over UPI



transactions after 1 January 2020. To support costs incurred by the digital payments ecosystem, the central government earmarked Rs 1,500 crore in the 2021-22 budget, which was disbursed through a Rs 1,300 crore reimbursement scheme. This financial support has been continued for FY 2022-23. No other comparable jurisdiction adopts a similar zero MDR framework. The reimbursement scheme was designed to incentivise banks to accept low-value (up to Rs 2000) UPI payments. Banks can claim a percentage of each transaction on a quarterly basis. However, industry bodies argue that the UPI ecosystem needs about 4X the current annual allocation. As traffic builds on the highway and UPI volumes rise, the gap between the operational costs incurred and budgetary support received widens. To put this in context, UPI payment volumes have risen ~ 5X since 1 January 2020. UPI clocked over 12 billion payments over the last 2 months alone, which is roughly 1.2X the total UPI payments in all of 2019. From a long-term growth perspective, a serious rethink of the zero-toll framework is necessary not only for recouping infrastructure running and merchant acquisition (i.e. the setup costs in enabling a seller to go digital through UPI) costs, but also for ensuring that investments in fraud monitoring, security, and error handling mechanisms are done. Technical glitches and failures are indeed an ongoing problem for the UPI ecosystem.

416 projects worth Rs 1,300 incomplete in Nagaland: CAG



Kohima, September 27 : The Nagaland government has spent over Rs 1,300 crore on 416 projects which are incomplete for almost 20 years, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report said. This was revealed in the State Finances Audit Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 31, 2021, which was tabled by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in the just concluded Nagaland Legislative Assembly session. There were 416 projects lying incomplete/ongoing as on March 31, 2021 for which Rs 1,380.04 crore had been spent by 36 Departments since the year 2003, the CAG report said. The age profile of incomplete projects based on the year of sanction/year of start of these projects ranges from 2003, it said. The CAG report

revealed that from 2003-11, there were 63 incomplete projects for which Rs 722.61 crore has been spent with cost over-run amounting to Rs 156.61 crore as on March 31, 2021. In 2011-12, an amount of Rs 67.96 crore was spent for 19 incomplete projects while in 2012-13, Rs 132.86 crore has been spent for 39 ongoing projects with cost over-run of Rs 25.84 crore. Further, 2013-14: 134 projects (Rs 53.55 crore), 2014-15: 59 projects (Rs 23.98 crore), 2015-16: 21 projects (Rs 96.18 crore), 2016-17: 10 projects (Rs 11.98 crore), 2017-18: 34 projects (Rs 67.48 crore), 2018-19: 9 projects (Rs 42.78 crore), 2019-20: 4 projects (Rs 5.28 crore), the report said. While for 2020-21 there were no such incomplete projects, the CAG report, however, said that a total of

24 incomplete/going projects on which Rs 155.38 crore was spent does not have information about the year of commencement. The report stated that of the 36 defaulting departments, the major defaulting departments were PWD (Roads & Bridges) Rs 258.85 crore against 15 projects; PWD (Housing) Rs 235.56 crore against 35 projects, Police Engineering Project Rs 177.75 crore for 48 projects; Urban Development Rs 96.77 crore for 26 projects; Geology & Mining Rs 48.95 crore for 4 projects; Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Rs 19.3 crore for 62 projects; Civil Administration Works Rs 15.33 for 47 projects while other 29 (names not specified) had spent Rs 527.53 crore against 179 incomplete

works. The report said that analysis of the 416 incomplete projects revealed that in 63 projects, target year of completion was not furnished by the Departments till the end of audit period. Of these 416 projects, works in respect of two projects (estimated cost Rs 10.93 crore) had been suspended during 2014-15 after incurring an expenditure of Rs 10.46 crore (95.70 per cent of estimated cost). In 358 projects, there was no financial progress during 2020-21, it said, adding that there was 100 per cent financial achievement in six projects but 100 per cent physical progress was not achieved while in one project physical progress was nil. There was no physical progress, despite

expenditure of Rs 30.37 crore (16.04 per cent of the estimated/revised cost of 189.39 crore) incurred on 19 projects up to March 2021, it said. Project cost in respect of 18 incomplete projects was revised from Rs 271.46 crore to Rs 454.82 crore, it said. It said that the Capital Expenditure of Rs 1,380.04 crore incurred on these 416 incompletes remained blocked. The CAG report said that blocking of funds on incomplete projects/works impinges negatively on the quality of expenditure and deprives the state of the intended benefits for prolonged periods. Further, delay in completion of the projects was fraught with the risk of cost overrun, which was evident in 63 projects which were pending since 2003-11, it said.

Rapid rise in dengue cases a concern: Mizoram health dept.



Aizawl, September 27 : The Mizoram health department is concerned over the rapid increase in dengue cases in the state, a health official said on Sunday. He said that 84 dengue cases were detected in August this year, which is higher than the total of 83 cases detected last year. According to the record of the Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (SVBDCP) under the state health department, out of the 420 samples tested last year, 19.76 per cent (83) of them were diagnosed with dengue. From January to August this year, at least 135 people were found infected with the viral disease against the 1,330 samples tested, the data said. Aizawl district reported the high-

est dengue cases at 106, followed by Lunglei district (12) and east Mizoram's Champhai district (7). Assam border Kolasib district reported 4 cases, Serchhip district (3), Tripura border Mamit district and Myanmar border Lawngtlai district reported one case each so far, the data said. Besides, a visitor from another state has also been diagnosed with dengue, it said. Meanwhile, the health department has issued advisories to the public to regularly use mosquito nets, insecticides like Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and anti-mosquito creams. It also advised people to clean their surroundings and water logging regularly to avoid mosquito breeding. The department also urged the public not to panic as the government is making massive efforts to control dengue cases. Dengue is detected through enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) tests. At present, ELISA tests can be done in only two government hospitals Sentinel Surveillance Hospital (SSH)- Aizawl Civil Hospital and Lunglei Civil Hospital in the southern part of the state. Besides, ELISA test can also be done in two or three private laboratories in Aizawl. The health department said that samples could be collected in all the district hospitals, primary health centres, community health centres and other government-run health facilities to be sent to SSH. Dengue is a viral disease transmitted by female mosquitoes mainly of the species Aedes aegypti and, to a lesser extent, Aedes albopictus. According to WHO, there is no specific treatment for dengue or severe dengue. Early detection of disease progression associated with severe dengue, and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates of severe dengue to below 1%.

Govt wants CBI probe into APPSC question paper leak

Ziro, September 27 : The Arunachal Pradesh government will recommend a CBI probe into the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission's (APPSC) assistant engineer (civil) examination question paper leak, chief minister Pema Khandu informed on Monday. The CM stated that the recommendation would be sent to the investigating agency by the end of Monday. Terming the question paper leak as unfortunate, Khandu said, "Though the BJP government has been trying its best to root out corruption from the state, it seems to make a comeback in one form or the other." "Likewise, corruption



has made its comeback in the APPSC, which is one of the premier recruitment agencies of the state. This has not only shaken the government but the entire state, especially the youths who have been studying hard with a dream of serving the state," Khandu said while addressing reporters here. The chief minister said such incidents of corruption demoralize the people. "I've been trying a lot to bring about reforms and transformation in the state,

however, even I am demoralised now. Hence, looking into the gravity of the situation, I am recommending this matter to the CBI for further investigation," Khandu said. The CM said that a CBI probe would help clarify into the entire fiasco and would also set precedent. Khandu further said the APPSC and the state government have already constituted enquiry committees to look into the question paper leak case. "The transformations and reforms that need to be made in the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the Commission would be made after we get the reports from these committees," the chief minister said.

Arunachal Governor presents citations to three Army units

Itanagar, September 27 :

To motivate Indian Army units guarding the territorial integrity of the country along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig Dr B D Mishra (Retd) on Monday presented citations to three army units at the Raj Bhavan here. The governor presented citations to the 97 Field Regiment, the First Battalion of Arunachal Scouts and the 25th Battalion of the Madras Regiment, for their professional competence and elan, which they have displayed in their area of operational responsibilities, Raj Bhavan sources said. Commanding Officer of 97 Field Regiment Col Vivek Pathak, Subedar Major SN Yadvav and junior most gunner of the unit, Gunner Surjeet received the Governor's citation while, Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion of Arunachal Scouts Col Mukul Sati, Subedar Major Dorjee Khandu Bapu and junior most Sepoy



Azepso Ngadong received the citation. For the 25th Madras regiment, Commanding Officer Col Saurabh Kumar Mishra, Subedar Major R Jay Kumar and junior most Sepoy Manu received the citation, the sources said. Mishra exhorted the commanding officers and troops to continue maintaining the highest order of inviolability of the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh and urged them to uphold discipline, hard work and empathy in the face of any situation or challenge as professional mission oriented men of the Indian Army. The governor commended the 97 Field Regiment for displaying praiseworthy zeal in rendering support to the civil ad-

ministration and also for helping the local population by providing them welfare and humanitarian assistance, including promotion of educational and sports activities, environmental sensitivity, women empowerment, medical facilities and rescue of civilians and tourists stranded during the natural calamities. He also appreciated the officers and personnel of First Arunachal Scouts, for being the benevolent 'force multiplier' dons of Arunachal'. He also appreciated their outstanding empathy and humanism towards the civil population. He commended the battalion for assisting the district administration and local people at the time of emergencies, particularly in fire accidents. The governor also lauded 25 Madras Regiment for rendering humanitarian assistance to people in remote border villages by providing them medical care and other welfare assistance. He praised the battalion for contributing to nation building through empowerment schemes for the local population, as also for promoting sports activities, training the local youth for Army recruitment and assisting the civil administration as part of its operation Sadhbhavna, the sources added.

Tripura Deputy Speaker wants ban on DJ systems



Agartala, September 27 : Deputy Speaker Tripura Legislative Assembly on Monday demanded a blanket ban on DJ systems mostly played during the Puja festivities, citing its adverse impact on maternity health and other health hazards. Sen, a legislator from Dharmanagar in North Tripura District, described DJ systems as a "Demonic Machine" that has a range of bad effects. "First of all, these systems are very harmful to expectant mothers. If a pregnant lady remains exposed to the sounds produced by DJ sets for a longer period, she is risking the life of the baby. The baby becomes susceptible to incurable hearing impairment," he told the Assembly House at the end of the Question-Answer session in the first half. He was ventilating his views in response to a starred question submitted by Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman on the unregulated use of loudspeakers during Puja days. Barman sought to know about the number of Ganesh Pujas organised in Agartala city on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha in his reply, said, "A total 36 number of Pujas were organised in Agartala city with due permission from the police department. For immersion as well, all the organizers applied for permission which was subsequently granted." Raising a point of clarification, Barman said, "The number of Ganesh Pujas is increasing day by day. On the day of immersion, the whole traffic management system of the city areas collapsed. Those who had been participating in the immersion procession were boozing in the open, playing loud music beyond the safe level creating problems for the pedestrians. When all these things were going on, the police played the role of mute spectator. This has to end. The Durga Puja festival is just a week away, I am urging you on behalf of the people of the AMC areas as well as the city to please ensure strict law and order watch so that such open violations of the set laws do not reoccur at the heart of the city". The lone Congress MLA also highlighted his concerns over the pollutants emitted by the bursting of crackers and noise pollution owing to loud music. Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha, however, lauded Barman for raising the issue in the state assembly. He said, "In some cases, we can't do anything even if we want to take action. Sentiments of lakhs of people are associated with Durga Puja. I can only tell that efforts would be made to ensure foolproof security arrangements".

Meghalaya to host 2nd edition of North East Olympics Games

Shillong, September 27 : All eyes are on the government and the Meghalaya State Olympic Association (MSOA) as the state is all set to host the second edition of the North East Olympics Games 2022. The second edition is being hosted as part of the 50th statehood day celebration. The state government had earlier drawn flak for its failure in hosting the Meghalaya



Games. State Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, however, is optimistic about the upcoming sporting event in the state. Responding to a query on the success of the event, the Chief Minister said he is confident that the event will

be a big success. "The state government, MSOA and the stakeholders concerned have been taking all the necessary measures to successfully organise the mega sporting event. I am quite positive about the event as thinking negatively will bring negative results." "The fact that the North East Olympics Games is being organised in the state is itself a very big step.

The Olympic Association of Meghalaya and the sports department must be congratulated for taking all the requisite steps to host the event," said Sangma. Concerning the challenges, Sangma said, "Challenges will always be there, but that cannot dissuade or stop us from trying. It's a very big game. Over 3,000 athletes are going to come and Meghalaya

has not hosted such mega events for a very long time. Hence, multiple problems and challenges will be there but we are ready for it." Sangma further urged all the citizens to support and help in every way possible. He also assured that the association and the departments concerned would leave no stone unturned to make the event a grand success.

No.SDW.1232/2022-23/20 NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Two Bid System)

Sealed Tender in prescribed form with validity of 180 days affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise twenty Five) only and Rs.500/- cost of Non Refundable Bid document from State Bank of India (Demand Draft) in favour of "Director, Sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22" eventually to be drawn on P.W.D F-2 Form Tender agreement for the following works are invited from the Registered Contractor under APWD (Building) to be received on **25-10-2022** up to **1.00 P.M** and will be opened on the same date at **2.00 P.M** in presence of the contractors or their authorized representative .If the last date of receiving Tender is notified as Govt, holiday, the Tender will be received in the next working day. The Tender paper will be issued to the Contractors/Firms w.e.f. **01-10-2022 to 21-10-2022**.

The tender shall be submitted in 2(two) bid systems (Technical & Financial in separate envelope). Detail Terms & Conditions, Estimate may be seen in the office of the Directorate of sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22, during the office hours.

Sl No	Name of works	Estimated Value	2% E/M for General and 1% E/M for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC etc.	Cost of Non Refundable Bid document from State Bank of India	Time of Completion
1	Construction of Model Mulberry Rearing House at CMG Morigaon under Morigaon under the scheme SOPD-G for the year 2022-23.	Rs. 20,00,000/-	Rs.40,000/- for 2% and Rs.20,000/-for 1%	Rs.500/-	90 (Ninety) days from the date of issue of Formal Work Order

Sd/-
Director
Sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22

No.SDW.1233/2022-23/12/7841 NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Two Bid System)

Sealed Tender in prescribed form with validity of 180 days affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise twenty Five) only and Rs.500/- cost of Non Refundable Bid document from State Bank of India (Demand Draft) in favour of "Director, Sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22" eventually to be drawn on P.W.D F-2 Form Tender agreement for the following works are invited from the Registered Contractor under APWD (Building) to be received on **25-10-2022** up to **1.00 P.M** and will be opened on the same date at **2.00 P.M** in presence of the contractors or their authorized representative .If the last date of receiving Tender is notified as Govt, holiday, the Tender will be received in the next working day. The Tender paper will be issued to the Contractors/Firms w.e.f. **01-10-2022 to 21-10-2022**.

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Sl No	Name of works	Estimated Value	2% E/M for General and 1% E/M for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC etc.	Cost of Non Refundable Bid document from State Bank of India	Time of Completion
1	Repairing of Office of the Directorate of Sericulture Reshom Nagar Khanapara including whitewashing and colouring of roof under the scheme of SOPD-G for the year 2022	Rs. 10,00,000/-	Rs.20,000/- for 2% and Rs.10,000/-for 1%	Rs.500/-	90 (Ninety) days from the date of issue of Formal Work Order

Sd/-
Director
Sericulture, Assam, Guwahati-22

Janasanyog/C/10886/22

Contd. From Page 1

Asha Parekh to be conferred

the Dada Saheb Phalke award is veteran actress Asha Parekh. The actress, known for her scintillating performances in films such as Kati Patang, Teesri Manzil, Dil Deke Dekho and more, will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2020. The 79-year-old star is being awarded for 'her exemplary lifetime contribution to Indian Cinema.' Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Tuesday shared the news. His tweet read, "Honoured to announce that the Dadasaheb Phalke Selection Jury has decided to recognise & award Smt Asha Parekh ji for her exemplary lifetime contribution to Indian Cinema." The Dadasaheb Phalke Award shall be presented by the Hon President of India at 68th NFA in Vigyan Bhawan," he added. Asha made her debut in the Hindi film industry as a child artist in 1952. Years later, she left everyone mesmerised with her grand debut opposite Shami Kapoor. After Dil Deke Dekho, the actress went on to star in many hit films and became one of the most influential actresses of all time. Bollywood's Jubilee Girl also starred in regional language films including Gujarati and Punjabi. She also donned the director's hat and bankrolled projects. The last Dadasaheb Phalke Award was conferred on Rajinikanth for 2019.

3-day India-Bangladesh Festival from

grand inter-country festival to be held in Assam to mark the country's 75 years of independence. "In the sideline to the event, we will address the issues related to both countries, including trade and commerce, river sharing, apart from intermixing of art, culture and food," he added. The organisers have claimed that as Sylhet was partitioned in 1947 from India, the event will act to bridge the gap between the two countries. Roy said that nearly 10 Bangladesh MPs and a few Ministers are also expected to attend the three-day event. Major General (ret'd) of Bangladesh, Samsul Arfin has come to India to look after the things related to organising this major event and said that the festival will further strengthen the ties between India and Bangladesh. He said, "Sylhet was once a part of Assam and we are hoping to witness the old connection between the two places once again during the festival. In 1947, the Muslim-majority Sylhet district of Assam province became a part of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), causing many Hindu Sylhetis to migrate from their homeland to India as refugees. While this episode from Assam's Barak Valley region has become a footnote in the discourse around Partition, it will be the fulcrum of a festival to "celebrate the age-old people-people connect" across both sides of the border. The Silchar-Sylhet Festival, slated to be held in Assam's Silchar town from 29 to 31 October, is being organised by the think-tank India Foundation "under the aegis" of the Union government's Ministry of Culture and in association with the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies. "Sylhetis are on either side of the border... now it is time to forget the past of Partition and forge new alliances and links, especially between the twin cities of Silchar and Sylhet," BJP leader and Sylhet Lok Sabha MP Dr Rajdeep Roy told. According to a press release, the three-day long festival will see sessions and addresses by "ministers from India and Bangladesh, governors, chief ministers, industry leaders, litterateurs, academics, and practitioners". "The festival will showcase tribal culture, cuisine, arts, crafts, and local produce, entertainment and bring together eminent people from both sides to discuss and deliberate on issues of mutual growth and opportunity," the press communique from Saturday stated. Roy told ThePrint that discussions pertinent to diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh are also likely to take place on the sidelines. Several dignitaries from both Bangladesh and India are expected to attend the event. The guest list from Bangladesh includes Minister for Foreign Affairs A.K. Abdul Momen, Minister for Commerce Tipu Munshi, and State Minister for Cultural Affairs K.M. Khalid. From the Indian side, prominent attendees will include the Governor of Assam Jagdish Mukhi, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North-East Region (DONER) G. Kishan Reddy, and Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, among others. The Bengali-speaking region of Sylhet was historically a part of the erstwhile East Bengal, but the British tacked it on to the newly created province of Assam in 1874 in order to boost the 'backward' region's economic strength. Silchar was linguistically and culturally closer to Calcutta than anywhere in the northeast part of India, and many inhabitants were against the move. However, according to some scholars, Hindus were more rankled than Muslims. "[T]he Hindus of Sylhet demanded for a return to the more 'advanced' Bengal, whereas the Muslims of Sylhet by and large preferred to remain in Assam where its leaders... found a more powerful political voice," wrote researcher Anindita Dasgupta in her 2008 paper 'Remembering Sylhet: A Forgotten Story of India's 1947 Partition', published in the Economic and Political Weekly. Most of the local Assamese, too, were not pleased by the presence of the Bengali-speaking 'Sylhetis' due to increased competition for jobs and the fear that the perceived interlopers would try to assert cultural dominance in the region. Meanwhile, the years from 1874 saw Sylhetis migrating to different parts of the northeast, and creating sizeable pockets in areas of southern Assam like Silchar (in Cachar district) and Karimganj. "Over time there emerged a de-territorialised Sylheti identity in Assam/India," Dasgupta wrote. Then in 1947, the Sylhet referendum was held to decide whether the district would remain with India, as a part of undivided Assam, or East Bengal, a part of the newly created Dominion of Pakistan. The majority voted in favour of joining Pakistan, but on 17 August 1947, the announcement of the Radcliffe Line - which delineated the geopolitical border between India and Pakistan - resulted in Karimganj joining India. Neighbouring areas of Cachar district like Silchar had also felt the effects of the Partition. In a paper on the demographic growth of Silchar, scholars N.B. Dey and Purusottam Nayak noted that the town's population grew by 10.5 per cent between 1941 and 1951, "mainly due to Partition". The influx comprised predominantly Hindu refugees from the part of Sylhet that had joined erstwhile East Pakistan. There are currently sizeable populations of Sylhetis in not just the Barak valley (comprising Cachar, Karimganj, and Hailakandi districts) but also Hojai in Assam, Meghalaya, North Tripura, and Manipur. The Sylheti identity is marked by a distinctive dialect, cuisine, and culture. It is this cross-border identity, whether in Bangladesh's Sylhet or India's Silchar, that the upcoming festival aims to highlight. The event, the press release says, has been timed to coincide with 75 years of India's independence as well as the "50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh from East Pakistan".

Gauhati HC upholds life

years under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. On Tuesday, the division bench comprising justices Suman Shyam and Malasri Nandi of Gauhati HC rejected the appeal filed by Daimari and six others while acquitting three accused who were earlier sentenced to life. "The court rejected the appeal of Daimari and 6 others. Three others, Onsai Boro, Lokra Basumatary and Indra Brahma were acquitted by the high court," said Daimari's counsel Manas Sarania. "Jayanti Brahma, who was among the four sentenced under UAPA, was also acquitted by the court on Tuesday. We will appeal against the HC order in Supreme Court soon," he added. Following the blasts, the case was handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which filed chargesheet against 22 including Daimari. Seven were declared absconders (three of them were suspected to have been killed in encounters with security personnel). In January, 2019, the special court acquitted Mridul Goyari while sentencing Daimari and 9 others to life imprisonment for several charges including murder. In January, 2020, Daimari was released on interim bail for four weeks to travel to Delhi and sign a peace deal with the Centre that brought insurgency in the Bodo areas of Assam to an end. Following the signing of the peace deal and end of the interim bail period, Daimari was kept in custody at a room in 10 Assam Police battalion in Guwahati. In February, 2019, he was shifted to a "home-like" VVIP cell in Chirang district, where he is staying at present. "Daimari has already given up his violent past and signed a peace agreement with Centre and the Assam government. Considering these developments, the government can repeal the case against him," Sarania said. The blasts on October 30, 2008 had taken place at several locations in Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Barpeta districts of Assam is the deadliest attack by terror outfits till date in the state.

25 Popular Front of India Leaders

100 years of freedom, social media posts and chats data from handheld devices -- have been seized. In the initial raids last week and today combined, a total of 36 PFI activists including top leaders have been arrested in Assam. In Assam, raids were conducted by the state police with inputs from the National Investigation Agency. Days after nationwide multi agency raids on top leaders and functionaries of PFI leading to over a hundred arrests, a second round of nationwide crackdown on the organisation is underway. 247 have been arrested so far. Investigative agencies are conducting operations across Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh. PFI has been accused of terror funding, providing weapons training to Muslim youth, and radicalising them to join terrorist organisations. The action is reportedly based on intelligence inputs provided by the NIA. Formed in 2006, the PFI claims to work for the empowerment of marginalised communities in India and advocate the rights of Dalits, Muslims, and tribals. Law enforcement agencies, however, say PFI is promoting radical Islam and recruiting for terror outfits.

PM Narendra Modi attends former

Ma'ruf Amin, and European Council President Charles Michel. The state funeral began with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida receiving the ashes, which appear to be contained in a ceremonial box. He then formally handed it to military officers who placed the box in the centre of the altar, set up at the front of the room. The Nippon Budokan Hall also played the videos of Abe featuring his key moments in a tribute to the assassinated leader. "India is missing former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe," said PM Modi earlier today. It also included the time when Abe met Prime Minister Modi among many pictures of Abe with other world leaders at global summits and addressing the United Nations. The video tribute focused on Abe's standing as a world leader and his concerted efforts to maintain good relationships with foreign countries. Shinzo Abe is credited with revitalising the key Trans-Pacific Partnership after the US withdrew. Notably, Shinzo Abe has been considered as one of the most important forces behind the "Quad" strategic partnership - an alliance between India, Japan, the US and Australia. Meanwhile, up to 1,000 soldiers will perform ceremonial duties, with a military honour guard firing 19 blank rounds from a cannon to salute the former PM. A massive security cordon has been thrown around the Budokan arena - as dozens of VIPs and dignitaries in long motorcades arrive for the ceremony. The 67-year-old politician, Japan's longest-serving PM, was gunned down at an election rally on July 8th during a speech in Japan's Nara city. Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, approached the politician from behind and fired two shots from a distance of about 10 meters (33 feet). The attacker reportedly plotted the assassination of the 67-year-old former head of government for nearly a year. Abe, Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, stepped down in 2020 citing health reasons. He was Prime Minister of Japan twice, from 2006-07 and again from 2012-20. He was succeeded by Yoshihide Suga and later by Fumio Kishida. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on Tuesday and conveyed his deepest condolences on the demise of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Prime Minister Modi, who landed in Japan on Tuesday morning to attend Abe's state funeral, noted the contributions of the late Japanese PM in strengthening the India-Japan partnership and conceptualizing the vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. "The two leaders had a productive exchange of views on further deepening bilateral relations. They also discussed a number of regional and global issues," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. Both leaders renewed their commitment to further strengthening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and working together in the region and other international groupings. PM Modi arrived in Japan today amid heightened security measures in the country as dozens of foreign dignitaries are slated to attend the state funeral of former PM Abe who was assassinated in July. This visit of PM Modi to Japan comes after Kishida's visit to India for the India-Japan Summit meeting in March, and PM Modi's visit to Japan for the Quad Leaders' Summit in May this year. These meetings underscored the two leaders' commitment to deepening India-Japan ties, particularly in shaping a post-pandemic regional and global order. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the India-Japan diplomatic relationship.

Over 100 tomato flu cases detected

and adults with weak immunity. Till date, there is no specific drug for this particular disease. Tomato Flu is caused by a virus and shows symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. However, tomato flu is not related to COVID-19. Tomato flu might be an after-effect of Dengue fever or Chikungunya in children. CAUSES OF TOMATO FLU: Till date, no causes have been found that lead to or spread tomato flu disease. Health experts are still investigating the causes of tomato flu. SYMPTOMS OF TOMATO FLU: - Skin irritation: It is one of the most common symptoms of a Tomato Flu-infected person. - Decolouration: Legs and hands get discoloured and slightly unidentifiable. - Fatigue and tiredness: While fatigue can be common for travellers, fatigue can be a health risk. - Abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea: These symptoms affect your health. - Coughing, fever, sneezing or runny nose: These symptoms are common in coronavirus as well. - Joint pain and body ache: A Tomato virus-infected person would have difficulty moving smoothly. PREVENTIONS AGAINST TOMATO FLU: - Drink more water, juices and liquid content- Try to drink more boiled water- It's better not to touch the blisters- Maintain good personal hygiene- Maintain physically distance from suspected cases. - Take sufficient rest to avoid the long-lasting effects of Tomato Flu.

Manas National Park to Reopen

wildlife law, the warden can give permission to enter a protected area even at night. No law stops people from entering at night. Yesterday, we had the formal opening of the park for this season and now Sadhguru and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar have arrived. Since they have lakhs of followers, this time we expect the tourist season will be very good for Kaziranga. "Manas National Park is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, Project Tiger reserve, biosphere reserve and an elephant reserve in Assam, India. Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan. The park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog. Manas is famous for its population of the wild water buffalo. The Manas National Park was declared a sanctuary on 1 October 1928 with an area of 360 km² (140 sq mi). Manas bio reserve was created in 1973. Prior to the declaration of the sanctuary, it was a reserved forest called Manas R.F. and North Kamrup R.F. It was used by the Cooch Behar royal family and Raja of Gauripur as a hunting reserve. In 1951 and 1955, the area was increased to 391 km² (151 sq mi). It was declared a World Heritage Site in December 1985 by UNESCO. Kahitama R.F. the Kokilabari R.F. and the Panbari R.F. were added in the year 1990 to form the Manas National Park. In 1992, UNESCO declared it as a world heritage site in danger due to heavy poaching and terrorist activities. On 25 February 2008, the area was increased to 500 km² (190 sq mi). On 21 June 2011, it was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger and was commended for its efforts in preservation.

President awardee felicitated at Rangapara



Assam Rising, Rangapara, September 27: Rangapara college student Subhankar Dey who was recently bestowed with the NSS National Award by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi, was felicitated by rangapara Moti Masjid committee on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, committee members appreciated the efforts of Subhankar Dey for working towards the betterment of the society. The felicitation ceremony was attended by rangapara municipality board ward commissioner robi Sankar dey, President of Moti Masjid committee Hussain Ansari, secretary Munna Ansari, member of goriya moriya parishod akbor Ali (golden) and lots of people.



Rajib Baruah's book "Art and Creative Education - 1" launched

Assam Rising, Dhakuakhana, September 27: State Education, The first semester paper of the regular D.El.Ed. The course conducted in DIET, BTC, BED Colleges and Normal Schools in various parts of the state under the Research and Training Council of Assam is prepared according to the syllabus of "Arts and Creative Education" -1" textbook was launched on Monday. The book was launched by Anand Gogoi, a retired teacher of Arts and Creative Education, Dhakuakhana Normal School. The book is written by Rajib Baruah, a guest teacher at Normal School and published by JS Prakashan Group, Panbazar, Guwahati. The book is expected to benefit the students studying D.El.Ed. in acquiring quality educational resources. The book was launched by the Principal of Normal School Dhakuakhana Lakhi Konwar and moderated by Partha Pratim Das, a fourth semester student of D.El.Ed.. The book was launched by Assistant Teachers of Normal School Pallabi Gogoi and Aparajita Buragohain comments that The meeting was also attended by author Rajib Baruah.

23rd Freshers social held at Laharighat College



Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, September 27: The 23rd freshers welcome ceremony and the blessing ceremony of the sixth semester of Laharighat College, Morigaon district was held successfully. The flag was hoisted by the incharge Principal of the college Safir Uddin Ahmed at 9 am today. Afterwards, the tree planting program was conducted by Professor Khurshid Alam, Professor Semim Ahmed and Chenehi Dale of various departments of the college. The program was conducted by Professors Dr. Anwar Hussain Mohammad Wahid and Salim Ahmed. The program was conducted by Professors Mojibur Rahman and Mamoni Shaikia. The program was conducted by Professors Mojibur Rahman and Mamoni Shaikia. The opening ceremony was held at 1.30 pm. The meeting was conducted by the Chairman Shafiruddin Ahmed. The objectives were explained by the Cultural Secretary of the College Students' Union Faridul Islam. The welcome ceremony was moderated by the General Secretary of the Student Union Muktar Hussain. The opening ceremony was also attended by the first, second and third year students of the undergraduate class. In addition, the professors and invited guests of the college also delivered speeches.

Executive meeting of Biswanath district Mahila Morcha held



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, September 27: The executive meeting of Biswanath district Mahila Morcha was held today at the Community Hall, Kalabari Gohpur with Lina Saikia, president of the district committee in the chair. The meeting was attended by Gohpur MLA Utpal Bora, OBC chairman Numal Barua, state executive member Snigdha Goswami, Kamini Kakaty, Bharati Devi Bhuyan, Dipa Chetry, presidents of 11 mandal committees of the women organization along with party workers from the district. Gohpur MLA addressed the gathering and made humble appeal to the party workers to work unitedly and requested to maintain a cordial relation with general public, informed Ranju Sarma Parajuli, president of Garehagi GP and media convenor of Biswanath district Mahila Morcha.

MTB race held at Aalo

Assam Rising, Aalo, September 27: The first ever Aalo Open MTB race was conducted at Aalo. The Day was coincided with the 1st Foundation Day Aalo Cycling Club (ACC) under the aegis of Arunachal Amateur Bicycling Association (AABA) and West Siang Cycling Association (WSPA). The Categories of cycling race were 15-19 years, Men's elite Open and Veteran race 35+. The race started from 2nd AAP Bn Aalo gate covering the prime area of Aalo township to Patum, Pessing & Paya and return to the same starting point 2nd AAP Bn Aalo informed by Kenbom Riba President (WSPA) and Kenli Riram Organizing Secretary.



Worcester suspended and put into administration after missing deadline

London, September 27 : Worcester Warriors have been put into administration after being suspended by the Rugby Football Union from all competitions, leaving the club condemned to relegation and plunging the Premiership into turmoil. On announcing the decision the RFU chief executive, Bill Sweeney, declared that the whole business model of rugby union in England needs to be improved. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport - Worcester's biggest creditor after they gave the club £14m last year to alleviate the effects of the Covid pandemic - announced the administration process had been triggered. The Warriors were duly kicked out of the Premiership, and the women's team out of the Premier 15s, after failing to meet the financial requirements laid down by the RFU. Those included insurance guarantees, an ability to meet the payroll and a "credible plan to take the club forward". Administration, according to RFU regulations, means relegation at the end of the season. Worcester can appeal against that fate on the grounds it was not their fault, citing the "pandemic clause" in the RFU's regulations. It is unclear if they would be successful given what local MPs have called the "appalling mismanagement" of the



owners, Jason Whittingham and Colin Goldring. It is understood Whittingham and Goldring made a late attempt to delay the deadline on Monday but the RFU meted out its punishment regardless. "We appreciate this is incredibly difficult news for fans, staff and players," Sweeney said. "We hope a buyer can be secured to allow Worcester Warriors and the University of Worcester Warriors to return to professional league rugby. It is so important that we continue to work with Premiership Rugby to improve the structure, governance and business model of rugby union in England." Worcester's head coach, Steve Diamond, had already given his squad the week off, so certain was he that the deadline would not be met. Players were told to gather their belongings before Sixways was closed on Monday. Premiership Rugby has confirmed the match against Gloucester on Saturday will not take place and there can be only so long before Worcester's temporary suspension becomes permanent. In the meantime, Premiership Rugby has a considerable headache over its fixture schedule with broadcast commitments potentially affected, all the while dark clouds loom over Wasps, who last week filed notice of their intention to appoint administrators. Worcester's best chance of survival and a return to the Premiership this season is for the administrators to swiftly find investors who can satisfy the financial requirements laid down by the RFU. Two interested parties are primed - one includes the club's former chief executive Jim O'Toole - but the process would take at least a couple of weeks meaning Worcester's Premiership match against Harlequins on 8 October is expected to be called off. There are doubts over whether administrators will consider a sale viable with upwards of £25m of debt, including £6m in unpaid tax owed to HMRC by early next month, as well as accusations of asset-stripping. Outstanding wages also have to be paid

and the RFU will scrutinise any sale in extreme detail given the determination to avoid a similar mess, in turn elongating the process. "In order to give the club the best possible chance of survival, and to protect a significant taxpayer investment, we have agreed to the directors' request to place the club into administration," the DCMS said. Privacy Notice: Newsletters may contain info about charities, online ads, and content funded by outside parties. For more information see our Privacy Policy. We use Google reCaptcha to protect our website and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. Whether Worcester return from their suspension is likely to determine if their three results - two defeats and a rousing victory over Newcastle last Saturday - will stand or be scrubbed from the league table. Even if Worcester are able to return to competition it remains to be seen what state the squad would be in. They cannot train at Sixways and the players can hand in notice of their intention to leave. The

England head coach, Eddie Jones, expressed his sympathy for Worcester players and staff with the club's caretaker, who lives on the grounds of the stadium, evicted. "It's more about the personal side," he said. "Whenever you have that uncertainty about whether or not you are going to be unpaid or whether you are going to have a job, it's a difficult time." Jones named a 36-man squad for a mini-training camp next month and included Sam Simmonds, who will join Montpellier next season, on the expectation he will be available for the World Cup despite RFU regulations that render players based outside England ineligible. A precise ruling is expected in the coming weeks with a number of Premiership players considering more lucrative moves abroad next season. "As far as I know, the rule is that if you are contracted to an English club and you finish the season with that club and you haven't signed a contract that starts before the World Cup then you are eligible to play for England," Jones said.

Danny Care dropped after Australia tour but Tuilagi returns for England

London, September 27 : Manu Tuilagi and Ben Youngs have been named in Eddie Jones' first England training squad of the autumn but there was no place for Youngs' fellow veteran scrum-half Danny Care. Tuilagi, who has recovered from a knee injury, and Youngs, who chose not to tour Australia for personal reasons, are part of the 36-man outfit who will start preparations for their four home Autumn Nations series fixtures in November during a three-day training camp this weekend. Even at this stage of the season England's head coach, Eddie Jones, is without a number of senior players because of injuries with George Ford, Maro Itoje, Courtney Lawes, Sam Underhill and Anthony Watson unavailable. The 35-year-old Care's surprise international comeback appears to be over, however, having been replaced in the first half of the Sydney decider against the Wallabies because of an error-strewn display. Jack van Poortvliet and Alex Mitchell join Youngs as the



scrum-halves in the 36-man squad but Harry Randall, another nine who travelled to Australia, is absent. The centre Joe Marchant is also culled having failed to impress in the 2-1 series win Down Under and others among those available for selection but not included among the group are props

Kyle Sinckler and Joe Marler. Jones' squad includes first call-ups for Northampton Saints' Alex Coles and Saracens' Hugh Tizard, both players having previously represented England U20s. The finalised squad for the Autumn Nations series will be announced in mid-October.

Dolphins deny Tua Tagovailoa played with concussion as NFL investigates

London, September 27 : Tua Tagovailoa is not in concussion protocol, according to his head coach Mike McDaniel, after the Miami Dolphins quarterback appeared to slam his head against the ground in the team's win over Buffalo on Sunday. Tagovailoa and McDaniel both said after the game that it was a back injury that was giving the third-year quarterback problems. And McDaniel reiterated on Monday that Tagovailoa's back and ankle are "sore" but the team will know more after he undergoes further testing. McDaniel didn't commit to whether Tagovailoa would play against the Cincinnati Bengals on Thursday night. "It's my first time on a Thursday night game with Tua, so I don't assume anything," McDaniel said. "But it wasn't out of the



extreme norm of bumps and bruises after a game." Tagovailoa took a hit from Bills linebacker Matt Milano and appeared to be disoriented as he got back to his feet. The Dolphins originally said it was a head injury, and Tagovailoa missed Miami's last three snaps of the first half. He returned to start the third

quarter. Tagovailoa's quick return drew skepticism, and the NFL and NFL Players Association said they are conducting a joint review of what went into the decision to allow Tagovailoa to go back in the game. According to NFL rules, a player has to undergo in-game evaluations if he has a possible concussion. Those evaluations involve team medical personnel, as well as an unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant. McDaniel said Tagovailoa was cleared by the team and the independent neurologist before re-entering the game. McDaniel added that the Dolphins are happy to comply with the investigation and were happy with the process they followed on Sunday. He said the Dolphins wouldn't have moved forward "in the direction

'It's officially over': Tyson Fury claims planned fight with Anthony Joshua is off



Paris, September 27 : Tyson Fury says his proposed world heavyweight title showdown with Anthony Joshua is off after his self-imposed deadline of 5pm on Monday expired. Fury set Joshua's camp an ultimatum on Friday night, insisting that if the deal could not be done in time, he would walk away from the blockbuster all-British bout. Having made previous posts encouraging Joshua to sign the contract through the day, Fury then claimed the fight was "officially over" after the deadline. In a video posted to Instagram, Fury said: "Well

guys, it's official. D-day has come and gone. It's gone past five o'clock, Monday. No contract has been signed. It's officially over for Joshua. He is now out in the cold with the wolfpack. Forget about it." The reigning WBC champion then labelled Joshua an "idiot, coward, shithouse... and a body builder. Always knew it. Always knew you didn't have the minerals to fight the Gypsy King," he continued. "Regardless of what the fuck you say now, I don't really care. Good luck with your career, and your life. End of. Peace out." Joshua has yet to respond, but said on Sunday that he planned to sign the fight contract but was taking legal advice first. "It ain't in my hands - it's with a legal team. That's why you hire

lawyers," Joshua said in an Instagram Live video. "You know the history of boxing - make sure you get your legal terms right. That's why you get good management and good lawyers," he added. "So of course I'm going to sign the contract - it's just with some lawyers at the minute." Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, had already said there was "no chance" of contracts being signed by Monday, although the challenger's team are thought to have already verbally accepted Fury's offer of a 60-40 purse split. TV executives from BT Sport and streaming service Dazn were scheduled to meet on Monday to discuss broadcasting rights, an indication that a deal for the planned December fight was thought to be close. Mahmoud Charr is a potential alternative opponent for Fury, after the German challenged the champion on social media.



London, September 27 : The UK government's extensive efforts to facilitate the Saudi Arabian takeover of Newcastle United have been further exposed by documents, released by the Department for International Trade in response to a freedom of information request by openDemocracy. They show that a minister promised the Premier League he would secure a response to a proposed "way forward" from "the highest levels of the Saudi government". Lord Gerry Grimstone, then minister for investment, asked the then Premier League chairman, Gary Hoffman, in August 2020 to share the league's legal advice on "a way forward" for the stalled takeover by the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF), the documents reveal. Grimstone, a former

banker with high-level contacts in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, who was appointed by Boris Johnson in March 2020 to attract investment to the UK, told Hoffman: "I can then confirm from the highest levels of the Saudi Government whether this is deliverable and we will then know where this stands." The documents show Grimstone working hard to try to help secure the takeover, liaising between the Premier League and Saudi government about a potential "solution". The evidence of Grimstone's efforts, in internal memos copying in Downing Street officials and the British ambassador in Saudi Arabia, Neil Crompton, further contradicts the UK government's repeated insistence that it had no involvement in the takeover

process. In April 2021, Johnson stated in a parliamentary answer to the Newcastle Central MP, Chi Onwurah: "The government was not involved at any point in the takeover talks on the sale of Newcastle." In May this year, in response to the Guardian first revealing Grimstone's high-level discussions to encourage the deal, a DIT spokesperson downplayed the minister's involvement, saying he "never tried to influence Mr Hoffman and the Premier League to approve the Newcastle takeover". The spokesperson said Grimstone was only fulfilling his role to "keep abreast of large investments potentially coming into the UK". The documents released by the DIT consist of four memos Grimstone sent in August 2020 to Crompton and two unnamed officials in Downing Street, informing them of his contact with Hoffman, including WhatsApp messages and three phone calls. The DIT heavily redacted the memos before releasing them, citing reasons that publishing the details could damage the UK's international relations or interests, and are commercially sensitive.

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Women's Super League

Arsenal know to read little into their strong derby victory



London, September 27 : Two games into a new season is no time to try to determine the destination of the Women's Super League title or who is on track for a Champions League spot. Arsenal will be aware of this and the need to take things game by game having begun last season with a 3-2 win over Chelsea before being pipped to the title by the same team by a single point. So while Arsenal's 4-0 defeat of Tottenham on Saturday was comprehensive and slick, Jonas Eidevall and his team will not get carried away, especially given how poor the visitors were in front of a record WSL crowd of 47,367. "We didn't play our game as well as we could have," said Tottenham's head coach, Rehanne Skinner. "We were too tentative in the press and that created challenges for us on the ball." Suzanne Wrack Aston Villa's 2-0 victory at Leicester on Sunday was a history-making moment for the club given it secured them

back-to-back wins in the WSL for the first time. New signings have revitalised Carla Ward's team, none more so than Rachel Daly, whose early penalty was her third goal of the season as she continues to build on her excellent performances for England at the European Championship. Emily Gielnik struck four minutes from time to extinguish any chance of a Leicester comeback. Eight points separated these two sides last year and while the Foxes have lingering defensive issues, Villa march onwards and upwards with a squad that looks ready to take on anyone.

Renuka Odedra Manchester United have some heavyweight names in their squad, such as Ella Toone, Katie Zelem and Alessia Russo, but it was two lesser-profile players who shone in their 2-0 victory over West Ham on Sunday. Lucia Garcia, who joined United from Athletic Bilbao in the summer, and Hannah Blundell scored their first goals for the club, highlighting the strength in depth United

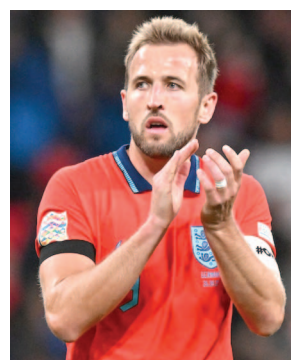
now have, and especially from a goalscoring point-of-view. It's a trait that might allow Marc Skinner's side to break the stronghold of Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal and secure a Champions League place this season. Gareth Taylor was pointed in his comments after Manchester City's 2-0 defeat by Chelsea. "Players make mistakes, everyone makes mistakes, and we've got to be super-careful that we're not jumping on it," he said. "I saw more positive things from the team and I've fed that back to them." He is not wrong, there were positives on Sunday, especially in their first-half performance. However, the visitors

struggled for a reaction after conceding the first goal of the game and it quickly became Chelsea's to lose rather than City's to win. The big concern for last season's third-placed side is that they look aimless - either the plan is wrong or it's not being executed properly. Informative, passionate, entertaining. Sign up to our weekly round-up of women's football now. Privacy Notice: Newsletters may contain info about charities, online ads, and content funded by outside parties. For more information see our Privacy Policy. We use Google reCaptcha to protect our website and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. "If this [officiating] is not addressed, it's going to start costing managers jobs," said a furious Kelly Chambers after Reading suffered a 2-1 defeat at Brighton. It was the second week in a row Reading came away from a game feeling hard done by the officials. The controversy in question occurred half an hour into Sunday's contest, when Deanna Cooper rose to head in a clever free-kick. The assistant's flag went up, but replays showed the defender was onside. Brighton then took the

lead through Lee Geumin and while Reading dominated the second half they were ultimately left to rue their wastefulness in front of goal, as well as the assistant's flag. Sophie Downey "If officials don't begin to improve, it's going to stop the growth of our game and Manager's will begin to get the sack." Everton's summer of change involved a new manager, the exit of nine senior players, five permanent signings and loan deals for several young players including Manchester City's Jess Park, Chelsea's Aggie Beever-Jones and Arsenal's Gio Queiroz. The loan strategy was deliberate, offering valuable playing time to developing players who may need to be patient elsewhere, and paid dividends at Anfield where 20-year-old Park excelled in the 3-0 victory over Liverpool. Brian Sorensen, savouring his first win as Everton manager, said: "When I first talked to the club I had some targets. I wanted young English players like Jess Park and Aggie Beever-Jones and we were lucky to get them. I am so happy for Jess. The way she performed was top." Andy Hunter.

England In 'Good Place' For World Cup, Says Captain Harry Kane

London, September 27 : England captain Harry Kane said the Three Lions are in a good place heading into the World Cup after a 3-3 draw with Germany on Monday despite going to Qatar on a six-game winless run. Kane looked to have completed a famous fightback for Gareth Southgate's men as they came from 2-0 down to lead 3-2 at Wembley before Kai Havertz salvaged a point for the visitors. "The mentality and fight of the team was shown out there today," said Kane, who moved to within two goals of matching Wayne Rooney's record of 53 goals for England. "We didn't get the win but we can be proud of what we did and it puts us in a good place ahead of the World Cup." Despite leading England to the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup and a first major tournament final for 55 years at Euro 2020, Gareth Southgate was under the



spotlight after his side were relegated from the top tier of the Nations League with a game to spare. England had not scored a goal from open play in their opening five games in Group A3, but Kane is confident they will respond to the heightened pressure of a major tournament in two months' time. "Major football tournament is different to any other football you play for England. The pressure is high and the concentration has to be high and I feel like we respond well to that," he added. "We've upped our game as we've gone along in the last two major

tournaments. "We dust ourselves down, we know we have to improve but there isn't that much time now with England before that first game.

"Like Getting Head Of The Snake...": Sunil Gavaskar On Why Rohit Sharma's Wicket Is Vital For Rivals

New Delhi, September 27 : Rohit Sharma notched yet another bilateral series win as India captain as his side defeated Australia in a T20I game in Hyderabad on Sunday. Chasing a target of 187, India reached the mark in 19.5 overs. Skipper Rohit scored 17 off 14 balls. His short innings included one six and two fours. He showed signs of being aggressive and got caught out after charging down the track against Pat Cummins in the fourth over. Former Indian



cricket team captain Sunil Gavaskar said that with the batting depth, Rohit

can take his chances. "If you have a long batting line-up, that's the way you should be playing. Yes, we want to see him bat longer, we want to see him bat for 10-12 overs because then you are pretty certain. Because in those 10-12 overs, India is 120-odd with the way he bats. But because he is getting India to flying starts and because he has got 5,6,7 who can take the game away. Today look at the way Hardik Pandya came in towards the end. With that kind of batting order, you can take chances," Sunil Gavaskar said on Star Sports. "Clearly, getting the captain of a team is always a big plus for the opposition. It's like getting the head of the snake is

what they say. That's why if you are an opening batsman, bowlers will target you - the captain. Get you to demoralise the side. But this side has so many class players." Talking about the match, Cameron Green (52) scored upfront while Tim David (54) provided the final flourish as Australia posted 186 for six after being invited to bat. With the pitch offering grip and turn, Axar Patel (3/33) picked three wickets, while also executing a sensational runout. Yuzvendra Chahal (1/22) was also in his element, bowling an economical spell. Chasing 187, Suryakumar Yadav (69) orchestrated the carnage, while Virat Kohli (63) played the second fiddle. At the halfway mark India needed 96 with eight wickets in hand. Suryakumar soon brought his fifty as the duo plundered 15 off Adam Zampa's 13th over. Australia fashioned a comeback, ending Suryakumar's outstanding innings with India needing 53 off the last six overs. Kohli, however, continued to go about his business, whacking Pat Cummins for a six in the very next over. He brought his first fifty of the series in 36 balls.

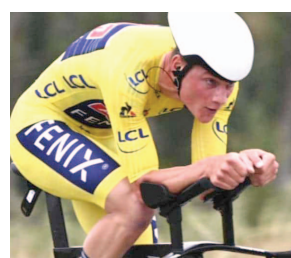
England name Australia-born Winfield-Hill in Rugby League World Cup squad



London, September 27 : The Australia-born Courtney Winfield-Hill is the standout inclusion in the England women's squad for the Rugby League World Cup. Winfield-Hill, who moved to England in 2018, was playing cricket in Australia's Big Bash League as recently as five years ago. However, after establishing herself as one of the premier talents in the Women's Super League since joining Leeds Rhinos, Winfield-Hill will realise her goal of playing in a World Cup after declaring her allegiance for England at the beginning of this year. The 35-year-old half-back is one of four winners of the Woman of Steel award to make Craig Richards's 24-player squad that will attempt to win the World Cup for the first time. Winfield-Hill is joined by the 2022 winner, Tara Jane Stanley of York, as well as Jodie Cunningham of St Helens and Georgia Roche of Leeds. There are seven members of the Leeds squad who won the Women's Super League this month, with Winfield-Hill and Roche poised to continue their partnership at half-back at international level. Zoe Hornby is the sole uncapped player in the squad, while Richards has named 11 players from the Challenge Cup winners, St Helens. They include the captain, Emily Rudge, who is one of four survivors from the last England squad that played in a World Cup on home soil nine years ago. England will begin their campaign against Brazil on 1 November at Headingley in a game that is expected to attract close to 20,000 supporters. They then face Canada at Wigan's DW Stadium on 5 November before a final group stage fixture back in Leeds against Papua New Guinea on Wednesday 9 November.

Dutch cyclist pleads guilty to common assault of girls on eve of world championships

Paris, September 27 : Dutch cycling star Mathieu van der Poel will attempt to overturn a conviction for assaulting two teenage girls in a Sydney hotel the night before the men's world championship road race. The Tour de France stage winner was arrested hours before Sunday's race in Wollongong where the 27-year-old was one of the favourites. Van der Poel had confronted two girls - grabbing one on the arm and pushing the other - after he



says they repeatedly knocked on his hotel door on Saturday night and ran away. After the two-time Tour of Flanders champion pleaded guilty on Monday, Sutherland local court magis-

trate Hugh Donnelly convicted him and ordered he pay fines of A\$1,000 and A\$500 for the two common assaults. The grandson of famed French cyclist Raymond Poulidor was to lead the Dutch team in Sunday's 266.9km race but withdrew within the first 30km. Bauke Mollema finished best placed for the Netherlands in 25th. "He [Van der Poel] admits he dealt with it inappropriately but still there's an explanation," crimi-

nal lawyer Michael Bowe said. "The damage he suffered was enormous. He feels like he's let his whole country down and his whole team." With the court matter over and his bail conditions no longer in effect, Van der Poel was able to retrieve his passport and fly out of the country on Monday evening. However, Bowe will lodge a sentence appeal on Tuesday morning in the district court, seeking to set aside the convictions.