



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Zelenskiy vows to defend Ukrainians in occupied...

02

Southgate admits younger England players felt pressure ...

07



NEWS IN BRIEF

Orangutans recovered

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 28:

Two baby orangutans have been recovered from a remote area along the Assam-Mizoram border, a forest official said on Wednesday. The animals were found at the check-gate in Lailapur area of Assam's Cachar district late on Monday, he said. Cachar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Tejas Mariswamy told news agency PTI that the orangutans were found abandoned at the check-gate, and are suspected to have been brought from Myanmar.

Bribery Charges

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 28:

Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption apprehended to two government employees in two separate incidents under the suspicion of accepting demanded money on Wednesday. At first, Additional Patwari Utpal Kumar Nath employed at the Office of Settlement Officer of Hailakandi and Cachar district was trapped and arrested by the vigilance team while accepting demanded money for land certification work of the complainant. Taking to Twitter, ADGP (Law & Order) GP Singh wrote, "Sri Utpal Kumar Nath, Addl Patwari O/O Settlement Officer Hailakandi & Cachar district has been trapped and arrested red handed today."

Drugs seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 28:

The Assam Police seized a huge consignment of drugs worth Rs 160 crore from Cachar district and arrested six people in possession of the narcotics. Police recovered yaba tablets from a vehicle that was coming to Assam from Mizoram on the Silchar-Aizawl national highway yesterday night. Acting on a tipoff about a huge cache of narcotics being brought in a passenger vehicle, the Cachar police launched an operation and checked all the vehicles on the Silchar-Aizawl national highway that were coming from Mizoram towards Assam, informed the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Cachar, Numal Mahato.

PFI, 8 associated fronts banned for 5 years after nationwide

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomes ban on PFI



Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 28:

Popular Front of India (PFI) was banned for five years by the Ministry of Home Affairs. 8 associated fronts of the radical outfit were also banned. The decision was taken based on the report of the investigating agencies. Following multiple raids across the country and arrests by the central agencies, a radical outfit, Popular Front of India (PFI), was banned for five years

by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday for its alleged links to terror funding. In addition to this, PFI's associate organisations - Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala - were

also banned. The demand to ban the outfit was made by several states. The decision was taken based on the report of the investigating agencies. On September 22 and September 27, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and state police conducted raids on the PFI. In the first round of raids, 106 people belonging to PFI were arrested. Meanwhile, in the second round of raids, 247 people belonging to PFI were arrested/detained. Investigating agencies got enough evidence against the outfit, based on which the decision to ban the outfit was taken. As the central government declared PFI and its associates or fronts as an unlawful association with immediate effect, BJP leader Kapil Mishra stated that "Banning PFI is a decisive step against Islamic Jihad" in a tweet. Reacting to

the development, BJP's national spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawalla, stated on Twitter, "Strong & timely action by Central Government, MHA that has banned the #PFI for a period of five years. But we have seen in the past how Congress, SP, RJD, Left, etc have given political patronage to terror in name of votebank." On September 22, the NIA and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches against the PFI at 93 locations in 15 states -- Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, West Bengal, Bihar and Manipur.

At least 106 PFI members and their alleged associates were arrested in the first round of raids. The NIA, along with other probe agencies, carried out raids on PFI members under Operation Octopus for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. On Tuesday, the second round of raids was conducted in Delhi, Karnataka, Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Telangana. The searches were conducted at the houses and offices of top PFI leaders and members in connection with five cases registered by the NIA following continued input and evidence

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Assam Congress MP bats for Priyanka Gandhi as party president

Assam Rising
Guwahati, September 28:

Assam Congress MP Abdul Khaleque has batted for Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to be the president of the Congress party. Assam Congress MP Abdul Khaleque said that being the daughter-in-law of the Vadra family, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is no more a member of the Gandhi family. "As Shri Rahul Gandhi is denying to become @INCIndia President again, I consider @priyankagandhi as best candidate. Being daughter in law of Vadra family, she is no more member of Gandhi family as per Indian



tradition," tweeted Assam Congress MP Abdul Khaleque. The race for the party top post has gained pace after not-less-than-Bollywood-style twist and turn in Rajasthan. India's main opposition Congress party is likely to elect a new party president from outside the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty for the first time in nearly 25 years. Gandhi family loyalist Ashok Gehlot, the chief minister of Rajasthan state, and Shashi Tharoor, a lawmaker from the southern state of Kerala and a former top UN official, could file nominations this week.

Huge setback for Mamata Banerjee

HC says Bengal govt's 'Duare Ration Scheme' is ILLEGAL

Kolkata, September 28:

In a huge setback for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday said the 'Duare Ration Scheme' (ration at the doorstep) of the West Bengal government is ultra vires to the "National Food Security Act, 2013 and is legally void." The order was passed by the division bench of Justices Chitta



Ranjan Dash and Aniruddha Roy, which held that the 'Duare Ration Scheme' is "ultra vires of the National Food Security Act, 2013" and "is, therefore, a nullity in the eye of the law". The bench passed the order while responding to an appeal by fair price shop dealers challenging the order of a single bench of the

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PM Modi congratulates far-right leader Giorgia Meloni for victory in Italian polls: 'We look forward to...'

New Delhi, September 28:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (September 28, 2022) congratulated far-right leader Giorgia Meloni for victory in the recently-concluded Italian polls. Taking to his official Twitter account, Modi said that he looks forward to working together with Meloni, who is set to be the country's first woman prime minister. "Congratulations Giorgia Meloni for leading your party to victory in the Italian general elections. We look forward to working together to strengthen our ties," PM Modi said. Meloni, who led a coalition of right-wing parties to victory, heads Brothers of Italy, a



party with neo-fascist roots. It has won the most votes in Italy's national elections and looks set to deliver the

country's first far-right-led government since World War II. While the centre-right is the clear winner, the formation of

a government is still weeks away and will involve consultations among party leaders and with President Sergio Mattarella. In the meantime, outgoing Premier Mario Draghi remains in a caretaker role. The elections, which took place some six months early after Draghi's government collapsed, came at a crucial time for Europe as it faces Russia's war in Ukraine and the related soaring energy costs.

Amid Rajasthan Crisis, Team Gehlot Invokes BJP, Cites Maharashtra

Jaipur, September 28:

Pratap Kachariyawas, Rajasthan minister and an Ashok Gehlot loyalist, gave a spin to the turmoil in the party today. At a press conference, he implied that installing Sachin Pilot as the Rajasthan Chief Minister once Ashok Gehlot moves to Delhi, will amount to handing the state over to the BJP. The Enforcement Directorate, the Income Tax department, CBI officials are sitting in Rajasthan. BJP's game has

started," Mr Kachariyawas told reporters. "The BJP is again engaged in a conspiracy to topple the Rajasthan government," he added in what is being seen as an attempt to change the narrative in face of the wrath of the Gandhis. Sources said the Gandhis have been hugely upset with Mr Gehlot over the rebellion by his loyalists. His claim that he was at a temple in the border area where there was no cellphone connectivity, has not convinced any leader in Delhi. Mr Gehlot

had initially apologised to Central observer Mallikarjun Kharge, before whom Sunday's drama had unfolded in Jaipur. Calling the parallel meeting of the MLAs and their subsequent rebellion a "mistake", he had said it "should not have happened". But with many of the key leaders in Delhi accusing the Chief Minister of "humiliating" the Congress, Team Gehlot fought back. The first move was to attack Central observer

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

After successful trials with the help of JK, Sikkim is all set to start saffron cultivation.

New Delhi, September 28:

After successful trials with the help of Jammu and Kashmir administration, Sikkim is all set to start saffron cultivation this year and farmers are gearing up for it. Sikkim University, Sikkim Government Horticulture Department and Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Department have joined hands to monitor saffron cultivation in the state. The pilot phase was conducted under the supervision of Sikkim University and it gave interesting results. The Sikkim govern-

ment has experimented with saffron cultivation in various pockets of Sikkim such as Yaksum and nearby areas of West Sikkim and Pangtang, Simik, Kamdong, Padamshan and East Sikkim. A high-level delegation from Sikkim visited Jammu and Kashmir in July last year for consensus and coordination, after which all the officials of the department will meet to confirm the production. Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Department and

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'Not keen on becoming Congress president, I want to...': Kamal Nath



Bhopal, September 28:

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath on Wednesday said he is not keen on becoming the party president and does not want to contest the election for that post as he wishes to focus on his home state, where Assembly

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Zhang Liming (R) explains to local residents how to guarantee the safe use of electricity at a residential community in Binhai New Area of north China's Tianjin

Kamala Harris to visit Korean demilitarised zone as naval drills stoke tensions

Tokyo, September 28 : The US vice-president, Kamala Harris, is to visit the heavily armed border separating North and South Korea on Thursday, amid rising tensions on the peninsula. Harris will arrive at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) on the



southern side of the border, days after the regime in Pyongyang warned that South Korea and the US risked "triggering a conflict" following the launch of large-scale naval exercises for the first time in five years. Harris's visit to the DMZ will "underscore ... the United States' commitment to stand beside [South Korea] in the face of any threats" posed by North Korea, a White House official said. Harris will be the most senior member of the US administration to go to the inter-Korean border since Donald Trump walked across the demarcation line into North Korea during a meeting with the country's leader, Kim Jong-un, in 2019. She will "reflect on the shared sacrifice" of tens of thousands of US and Korean soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean war, which ended with a ceasefire but not a peace treaty, and "tour sites at the DMZ, meet with service members and receive an operational briefing from US commanders", the official

More than \$8bn pledged to Joe Biden's goal of ending hunger

London, September 28 : More than \$8bn has been pledged by private corporations and non-profit groups to help Joe Biden achieve his goal to end hunger and cut diet-related diseases, White House officials announced on Wednesday. Donors include food industry lobby groups, pharmaceutical companies, the world's second largest meat packing company, medical associations, a film studio, as well as philanthropic foundations and universities. The announcement comes as the White House hosts the first conference on hunger, nutrition and health in 53 years. Since then food insecurity has improved but remains shockingly high with one in 10 American households struggling to feed their families in 2021, while the consumption of processed unhealthy foods and diet-related diseases have risen exponentially. Biden will make a speech at Wednesday's conference, which officials said demonstrates his commitment to end hunger and improve healthy eating and physical activity by 2030. It will bring together academics, activists, tribal leaders, health professionals and CEOs because the complexity of hunger and diet related diseases requires a "whole society approach", officials said. Many of the commitments include donations or support to the country's food banks, which are relied upon every month by tens of millions of people who cannot afford to feed their families.

added. North Korea has conducted a record-breaking number of weapons tests this year, including one involving an intercontinental ballistic missile that was fired at full range for the first time since 2017. US and South Korean officials have warned for months that Pyongyang could be about to conduct what would be its seventh nuclear test, while some analysts have said the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-

un, may wait until after the Chinese Communist party national congress, which begins on 16 October. North Korea has traditionally avoided doing anything to embarrass China, its biggest ally and trading partner. Officials in Washington and Seoul have promised a "swift and forceful" response to any nuclear test. The North indicated that it is determined to develop more sophisticated weapons with the test launch of a short-range ballistic missile on Sunday. The launch came the day before the US and South Korea - where 28,500 American troops are based - began joint drills involving the aircraft carrier the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group off the Korean peninsula's east coast. Harris, who attended the state funeral for Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Tuesday, was due to address US sailors in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, on Wednesday before flying to South Korea. She was expected to repeat Washington's

commitment to Japan's security, and to warn China against aggressive moves towards Taiwan, days after the US president, Joe Biden, said the US would defend the island if China attempted to invade. "She will get into threats to the international rules-based order and how she sees them," including recent provocations across the Taiwan strait, a senior

administration official said. "She will speak about that and what we are doing to push back against those efforts and stand up for the international rules and norms that have guided this region." Harris's DMZ visit will be the first by a high-ranking US official since House speaker Nancy Pelosi went in August, prompting the North to condemn her as the "worst destroyer of international peace".

Zelenskiy vows to defend Ukrainians in occupied regions as 'referendum' results announced



London, September 28 :

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has said Ukraine will "defend" its citizens in Russian-occupied regions, as authorities there announced the results of so-called referendums that have already been denounced by the west. "This farce in the occupied territory cannot even be called an imitation of referendums," Zelenskiy said on Tuesday in a video posted on Telegram. "We will act to protect our people: both in the Kherson region, in the Zaporizhzhia region, in the Donbas, in the currently occupied areas of the Kharkiv region, and in the Crimea." The Ukraine president's comments came as officials in four Moscow-

occupied regions of the country claimed victory in the referendums, which have been condemned by western leaders as sham ballots. The local poll body in the southern Zaporizhzhia region said 93.1% of voters opted for Russian annexation after all ballots were counted, adding that this was a preliminary result. In Kherson, also in the south-east, authorities said 87% of voters opted for Russian annexation after a vote count was completed. In eastern Ukraine's Luhansk region, controlled by pro-Russia separatists, 98.4% opted for annexation by Russia, Russian news agencies said, citing local authorities. "It is clear" that Luhansk would return to the Russian fold, Leonid Pasechnik, the leader of

London, September 28 : Cuba's electricity grid has collapsed, leaving the entire country without power in the wake of Hurricane Ian, as residents in Florida braced for the arrival of what is expected to be a catastrophic Category 4 storm. The western end of Cuba was hit by violent winds and flooding on Tuesday, affecting infrastructure, state-run media reported, while some of the country's most important tobacco farms were devastated. Cuba's National Electricity Union said that power would be restored gradually on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Lázaro Guerra Hernandez, from the Electric Union of Cuba, said people were working through the night and that power would be gradually restored. He called it "an exceptional condition - a total of zero" electricity generation. "We are starting the process of restoring the system. It's a process that takes time, it must be done with precision," he said. The island's decades-old electrical grid has been faltering for months, with blackouts common, but officials said the storm had proven too much, provoking a failure that shut off the lights for its 11.3 million people. The country's key Antonio Guterres thermoelectric power plant "could not be synchronised", a journalist with a state-run news agency was reported as saying, leaving no electricity generation on the

island. Earlier, the hurricane tore through the west of the country on Tuesday morning, making landfall in Pinar del Rio province, where officials set up 55 shelters, evacuated 50,000 people and took steps to protect crops in the nation's main tobacco-growing region. The storm left at least two dead in western Cuba, state-run media reported. Violent wind gusts shattered windows and ripped metal roofs off homes and buildings throughout Pinar del Rio. Roads into the areas directly hit by the hurricane remained impassable, blocked by downed trees and powerlines. "I've never seen anything like this," said Ana Julia Gomez, a 56-year-old woman, as she surveyed the wreckage in her home. "I lost everything - nothing is left." The hurricane hit Cuba at a time of dire economic crisis. Blackouts and long-running shortages of food, medicine and fuel are likely to complicate efforts to recover from the storm. "Ian has done away with what little we had left," said Omar Avila, a worker at butcher shop in Pinar del Rio. "It's a horrible disaster." Many buildings on tobacco farms had been flattened by the storm, state-run media said. Farmer Abel Hernandez, 49, said: "It destroyed our houses, our drying huts, our farms, the fruit trees, everything." Businesses in Florida, meanwhile, were shuttering and officials ordered 2.5 million people to



evacuate before it crashes ashore Wednesday. The powerful storm is heading directly for Florida's south-western coast, after striking Cuba with winds of 125mph (205km/h). The storm is expected to intensify in strength as it moves over the Gulf of Mexico and west of Florida's southern tip on Tuesday night, before heading toward the Tampa Bay region. It would be the first major hurricane to hit the US this year, and the first major hurricane to hit the Tampa area since 1921. Officials put the region under a hurricane warning on Monday night, alerting people of catastrophic storm surges, high winds and flooding. "This is a life-

threatening situation," the National Weather Service said. "Persons located within these areas should take all necessary actions to protect life and property from rising waters and the potential for other dangerous conditions." The storm is already causing disruptions across the state with universities closing campuses for the week, while Disney World and Universal Orlando theme parks were shutting down in preparation. Further north, Washington lawmakers postponed a public hearing in the January 6 investigation, acknowledging the severity of the situation and saying in a statement that they were "praying for the safety of all those in the storm's path".

Return to Dust, Chinese hit film about rural hardships, disappears from streaming platforms

Taipei, September 28 : A popular Chinese film depicting a love story amid the hardships of life in rural China has been removed from all streaming services just weeks after its release, and discussion of it censored on social media. Return to Dust had been widely praised by audiences for its realistic and moving depiction of rural life in China. For the same reason it had also drawn criticism from nationalistic voices accusing it of portraying China in a negative light. The sudden disappearance of the film, which premiered at the Berlin international film festival, prompted widespread accusations the film was censored amid heightened sensitivity in China ahead of its most important political meeting, the party congress. The couple at the centre of the film - played by film star Hai Qin and a local farmer and untrained actor Wu Renlin - fall in love after coming together in an arranged marriage. They navigate hardships relating to health, housing, and poverty, while living in a rural village being targeted for development. However, the party congress is in less than a month, and authorities are under pressure from the central government to ensure an atmosphere of national positivity and stability. After a delayed release in national cinemas, the arthouse film became a hit, topping box office takings in its ninth weekend. But then in mid September it reportedly began screening with an amended ending, in line with edits of other films at odds with Communist party ideology, before being dropped entirely from cinema listings. It remained available on multiple streaming sites until this week. On Tuesday a social media hashtag related to the film's removal from streaming services had been viewed about 300,000 times, but only a handful of comments remained visible.



People view the golden mask of ancient Egyptian King Tutankhamun during an evening ceremony held at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender affixing court fee stamps worth Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only for the following works under APFBC Scheme during 2022-23 of Genetic Cell Division, Assam, Guwahati-29 is hereby invited from the intending Govt. registered contractors/Firms on the basis of Terms & conditions laid down in tender document. The tender paper will be issued and received with effect from 29-09-2022 up to 3.00 PM of 28-10-2022 during all office working days by the office of the undersigned and it will be open on the next date i.e 29-10-2022 at 2.00 PM by the Tender Evaluation Committee. If the office happens to be to be closed by the date of receipt of tender as specified the same will be received in the next working day up to the same time.

Sl. No.	Item of Works	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)
1.	Construction of a overhead R.C.C. platform for water tank and installation of a Tank with Pipe fitting & fixing.	Rs. 2,50,000.00	2% of the estimated cost (1% of the estimated cost for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC/JUG)	Rs. 500.00

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason what so ever. Intending tenders may collect tender document/paper on payment of Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only on the form of Bankers Cheque/Demand Draft payable in favour of the undersigned on any working day during office hours till 1.00 PM of 28-10-2022.

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Janasanyog/C/11006/22

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from nationalistic voices accusing it of portraying China in a negative light. The sudden disappearance of the film, which premiered at the Berlin international film festival, prompted widespread accusations the film was censored amid heightened sensitivity in China ahead of its most important political meeting, the party congress. The couple at the centre of the film - played by film star Hai Qin and a local farmer and

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CM Inaugurates 100-bedded, ₹1.90-crore Girls Hostel of Garampani High School

◆ CM also inaugurates Ganesh Temple at Govinda Nagar; new building of Saraswati Vidya Mandir at Langcherui
◆ Days of turmoil are over for Dima Hasao; There is Total Peace Now: Dr. Sarma



Assam Rising, Guwahati, September 28: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday on a visit to Umrangso area of Dima Hasao district inaugurated a 100-bedded girls hostel of Garampani High School, built at a cost of ₹1.90 crores under the Prime Minister Kshetra Kalyan Yojana. This apart, he also inaugurated the newly-constructed building of the Shrimati Jamuna Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir at Langcherui and that of a temple dedicated to Lord Ganesha at Govinda Nagar areas of Umrangso. Addressing a public rally, the Chief Minister referred to

the current state of general peace in the once-restive region and expressed satisfaction at different ethnic groups co-existing with one another in a brotherly environment. He attributed this to the coming to the mainstream of the Dimasas National Liberation Army in 2021. Referring to the on-going construction of the 120-Mw Lower Kapili Hydel Power Project whose foundation stone was laid by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Bamboo Industrial Park at Manderdisa, the Chief Minister assured the residents of the district of the current dispensation's seriousness

in transforming Dima Hasao into one of the most developed regions in the State. He further added that construction work for the 90-km long road connecting Haflong Tinali with Lower Haflong will begin at the earliest while the development of the road connecting Lanka with Umrangso is expected to be completed within a year. Referring to the immense tourism potential of Umrangso, the Chief Minister assured the residents of all steps necessary to develop the road and other infrastructure of the area. Improvement in the infrastructure scenario in the

area will be a huge boost to its tourism potential, the Chief Minister added. The Chief Minister also declared the government's resolve to hold a Cabinet meeting in the hill district within the next seven months. Referring to the massive appointments in the government sector in recent times, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction at many candidates from Dima Hasao getting selected purely on the basis of merit.

Referring to the 5% quota for Schedule Tribe (Hills) category in government vacancies, the Chief Minister stated that many vacant positions in that category are not being filled up due to lack of applicants belonging to the said category. He appealed to all to raise awareness among the youths of Dima Hasao regarding the benefits available under the ST(Hills) category. Referring to the Saraswati Vidya



Awareness camp on safe maternity and newborn Care held

Assam Rising, Golaghat, September 28: National Human Rights and Crime Control Bureau Golaghat District Unit today organized an awareness camp on Safe Maternity and Newborn Care at Bahbari Anganwadi Centre under Buragohainkhat State Dispensary in Golaghat. MPW of Rongbong Health and Wellness Centre Buragohainkhat State Dispensary Nava Kumar Barman, ANM Lila Boraik delivered speeches and highlighted several important points on the topic. The awareness meeting was hosted by NHRCCB Golaghat District General Secretary Swagata Bora. NHRCCB State Secretary Hema Choudhury Gogoi, Golaghat District President Anurekha Bakliwal delivered speeches on Human Rights and Crime Control. General Wings Secretary Suraj Gupta, Women Wings Joint Secretary Juri Handique, Bhoben Gogoi and Niru Singha from the dispensary were present in the camp.

AASAA urge the government to provide better treatment

Assam Rising, Margherita, September 28: A critically ill former student leader Pradeep Tanti was visited by a team of the Margherita regional committee of the All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam (AASAA) at his residence on Tuesday to take stock of his health. Pradeep Tanti served in the central committee of the All Assam Students' Union or (AASU) besides the All Assam Tea Tribes Students' Union (ATTSA). The once active student leader has been physically ill for a long time. AASAA's species is present with the team The Chief Commander of ANLA Peter Dang, ANLA's president Dipen Nayak, Pradeep Tanti's one-time struggling colleague and former Aas's leader who has awakened the national spirit across Assam and now president of the Adivasi Jatiya Mahasangh Biren Mirdha. AASAA's Margherita Regional Committee President Journal Minz and General Secretary Samuel Tapan led the team. Some financial assistance was also provided by Anla for the treatment of the former student leader. The Aas Margherita Regional Committee has called upon the Government of Assam to take full responsibility for the treatment of the struggling former student leader Pradeep Tanti, who has raised his voice in every problem of Assam.

Smuggler arrested with drugs in Laharighat

Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, September 28: A drug dealer was arrested in a joint operation by Morigaon and Laharighat police last 26 sept Monday. The arrested drug dealer was identified as Nazrul Islam, 32, of Utlabari village. 49 containers, polythene loaded with drugs and 1 mobile phone were seized. The arrested man is currently being questioned by police. The drugs weighed 71.30 grams. The arrested man had been in the business for a long time. The police finally arrested the man in a raid in Bagalipara today.

Lecture on Dhekial Phukon's contribution held at Khagarijan College



Assam Rising Nagaon, September 28: On occasion of the birth anniversary of Anandaram Dhekial Phukon, the district unit of Akhil Bhartiya Sahitya Parishad in association with Khagarijan College, Nagaon organized a lecture on Dhekial

Phukon's contribution in restoration of Assamese language in Assam' at the conference hall of Khagarijan College today. The programme was chaired by Debeswar Kalita and Paran Kr Boruah, president of Nagaon Zila Sahitya Sabha was present in the programme as the chief guest while Chidanand Dev Goswami attended the programme as the keynote speaker on the topic. The programme was ceremonially inaugurated by Dhiren Sarma, chief ad-

viser to the state unit of Akhil Bhartiya Sahitya Parishad while Dr Dilip Sarma, district president of the literary organization delivered the welcome address. During the programme, Dr Sanjib Kr Borkatoki's book - 'Unique contributions of Srimanta Sankardev in Religion and Culture' translated into Hindi as 'Dharm Aur Sangskriti Mei Sankardev Ka Anyanya Yugdaan' by Dr Dilip Sarma and another 'Prastar Purush' by Chandra Kanta Saikia were ceremonially released by Dhiren Sarma and Debeswar Kalita respectively, a release added.

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6 day long yoga training camp at Nagaon

Assam Rising Nagaon, September 28: With a view to excrete the excessive stress and tension among the CRPF personnel and also make the officials as well as jawans to work without stress, the 34 Battalion, CRPF organized 'art of living' a 6 day long yoga training camp at its Nagaon Katimari based battalion headquarters since September 22. The camp, organized under a special initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, was concluded on Tuesday last. Hanumant Singh Rawat, DIG, CRPF, range Khatkhati was present in the closing session as the chief guest in the camp. While ad-

ressing the occasion, DIG Rawat said that hatred and violence can be conquered through love and knowledge. Deep inner peace can be attained through the knowledge of yoga which is called 'art of living' and it has the ability to change the perspective of a person, Rawat added further. S.S. Upadhyay, commandant of 34 Battalion, CRPF said that the training programme would remain unique for the

troops as the jawans of the troops had to be away from their families and homes for long which apparently increased the stress on the jawans of the troops. The programme was convened by R.K. Srivastava, Second in Command and other senior officials of the battalion. Over 98 officials as well as CRPF jawans of the battalion participated in the yoga training programme, a release added.

Blood donation camp held at UKMC

Assam Rising, Majuli, September 28: "Voluntary Blood Donations Camp" was held for the first time at Kherkatia College Hall, Upper Majuli on Wednesday. The blood donation camp was conducted by NSS Program Officer and Professor of History Department Manik Chandra Payun. Notably, Blood donation is a great gift. However, some of the present generation are afraid to donate blood.



After the first blood donation, Professor Manik Chandra Payun, Durlabh Bora, Volunteers Bishal Singh, Jintu Saikia, Gautam Saikia, Rajni Pegu, Bikendra Pangang and Kushal Doley and Jewel Pegu on behalf of Ratanpur Miri Regional TMPK also donated blood.

NFR undertakes various steps to improve customer interface

Assam Rising Guwahati, September 28: With a view to improve the freight transportation and providing better customer interface, N.F. Railway has taken several initiatives during the month of August, 2022. The initiatives include opening of stations for handling of both outward & inward goods traffic. To improve customer interface and further augment freight transportation, Bathnaha station under Katihar division has been opened for handling of iron & steel consignment (crane consignment) for a period of two months w.e.f 05th August, 2022. Earlier it was opened

for handling of both outward & inward goods traffic including coal except POL, livestock, explosive and crane consignment. Similarly, Kamalajari station under Lumding division has been opened for handling of iron & steel consignment (crane consignment) for another period of three months from



August 22. Earlier it was opened for handling of both outward & inward of all goods traffic including coal except POL, livestock, explosive and crane consignment. Similarly, Kamalajari station under Lumding division has been opened for handling of iron & steel consignment (crane consignment) for another period of three months from

nership mode at many places like Kishanganj, Katihar, Purnia, Raninagar Jalpaiguri, Changrabandha, New Cooch Behar etc. Gati Shakti terminals are also coming up at places like Balurghat, Deotala, Bathnaha etc. Improvement of customer inter-

face and introduction of Public Private Partnership mode in railways will lead to increased loading and unloading of freight trains. As a result of which revenue of N.F. Railways will significantly grow in the coming years.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Society is bound to grow

President Putin's declaration of partial mobilisation is a sign of the utter failure of Russia's Ukraine strategy since February's invasion. That Putin waited so long before declaring mobilisation is partly because it involves an implicit recognition of this failure, and of the fact that the "special military operation" is in fact a full-scale war, which Russia seems to be losing. It is also because he feared - rightly - a backlash from the Russian public. His regime is now in serious danger. Another major defeat would most probably bring it down. What could be much more dangerous than the mobilisation itself is the combination of this announcement with the decision to hold referendums in the eastern Donbas (recognised as independent by Russia in February), and the other territories occupied by Russian forces during the invasion. The key question is not the results of the "votes" on joining Russia themselves, which are a foregone conclusion, but whether the Russian government and parliament move immediately to annex these territories. If they do, it will be a sign that Moscow has given up any hope of peace and is ready to fight on indefinitely; for this annexation could never be accepted by Ukraine or the west and be part of any agreed settlement. The very best that could be hoped for in Ukraine will then be a series of unstable ceasefires punctuated by war, as has been the case in Kashmir for the past 75 years. It will become apparent within the next week whether this is in fact Moscow's intention, or whether the referendums are instead a move to create bargaining chips for future negotiation. It should be remembered that the Donbas separatist republics declared independence from Ukraine in 2014, but it was only eight years later, on the eve of war this February, that Moscow officially recognised their independence. In the meantime, Moscow negotiated with Ukraine and the west on the return of these territories to Ukraine with guarantees of full autonomy, under the Minsk II agreement of 2015. This time, too, the referendums may be a threat to annex if the west does not seek a compromise, rather than a prelude to immediate annexation. Some hope that this may be the case was given by Putin's approving reference in his speech last week to Ukraine's peace offer of March, which included a treaty of neutrality and a shelving of the territorial disputes for future negotiation. The reasons for the collapse of those peace negotiations are highly disputed, but in Russia's version of events it was the west that blocked them and Ukraine that abandoned them. The reasons why Moscow might want a ceasefire are obvious. Putin's original plan, to capture Kyiv and turn Ukraine into a client state, failed utterly. The fall-back plan, to capture the Russian-speaking areas of the east and south, was fought to a standstill far short of many of its key goals, and is now in serious danger of being rolled back by Ukrainian counteroffensives. Putin's regime has been badly shaken by its defeat in Kharkiv province. If Ukraine were to drive Russia from Kherson or large parts of the Donbas, Putin's survival in power would be in question. If there is no ceasefire or peace negotiations, Russia does have means of serious escalation. It could defend the remaining occupied territories, while vastly intensifying attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure that have already begun. If Russia does annex the occupied territories, then it is possible that Putin may threaten nuclear strikes to defend what Moscow would then define as Russian sovereign territory. As the Biden administration makes it increasingly obvious that it is changing the US One China policy, Russia can also hope that in response China will greatly increase military and financial aid. In the meantime, as we are already seeing, unrest in Russian society is bound to grow.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

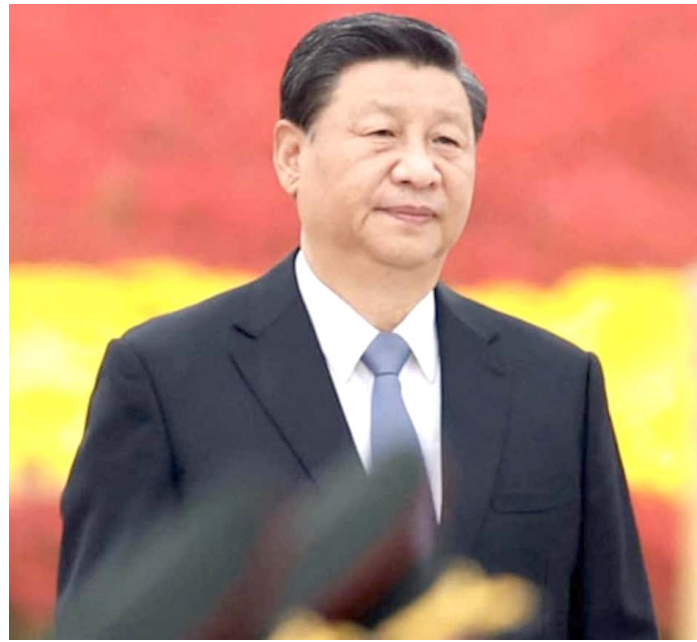
Short Payment of Gratuity to Ex Bank Men

Dear Editor,

Banks made short payment of Gratuity to Ex Bank Men. Around 6000 Ex Bank Men made a petition with Regional Labour Commissioners. Banks were instructed to pay the Balance of Gratuity along with 10% interest. Banks instead of paying the petitioners, deposited the money with Labour Commissioners, so that they can appeal with High courts. Ten Banks have appealed to the High Courts already. This is not fair at all, the Ex Bank Men left the Banks several decades ago. Still Banks did not fully pay their Gratuity and want to delay further. 1.5 lac Ex Bank Men passed away without getting justice. I suggest Prime Minister Modiji instruct Banks to pay the balance of Gratuity, as per Gratuity Act 1972 along with 10% interest, not only to the Petitioners but also to pay all those who were short paid. I suggest all the Bank retirees to write to Banks.

 **KLRao**
klaacolumn@gmail.com

How rumours of Xi Jinping's 'arrest' and 'coup' started



The rumours of a 'coup' against Xi Jinping start a media frenzy. Former officers of the Red Army Division were selected as delegates to the 20th Party Congress - a signal to the border dispute with India. Xi wants the full support of the PLA. Beijing calls for a "peaceful resolution" in Ukraine at the UNGA. Chinascope separates the chaff of rumours from news in the week from China - and the world. Rumours about a 'coup' started circulating on Friday after a set of overseas Chinese media - especially Falun Gong-based media - claimed that President Xi Jinping had been "arrested" after a "coup". The rumour started when a journalist named Zhao Lanjian, who is in exile in the US after escaping from China, made unsubstantiated claims on Twitter about mass flight cancellations because of 'unexplained' reasons. The claim was picked up by the Chinese spiritual movement Falun Gong-backed media networks, including New Tang Dynasty (NTDTV) and overseas Chinese YouTube Jennifer Zeng. The latter added another layer of false credibility to the story by showing a clip of a military convoy travelling on an unknown road in China. Further fuel to the rumour mill was added by pointing out Xi's disappearance from the public eye after returning from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, which can be explained by Xi currently quarantined. NTDTV published an article citing that Xi wasn't present at the national defence and military reform seminar, which fueled the rumour about a 'coup'. The jump from the claim about flight cancellation from the military convoy created a social media storm of rumours widely shared on Twitter by Indian handles. I examined the flight data, and the minor cancellations can be attributed to the Covid-19-related lockdowns and restrictions in multiple regions across China. The political activities in Beijing went on as usual on 23 September when the rumour began to circulate with no signs of any political upheaval to be seen in the latest Chinese state media's broadcast of Xinwen Lianbo. Xi's disappearance from public view has fueled many rumours in the past, and he usually steps back from a hectic schedule to return in a few days' time. Unlike places in Myanmar, the PLA is firmly under the grip of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). If there is ever a 'coup' against Xi, it would be led by the political leaders and not the military. A potential 'coup' will have very different signs of political upheaval; flight cancellations don't reflect the chaos that will follow such a scenario. To end the rumour, Georg Fahrion, German newspaper Der Spiegel's reporter in Beijing, posted pictures of Tiananmen Square and other major venues in the city with a satirical commentary on the 'coup' to show that there was no military mobilisation or turmoil in China. Far from a 'coup', Xi was actually stomping out any opposition and sending a loud and clear signal. Within three days, at least six top officials were arrested or sentenced to prison under corruption charges. Sun Lijun, former vice minister of public security, who has been accused of leading a 'political clique', was sentenced

to death, which could be commuted to life in prison without parole after two years. Fu Zhenghua, the former justice minister, was imprisoned for accepting bribes. Liu Xinyun, former vice governor and head of the public security department in Shanxi province, was sentenced to 14 years for bribery and abuse. Gong Daoan, former deputy mayor of Shanghai and the city's public security bureau, was sentenced to life in prison for accepting bribes worth 73.43 million yuan (\$10.4 million). Gong Daoan, once a top police officer in Shanghai, was purged. The former police chief of Chongqing, Deng Huilin was given a 15-year sentence. Wang

 **Aadil Brar**

Like, former secretary of Jiangsu provincial political and legal affairs commission, was also sentenced to death with a potential life sentence after two years. The sentencing of the officials is linked to the 'coup' rumours. Many members of the Chinese diaspora media have had links to the officials sentenced and are witnessing the demise of a network that could have countered Xi. Meanwhile, ahead of the Party Congress, an updated version of the CCP code says officials could be demoted for "shaky ideals and beliefs, soft stances and vague attitudes on major issues involving the party's leadership." Beijing isn't shying away from underscoring the tensions with India by elevating soldiers from a key PLA division as delegates to the 20th Party Congress. Thirty members from Western Theatre Command were selected, nine out of which were members from the Red Army Division (officially known as the 6th Division) which has a long history in the border areas near Ladakh - including the 1962 War. Qi Fabao, the regimental commander who negotiated with the Indian Army during the 2020 Galwan clash, was one of the 13 selected. A total of 304 representatives from the PLA will attend the Party Congress in October. Jayadeva Ranade, President of the Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, pointed out the significance of the move. "In this backdrop of continuing tension and deployment of 60,000-70,000 troops each by

India and China in the high-altitude eastern Ladakh, what is interesting is that the number of delegates representing the PLA WTC at the 20th Party Congress is nearly double than that of the other four theatre commands. The WTC has selected 30 delegates for the 20th Party Congress. There are other signs of the leadership's attention to the WTC," Ranade wrote. In the lead-up to the Congress, the PLA Daily has published multiple articles reminding the Chinese military to follow "party's leadership". On Sunday, Xinhua News Agency reported the completion of selecting the final list of 2,296 delegates to the Party Congress. On 19 September, Chinese state councillor and defence minister Wei Fenghe met Pakistan Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa during the latter's visit to Xi'an. "No matter how the world situation changes, China and Pakistan will always be trustworthy and most reliable true friends and good brothers. The two sides should continue to improve their ability to jointly cope with various risks and challenges, and work together to safeguard the common interests of the two countries and regional peace and stability," Wei said, according to the Chinese Military Network. Bajwa wasn't the only major foreign security official visiting China recently. Russian Security Council secretary Nikolai Patrushev was on a two-day visit to China, during which he co-chaired the 17th Round of Strategic Security Consultation between China and Russia with Yang Jiechi, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs. The United Nations General Assembly in New York acts as a global summit for leaders when they gather every year. The sessions of the UNGA saw a few multilateral and bilateral meetings, with many watching the interactions between foreign ministers of India, China, and Russia. The Chinese state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi met his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar at the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UNGA. India and China called for a "negotiated end to the Ukraine war", signifying how fast Russia is losing support from its key allies. "We call on all parties concerned to

keep the crisis from spilling over and protect the legitimate rights and the interests of developing countries," Wang Yi said in his remarks to the UNGA debate. Wang Yi also met Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov. "China will continue upholding an objective and just position to promote peace talks, and hopes that all parties refrain from giving up dialogue efforts and resolve security concerns through peace talks," he said. Despite China's call for ending the Ukraine war, Beijing is unlikely to completely revamp ties with Moscow and support Putin in areas where it feels comfortable. While at UNGA, Wang Yi met Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba in person for the first time since Russia's offensive on Kyiv. Both have spoken over the phone since the Ukraine war started. "China has always been committed to promoting peace talks, never stands idly by, never adds fuel to the fire, and never takes advantage of the situation for self-interests," he said during the meeting with Kuleba. Most recently, Putin made remarks about using nuclear weapons to protect Russia's "territorial integrity." China's response was rather muted, calling for dialogue and engagement. Prominent world leaders attended the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Wang Qishan, China's vice president, was allowed to attend the funeral after a Chinese delegation led by ambassador Zheng Zuguang was barred from visiting the Queen's coffin. "In Russia's 'Empire Strikes Back', we can also glimpse the changes in the historical dimension of the worldview of Russia's top leaders and some ruling elites in the past 20 years. In such a worldview, the imagining of the future is increasingly presented as a 'return' to a point in the past. The point of return can be the so-called '1989 order': the underlying understanding is that neither the Soviet Union nor Russia is a loser of the Cold War; what Russia needs to maintain is the 1989 Gorbachev era when the Cold War ended peacefully with the Western world. This is the 'status quo' that Russia needs to maintain the international order, not the post-1991 order that the United States is trying to maintain - in this sense, the United States is precisely the destroyer of the status quo," writes Zhang Xin, Associate Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, East China Normal University.

All about Shahed-136, Iran's 'kamikaze' drone that Russia is using to strike Ukraine

On 26 September, Russian forces used an Iranian-made 'suicide' drone Shahed-136 to attack a Ukrainian command post in Odesa. Reports suggest that over the past few days, Russia has hit multiple targets using these Iranian-supplied drones including civilian structures and amenities leading to the death of several Ukrainians. Sergey Bratchuk, the spokesman of the Odesa regional military administration, confirmed the Russian attacks on his Telegram channel Monday. "After the previous night's enemy attack by kamikaze drones of the 'Shahed-136' type, the dark time of the day passed without shelling," Bratchuk wrote. Consequently, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his advisors met on Monday to discuss ways to counter Russia's new weapons of attack, essentially the Shahed-136 drones. The Ukrainian Air Force in a Twitter post on 25 September, cited they have destroyed six "Shahed-136" drones and one "Mohajer-6" drone over the past few days. On Tuesday, the armed forces of Ukraine confirmed that they have gunned down three Iranian drones which attacked the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolayiv. "About 8 o'clock in the morning, the anti-aircraft defense of the Naval Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine destroyed three of the three Shahed-136 kamikaze drones that attacked Mykolayiv region," Ukraine's air force wrote on their Telegram account. Earlier in July, reports surfaced of Iran supplying their Shahed series drones, along with 'hundreds' of unmanned aerial vehicles, to Russia for use in its ongoing war in Ukraine. The Islamic nation also supplied Russia with their Mohajer-6 series drones. These drones arrived in Russia at the end of August. With these precision strikes being undertaken, the Shahed drones are now an active part of Russia's battlefield arsenal. This is not the first time Iran has supplied its drones to a foreign nation or a sub-state actor. Scholars Michael C. Horowitz, Sarah E. Kreps, and Matthew Fuhrmann, in their journal, 'Separating Fact from Fiction in the Debate over Drone Proliferation', for International



Security in 2012, noted how Hezbollah possesses an "array

 **Suchet Vir Singh**

of drones acquired from Iran, including the Ababil, a surveillance drone." The trio pointed out that Hezbollah used the Iranian-developed Shahed-129 drones to attack al-Nusra forces in Syria in 2014. The Shahed-136 is a modern "swarming" loitering drone built to attack ground targets. Swarm drones are a group of unmanned aerial vehicles that operate in coordination. Loitering munitions are slow, propeller-powered missiles. Iran has actively embraced loitering munitions over the past few

years to attack oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. The 'suicide' drone has a range of 2,200 kilometres and has been built by the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA). However, their ability to carry warheads is limited, usually ranging between 5-30 kgs. Justin Bronk, a senior fellow at British think-tank Royal United Services Institute, said, "the Shahed-136 offer a relatively cheap way for states and some non-state groups to mount long-range attacks on fixed targets (using GPS/INS navigation) or radars (using an anti-radiation seeker)." Commonly referred to as a 'suicide' drone, the aircraft strikes a target by crashing into it along with the explosives on

it. However, some refer to it as a hybrid between an unmanned aircraft and a cruise missile. The Shahed-136 drone isn't without its limitation as it cannot be a quick substitute for Russia's diminishing aircraft capability in the ongoing conflict. Bronks explains that Shahed's navigation and terminal accuracy are based on commercial GPS systems. Both can be thwarted if the GPS is jammed, blocked, or turned off. Further, its ability to only carry a warhead between 5-30 kgs limits its strike capabilities. The drone also lacks the ability to strike moving targets and has minimal defence mechanisms against anti-UAV systems. Bronks notes they are "slow and low-flying", which limits their usage as quick, counterstrike weapons on the battlefield. Though, these problems can be addressed via small adaptations and tweaks like adding - advanced warheads which can enable multiple strike capabilities, turbojets to increase the drone's speed, and electronic systems to detect radars. However, all of these fixes will be costly and significantly drive up the cost of the Shahed-136 - which is an essential factor for Russia's purchase of the drones.



Grey wolves, Eurasian beavers, grey seals, and European bison have seen some of the strongest recoveries in numbers and geographical range. The report, commissioned by conservation group Rewilding Europe looked at 50 European species. It was compiled by Zoological Society of London, BirdLife International and the European Bird Census Council. The European Wildlife Comeback Report 2022 builds upon earlier research conducted in 2013. It concentrates mostly on species that have seen recoveries over the past 40 to 50 years. "This new report not only sheds light on which European wildlife species are recovering well, but why they are recovering well too," says Rewilding Europe Executive Director Frans Schepers. "By learning from the success stories we can maximise wildlife comeback across the board. The report also shows that we must work hard on many fronts, to keep the recovery continuing to happen, and to allow more species to benefit from this." Grey wolves are one of the greatest success stories, according to the report. They were found in most parts of Europe at the end of the 18th century before their abundance decreased as human populations rose. They have now repopulated many regions in Europe, where numbers increased by nearly 1,800% between 1965 and 2016, according to the report. Some Scandinavian countries have even allowed culls of wolves in agricultural regions in order to protect livestock. Bird species such as barnacle geese, griffon vultures, great white egrets and Dalmatian pelicans are also recovering well. Rewilding Europe credit these improvements to legal protections made through EU Birds and Habitats Directives and changes in policy and land use. Not all of the species sampled were on the rise. The ringed seal has an uncertain future as its breeding habitat has drastically declined due to reduced ice cover, the report stated. Lead author of the report, Sophie Ledger of ZSL's Institute of Zoology, said the findings gave grounds for hope. "This report gives cause for optimism and shows that given a chance, and with well-placed conservation efforts, wildlife can recover" she said.

A Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer



chlorofluorocarbons (CFC). The CFC is a molecule which contains the elements of carbon, chlorine and fluorine. Such CFCs are available in the

Rupak
world, mostly in refrigerants and plastic products. Ozone molecules are simply made of three joined oxygen atoms and they are always being destroyed and reformed naturally. But CFCs in the air make it very difficult for ozone to reform once it's broken apart. As such, the ozone layer is getting thinner and thinner almost every day and become a

adopting digitization. There are new technologies that are available to enable better decision-making, thereby optimizing yields and resulting in better economics. According to available data, plant diseases cost the global economy around \$220 billion each year. Annually between 20 to 40 percent of global crop production is lost to pests. These alarming numbers have not only put the farming sector but also the environment, our health, and solutions in one's own language helps, eases the farmer's difficulties phenomenally. Apart from this, technology has enriched farmers with an advisory for crop monitoring. The role of crop solutions insures a farmer's investment in other inputs. Every stage of the cropping cycle is so crucial that even the minutest of mistakes can put the farmer in difficult situations. The farmers can query the information with an image from various nutrient deficiencies, diseases, and insects

affected for obtaining the solution as required. There are 8000 crore surplus amounts of spurious agri-input products that are authentic and reliable available in the market causing a loss to the tune of billions of dollars worth of income for farmers by using these spurious inputs. Farmers are in a way cheated by using these fake/spurious products which are available in abundance leading to a tremendous loss in yield and quality. Technology is created in such a way that it primarily functions to provide real-time farming solutions by assessing climate change, geographic area, and soil conditions. It also ensures to the creation of an understanding of the use of fake products. Apps are created that provide exclusive solutions to the crops grown by the farmers. The main objective of the crop doctor solution on the BigHaat app is to have a wider reach and easily accessible crop-related information and service among farmers by providing instant technical guidance & advisory in the regional language and over audio as well. It functions like a doctor by diagnosing the condition of the crop and prescribing the right solutions instantly. It disseminates information related to disease, insects, and nutrient deficiency of crops



and provides (necessary) information to the farmers as required. With the advent of technology and data science, mankind has brought about a revolution and has reached new realms of the world. Moving forward will be the extensive use of technology in agricultural growth. Agricultural business is facing a transition to techno culture. Start-up's mission to help the farming community holistically aims to provide a real-time diagnosis supported by AI/ML technology to provide plot-level advisors.



Through the early detection and diagnosis of crop diseases, a farmer can prevent up to 35% of his crop from getting damaged. Presently, drones are used significantly in agriculture to spray various pesticides on crops. It can also be used for soil and field analysis to help in field planning. If connectivity with technology is successfully implemented, our Agriculture can grow leaps and bounds and has the potential to match the global yields. In the very near future, the broad use of so-

phticated technologies such as monsoon sensors, aerial images, and GPS technology will define a blended growth of agricultural advancements using technology. BigHaat with its vision of "Transforming the future of farmers" is always at the forefront of leading the digital transformation of the agriculture sector. We will continue to innovate and bring various solutions to the farmers leveraging technology and improving the livelihoods of the farmers to bring the lost glory back to Indian agriculture.

Satellites now get full-year view of Arctic sea-ice

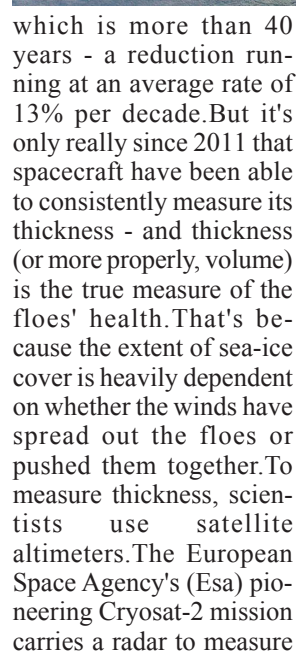
Traditionally, spacecraft have struggled to determine the full state of the floes in summer months because the presence of surface meltwater has befuddled their instruments. But by using new "deep learning" techniques, scientists have pushed past this limitation to get reliable observations across all seasons. The breakthrough has wide implications. Apart from the obvious advantage to ships, which need to know those parts of the Arctic that will be safe to navigate, there are significant benefits to climate and weather forecasting. At the moment, there is considerable variation in the projections for when the polar ocean might be totally free of ice in an ever warmer world. Having an improved insight into the melting processes in those key months when floes are being reduced, in area and thickness, ought now to sharpen the output from computer models. "Despite excellent efforts by many researchers, these climate models' predictions of when we'll see the first fully ice-free Arctic Ocean in summer - they vary by 30-plus years," Dr Jack Landy, from UiT The Arctic University of Norway, told BBC News. "We need to

tighten those predictions so we're a lot more confident about what's going to happen and when - and how the climate feedbacks will accelerate as a consequence." The extent of Arctic sea-ice cover has been in decline for the entire period that satellites have been monitoring it,



which is more than 40 years - a reduction running at an average rate of 13% per decade. But it's only really since 2011 that spacecraft have been able to consistently measure its thickness - and thickness (or more properly, volume) is the true measure of the floes' health. That's because the extent of sea-ice cover is heavily dependent on whether the winds have spread out the floes or pushed them together. To measure thickness, scientists use satellite altimeters. The European Space Agency's (Esa) pioneering Cryosat-2 mission carries a radar to measure

this difference, scientists can then, with a relatively simple calculation, work out the thickness of the ice. The approach works well in winter months, but in summer, when the snows on top of the ice, and the ice itself, start to melt, pooling water effectively dazzles the radar. Scientists

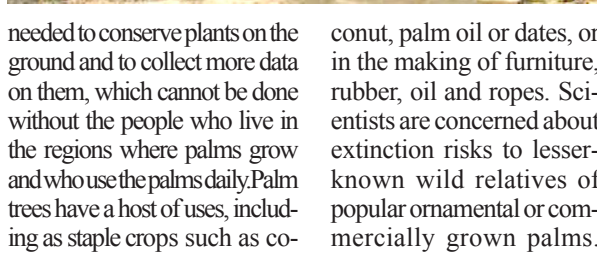


can't be sure if the echo signal that returns to Cryosat is coming from the open ocean or from the surface of a meltpond sitting on the ice. May through to September - the key melt season - has been a blind period for the spacecraft. To solve the problem, researchers used an artificial intelligence (AI) technique in which an algorithm was able to learn and identify reliable observations from a vast library of synthetic radar signals. Prof Julienne Stroeve, from University College London (UCL), explained: "We simulated what would be the echo shapes that we would get for different ice surface types - whether they had meltponds; whether it was flooded ice; or ice of dif-

ferent roughnesses; or simply leads. We created this huge database of physically based estimates of what the radar return should look like, and then we matched those to the individual radar pulses from the instrument to find echoes that matched the best." Esa has kept in its data archives all the Cryosat May-to-September measurements, even though for the past decade they've been of next to no use. But now, thanks to this new approach, Dr Landy's team has been able to go back through the records to recover full-year ice thickness measurements for the entire time the satellite has been operational. Dr Rachel Tilling worked extensively with Cryosat data before transferring her studies to the US space agency's recently launched Icesat-2 laser altimeter mission. She applauded the innovation. "Summer is when sea-ice extent in the Arctic is seeing its most rapid decline, and having this extra dimension will help us understand more about how the ice pack is changing," the Nasa scientist told BBC News. "Icesat-2 has its own unique difficulties in summer but we're lucky that its photon-counting technology means we can still measure the height of sea-ice, water and melt ponds year-round." Having said that, Cryosat-2 will always be my first love so I'm really excited to see it being used in this novel way."

World's palm trees in danger

Scientists used artificial intelligence to assess risks to the entire palm family, from tall trees to climbing plants. The data gives a much better idea of how many, and which, palm species are under threat. Palms are a huge plant family that provide millions of people with food, drink and shelter. "We need to do all we can to protect biodiversity and that encompasses more than a thousand palm species that we now know may be threatened," said study leader, Dr Sidonie Bellot of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. She said action was



needed to conserve plants on the ground and to collect more data on them, which cannot be done without the people who live in the regions where palms grow and who use the palms daily. Palm trees have a host of uses, including as staple crops such as co-

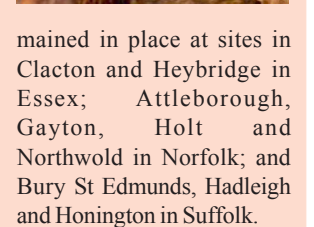
conut, palm oil or dates, or in the making of furniture, rubber, oil and ropes. Scientists are concerned about extinction risks to lesser-known wild relatives of popular ornamental or commercially grown palms.

They say wild plants are invaluable to local people, but could vanish even before their full potential is known. Official assessments of extinction risk are time-consuming and costly, prompting the Kew-led team to investigate machine learning as a tool. Their data suggests more than a thousand species - just over 50% of palms - are threatened with extinction. "With these predictions we can help to prioritise conservation activity and to target species with further conservation work in the countries where they are most at risk," said Dr Steven Bachman, research leader in

Kew's conservation assessment and analysis team. The team has designated Madagascar, New Guinea, the Philippines, Hawaii, Borneo, Jamaica, Vietnam, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Sulawesi as priority regions for palm conservation. Palms are the most iconic plant group in the tropics and one of the most useful too, added Dr Rodrigo Cámara-Leret of the University of Zurich, who worked on the study. The study gives a much better idea of how many, and which, palm species are under threat, he said.

Bird flu restrictions imposed in England

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) had been established to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said. It follows a number of cases in poultry and wild and captive birds. The UK's deputy chief veterinary officer Richard Irvine said bird keepers "must urgently take action". Incidents have been confirmed near Hadeleigh, Suffolk and in Northwold and Honington.



which are either side of the county border near Thetford, Norfolk. There was also a separate outbreaks at Honington, and others in Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk and Attleborough in Norfolk a week ago. The new AIPZ was declared following a number of detections of bird flu in both poultry and wild birds across Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex, Defra said. Defra said the prevention zone would remain in force until further notice and kept under regular review. Protection zones of 3km and surveillance zones of 10km re-

mained in place at sites in Clacton and Heybridge in Essex; Attleborough, Gayton, Holt and Northwold in Norfolk; and Bury St Edmunds, Hadleigh and Honington in Suffolk.

Contd. From Page 1

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

war heroes of 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. Then he will visit to the neighboring state Arunachal Pradesh the next day and will take stock of the security situation in the state. He will inspect the ongoing work in Sela Tunnel. The minister will return to Assam again from Arunachal Pradesh. In his micro-blogging site Singh announced his three-day visit to Assam and Arunachal and said, "Leaving New Delhi for a three-day visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. I shall be interacting with troops and also review the progress of the Sela tunnel, during the visit. Looking forward to it."

PFI, 8 associated fronts banned for 5

that they were involved in the funding of terrorism and terrorist activities, organising camps to provide arms training and radicalising people to join banned organisations. As the Centre banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) for 5 years, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while addressing the media, said he welcomed the government's ban on PFI and its fronts. He added that the Assam government has already initiated follow-up action and sealed PFI offices in several locations. He added that authorities have picked up PFI members and will continue looking for more. "Radicals will be dealt with iron fist," he said.

Amid Rajasthan Crisis, Team

Ajay Maken, accusing him of bias in favour of Mr Pilot. "He (Ajay Maken) is canvassing for Pilot and wants to make him the Chief Minister," said MLA Shanti Dhariwal, who had hosted a parallel meet of the MLAs on Sunday. Today, the BJP angle was added to it. Mr Kachariyawas referred to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, where the BJP formed government after mass defection by Congress MLAs. "But if the BJP has failed to topple the government anywhere, it is Rajasthan," he said. The nudge was about Sachin Pilot's rebellion in 2020, when many accused of him being hand-in-glove with the BJP. One of 90-plus MLAs who flagrantly flouted Sonia Gandhi's instructions for one-on-one meets, Mr Kachariyawas also professed allegiance to the party and the Gandhis. "Numbers matter in democracy... we want our voice to be heard," he added. Mr Gehlot had been extremely reluctant to leave Rajasthan and take up the national role, even suggesting to the Gandhis that he could handle both jobs. But Rahul Gandhi had negated it, asserting that the party would stick to a "one man, one role" policy. Mr Gehlot, a front-runner for the party's top job, had backed off. But the matter was taken up by his loyalists, who held the party to ransom with a threat of mass resignation.

HC says Bengal govt's 'Duare

High Court that there was no illegality in the scheme introduced by the state government. "The State Government has transgressed the limit of delegation by obliging the Fair Price Shop dealers to distribute the rations to the beneficiaries at their doorstep in absence of any authority to that effect in the enabling act, i.e., the National Food Security Act," the division bench observed. It said that if the NFS Act is amended by the Union Legislature for doorstep delivery of food grains to the beneficiaries or invests any such power to the state government only then can such a scheme be made by the state and can be said to be in sync with the NFS Act. The scheme was introduced by the Mamata Banerjee government in November 2021, for the delivery of food grains under the public distribution system at the doorsteps of beneficiaries. On a petition by the fair price shop dealers, the single bench of Justice Krishna Rao on June 16 held that the state government's decision to deliver food grains at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries "cannot be said to be in violation of any provision of the NFS Act." The fair price shop dealers had moved to the division bench challenging the judgement of the single bench.

After successful trials with

Sikkim Horticulture Department has assured basic training program for farmers to know about production and agriculture. The officials said that Kashmir's Pampore and Sikkim's Yangyang have similar climate and geography, which ensures a good level of success during testing. Earlier, the Sikkim government had grown saffron in different areas on about one and a half hectares of farm land to see the results, with impressive results, Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad told. "The mission was started in 2020 on a small piece of land under the control of Sikkim University. After successful results, an attempt was made to develop it in different parts of the state, which was very successful," he said. Governor Prasad also said that the success rate of saffron production is around 80 percent, which is good. "Sikkim has a very favorable climate for saffron cultivation and it needs everything," he said. He further stated that he held discussions with Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and other officials at Raj Bhawan and held several meetings to promote saffron cultivation. Sikkim government is looking at it as a big step to boost the growth and benefit the farmers. Jammu and Kashmir specializes in saffron cultivation.

'Not keen on becoming Congress

elections are scheduled next year. He also said that the elections for the Congress president's post are being held as Rahul Gandhi refused to take up the party's reins. "I talked to Rahul Gandhi and urged him to contest so that all this (ongoing uproar) could be ended. I told him things are getting complicated. But he said he does not want to become (the party president)," Nath told reporters in Bhopal on Wednesday in reply to a question. "Now, when he (Gandhi) doesn't want to become (party chief), elections are being held... J P Nadda became the BJP president without any elections in that party. Let alone holding elections, the BJP didn't sought the opinion of even 10 leaders of the party before Nadda was appointed to the post," he added. When asked why he himself does not want to contest the polls for the top post in the party, Nath said he had gone to Delhi and told Congress president Sonia Gandhi that he would not leave Madhya Pradesh as Assembly elections are only 12 months away. "I will not take this responsibility because this will take away my focus from Madhya Pradesh. I don't want to divert my focus from Madhya Pradesh," the state Congress chief said. The new AICC chief will have to first focus on Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where elections are scheduled soon, and there will be a need to prepare a strategy for every state, the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said. The Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh are due in November next year.

Minister adopted TB patients at Aalo

Assam Rising, Aalo the 28th September 2022: Attending the Pradhanmantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan at District TB Centre Aalo Er. Tumke Bagra Minister of Industry & Textile Skill Development, Trade & Commerce etc. Adopted the 3 (three) TB patients. Deputy Commissioner Penga Tato, Dr. Dubom Bagra, DMO Aalo, Shri Genya Ori ZPM and Tumke Ete BJP Mandal President adopted 1 (one) Patient each under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan. On the Occasion they distributed food baskets to the TB patients at District TB Centre Aalo in Presence of District TB Officer Dr. N. Padu



Owaisi does not support PFI ban, says 'every Muslim youth will now be arrested'

New Delhi, September 28 : AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi condemned the five-year ban of the Popular Front of India, though he clarified that his stand is not in favour of PFI either. From his opposition to the UAPA, he said a draconian ban of this kind is dangerous as it is a ban on any Muslim who wishes to speak his mind. "The way India's electoral autarky is approaching fascism, every Muslim youth will now be arrested with a PFI pamphlet under India's black law, UAPA," he tweeted. Also Read | Kerala Congress, IUML welcome PFI ban: 'Which Islam has persuaded them to...?' "Muslims have spent decades in prison before being acquitted by courts. I have opposed UAPA & will always oppose all actions under UAPA. It runs afoul of the principle of liberty, which is part of basic structure of the constitution," Owaisi tweeted. Also Read | Amit Shah bites the bullet, bans PFI and its affiliates for 5 years. Referring to the case of Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan who was arrested in 2020 on his way to Hathras, Owaisi said this case will also follow the timeline of Kappan, where any activist or journalist is randomly arrested and takes 2 years to even get bail. Kappan was going to Hathras to report the gangrape and murder of a Dalit woman. He was booked under the UAPA by the Uttar Pradesh government. Kappan got bail in 2022 -- after spending two years in jail. "How come PFI is banned but organisations associated with convicts of Khaja Ajmeri bomb blasts aren't? Why has govt not banned right wing majoritarian organisations?" Owaisi said. Owaisi said he always opposed PFI's approach but he can't support the ban on the PFI. "Actions of some individuals who commit crime does not mean that the organisation itself must be banned," the Hyderabad MP said. The Centre on Wednesday banned PFI and eight other associated organisations for five years. It said PFI has clear terror links and though it operated as a socio-economic, political organisation, the organisations secretly worked to radicalise a particular section of the society.

CM Inaugurates ?36-Crore Skill Development Centre in Dima Hasao

Skill Centre to Play Major Role in Skill Development of Youths of the Hill District: Assam CM



Assam Rising, Guwahati, September 28: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Integrated Skill Development Centre at Ardhha area of Diyungbra under Dima Hasao district. The skill centre, built at a cost of ?36 crore, has been established under a special financial package that was agreed upon as per the accord between the Government of India, the Government of Assam and both the factions of erstwhile militant group Dima Halim Daogah (DHD). Addressing a public meeting held in relation to the inauguration, the Chief Minister exuded confidence the Integrated Skill Development Centre, built by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, would play a prominent role in imparting skill training to the youths of the hill district. The Chief Minister added that naming the skill development centre after Veer Sambudhan Phonglo is an appropriate tribute to the great freedom fighter. The Chief Minister stated that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has been making rapid strides on all fronts. Speaking on the Indian economy having surpassed the British economy to become the fifth largest economy in the world, the Chief Minister said that the economic growth of the country is opening up numerous opportunities for those with requisite skills. There is great demand for skilled persons in the economy, and initiatives such as integrated skill development centres are aimed at ensuring the employable youths of Assam can reap the benefits the economy is offering, the Chief Minister added. Stating that a 1,000-Mw solar power project will be set-up in Dima Hasao district, the Skill Development Centre will be able to provide skilled employees that would be required for running a project of such a huge magnitude. He assured the residents of the district of the government's seriousness in transforming Dima Hasao into one of the most progressive regions on all parameters. The inauguration ceremony also witnessed the presence of Power Minister Nandita Garlosa, Member of Parliament Horen Sing Bey, Dima Hasao Hills Autonomous Council Chief Debolal Garlosa, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Chief Tuliram Ronghang and a host of other senior dignitaries.

'Super Sniffer' Dog Squad To Protect African Cheetahs From Poachers

Panchkula, September 28: A five-month-old German Shepherd 'Ilu' is under training at Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force's (ITBP) National Training Centre for Dogs to join the 'Super Sniffer' squad in Madhya Pradesh. Ilu will soon be deployed in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park to protect the recently released Namibian cheetahs from poachers. She is among the six dogs that are being trained to protect the wildlife at various national parks of the country. After the completion of the basic training for three months and an advance training for four months will help instil qualities like obedience, sniffing and tracking skills. The canines will get deployed on the job from April next year. During the training, the dogs will be trained to detect tiger and leopard skins, bones, elephant tusks and other body parts, bear bile, Red Sanders, and several other illegal wildlife products. Super sniffer squads trained at this camp have been deployed in national parks in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. "Dogs develop an unbreakable bond with their handlers that makes them excellent in their job," said Sanjeev Sharma, handler of Ilu, who is currently employed with the forest department at Kuno National Park. Sharma further said that Ilu is like a child to him. She was just two months old when he picked her here for training. As per the norms, dogs stay with the same handler from day one till their day of retirement. "Ilu is not supposed to protect cheetahs because they can protect themselves, she will be deployed on the periphery of the national park along with forest guards to protect cheetahs and other animals from poachers," said Sanjeev. Ishwar Singh Duhane, Inspector General of Basic Training Center of Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (BTC-ITBP) in Panchkula said that they are providing specialized training to the dogs that are to be deployed at Kuno National Park. "The dogs will be trained to detect tiger skin and bones during the specialized training course. These dogs are being trained by us in collaboration with TRAFFIC (a wildlife trade monitoring network) and WWF-India (World Wide Fund for Nature India)," he said. "Dogs trained at ITBP dog training centre have a high rate of wildlife crime detection. There are scores of success stories where dogs have helped in the arrest of poachers and recoveries of wildlife species and their remains," he said. He further added that Railway Protection Force (RPF) has deployed wildlife sniffer dog squads for the first time in India and it has helped them to detect the smuggling of contraband and rare species of wildlife through the railway network.



Career Counseling Program held in North Lakhimpur

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, September 28: Under the joint aegis of Assam Down Town University, Guwahati and Mising Autonomous Council (MAC) and in association with Mising Students' Union Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK), a Career Counselling Program was held at the auditorium of Lakhimpur district library, North Lakhimpur today where hundreds of students from different HS Schools and colleges of Lakhimpur district took part. The objective of the program was explained by Biju Pegu, executive member, MAC while Dr. Anil Pegu, OSD, MAC anchored the program. Eminent career counselor and motivating speaker of Assam Anjan Choudhary attended in the program as the chief resource person. In his speech, Anjan Choudhary said that one chooses the wrong career due to the main factor of the surrounding situation or influence. He said, "Counselling is much more important to the parents rather than students." He urged the students to choose the right career by which they could provide social contribution and could get self-satisfaction. He also urged the students to make an own identity in the society by choosing a right career in life. "If one lives for others through his career, one could feel happy at the end of the day" Anjan Choudhary commented. Moreover, he said, "One should know to take the opportunity in making a career." "Career is not made by other's influence," he added. Assistant Manager of the Marketing Department, Assam Down Town University, Guwahati Iftikar Ahmed also attended in the program as a resource person and he too gave a fruitful lecture on career to the students. He also informed the students about various courses provided by the Assam Down Town University, Guwahati. At the end of the program, a question-answer session was held where Chief resource person Anjan Choudhary answered the queries of the students on career.

Morigaon District day celebrates preparation meeting held



Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, September 28 : The Morigaon District Day will be celebrated on 14 and 15 October at Laharighat Revenue Circle office today. The meeting was conducted by Circle Officer Swaraj Bharat Lagachu at Laharighat Revenue Circle office today. The meeting was attended by all the journalists of Laharighat Press Club, office bearers of various institutions, AMSU workers, prominent social workers and many others. After many positive discussions, a convening committee of 21 members was formed. They also gave the responsibility of publishing the memorial book to Laharighat Press Club President Bishnu Deka and lecturer Saiful Islam. However, it was decided to hold another meeting at Laharighat Block on Saturday, October 1 to discuss in detail and form a welcoming committee. All well-wishers are requested to attend.

'India and Pakistan are both...': US responds to Jaishankar's critical remarks on F-16 deal

New Delhi, September 28: A day after India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar questioned the rationale behind the latest American F-16 security assistance to Pakistan, the United States on Monday (September 26, 2022) said that New Delhi and Islamabad are "both partners of the US" with different points of emphasis. Referring to the argument made by the US that the USD 450-million sustenance package for the F-16 fleet is to fight terrorism, Jaishankar on Sunday had said that "everybody knows" where and against whom F-16 fighter jets are used. "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," he had said while answering a question during an interaction with Indian-Americans. To this, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said, "We don't view our relationship with Pakistan, and on the other hand, we don't view our relationship with India as in relation to one another. These are both partners of ours with different points of emphasis in each, and we look to both as partners because we do have in many cases shared values, we do have in many cases shared interests." "The relationship we have with India stands on its own. The relationship we have with Pakistan stands on its own," he told reporters at his daily news conference. We also want to do everything we can to see to it that these neighbors have relations with one another that are as constructive as can be possible," Price added. US de links India Pak hyphenation in response Question on EAM Jaishankar expressing worries over Pak F16 announcement. State department says, "the relationship we have with India stands on its own" His remarks came in the backdrop of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meeting Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Welcomed Pakistani Foreign Minister @BBhuttoZardari to the @StateDept to reaffirm our close partnership for economic prosperity, regional stability, and food security. I also emphasized our continued support for flood relief, including nearly \$56.5 million in aid. #PakUSAT75 pic.twitter.com/TAZdFjh5zI - Secretary Antony Blinken (@SecBlinken) September 27, 2022 Spoke with Pakistani FM @BBhuttoZardari at the @NMADmuseum about the \$10 million in additional U.S. aid towards food security in Pakistan. We are proud to build on other efforts as well, including women's empowerment via @USPWC. We are stronger when we work together. #PakUSAT75 pic.twitter.com/5PQx87E3iU - Secretary Antony Blinken (@SecBlinken) September 27, 2022 Early this month, the Biden administration approved a USD 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

Banana thrown at Tottenham's Richarlison as Brazil beat Tunisia



London, September 28 : The Tottenham forward Richarlison had a banana thrown at him as he was racially abused during Brazil's friendly win over Tunisia in Paris on Tuesday. The incident occurred as the former

Everton striker ran towards the corner flag to celebrate scoring his side's second goal in their 5-1 win at the Parc des Princes. Footage showed Manchester United midfielder Fred kicking the banana away. Prior to the game, the five-time world champions posed for photographs with an anti-racism banner which read: "Without our black players, we wouldn't have stars on our shirts." The Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) issued a statement on the Richarlison incident via Twitter. It read: "Unfortunately a banana was thrown on the pitch towards Richarlison, scorer of the second Brazilian goal." The CBF reinforces its position to combat racism and repudiates

any manifestation of prejudice. "The CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues added: "Once again, I come publicly to express my rejection. This time I saw it with my own eyes. This shocks us. We must always remember that we are all the same, regardless of colour, race or religion." The fight against racism is not a cause, but a fundamental (battle for) change to wipe this type of crime from the planet. I insist on saying that the punishments need to be more severe." Richarlison's goal put Brazil back ahead after Montassar Talbi cancelled out Raphinha's opener. Neymar added a penalty, Raphinha claimed his second and Pedro wrapped up the scoring after Tunisia had Dylan Bronn sent off.

Krakow, September 28 : The nature of cruelty for Scotland supporters demonstrated how far their team has progressed. With a point needed from this game to seal promotion from Nations League B, to pass England and to leap into pot two for the upcoming Euro 2024 draw, Steve Clarke's makeshift team scrapped in a manner which deserves the highest of praise. Not so long ago the Tartan Army were continually watching international football's equivalent of a lost cause. In Clarke the Scottish FA have landed upon a coach who has raised standards and aspirations. Yes, Scotland rode their luck and yes, Ukraine will claim with plenty of justification that they merited a win but fortune favoured the brave. These are heady times for Scottish fans; which they will appreciate when shattered nerves have settled. Even Clarke,

normally so stoical, was immersed in the post-match celebrations. "It was a big night, we wanted to win this section," said Clarke. "These players are desperate to do well for their country. I asked the players to make the next step, to show that we are improving. We don't want to stop. We want to keep on getting better." Oleksandr Petrakov, the Ukraine coach, refused to address his future after the game with his contract now on the verge of expiry. Petrakov was agitated throughout post-match media duties. That felt a pity. The third meeting of Ukraine and Scotland since June had a different backdrop from what had come before. Gone was the vociferous home backing that Scotland had enjoyed in successive games at Hampden Park. An estimated 150,000 Ukrainian refugees are based in



Krakow; they turned out in great voice and colour to support a team who have done their country proud since Russia's invasion. Fans of both nations mingled and socialised in the city on Tuesday afternoon, thereby demonstrating everything that can be good about football in times of trouble. Oleksandr Usyk was pictured in the stands here. Scotland's buildup had been affected by injury, suspension and a virus. With precious few alternatives the manager handed Hibernian's Ryan Porteous a debut at centre-back. Ryan Jack and Kenny McLean, recently peripheral on the Scotland scene, joined Callum McGregor in a three-man midfield. The Scots opened positively. Only a superb Andriy Lunin save prevented them from taking the lead inside two minutes,

John McGinn having found Che Adams with a cute lay-off. Ukraine responded through Mykhailo Mudryk, whose cross found the unmarked Andriy Yarmolenko. The ex-West Ham man blazed a volley wildly over Craig Gordon's crossbar. Game on. Artem Dovbyk was next to threaten Gordon. The goalkeeper stood firm and even held the striker's shot following a defence-splitting pass by Yarmolenko. Scotland briefly believed they would be afforded the ideal opportunity to take a precious lead. Tasos Sidiropoulos, the Greek referee, pointed to the spot thinking Taras Stepanenko had handled when blocking a cross. In truth, the ball hit Stepanenko on the head. VAR's intervention was correct. Jack, not known for his prowess in front of goal, scooped over after Ukraine

failed to clear a corner. Stepanenko headed wide from six yards. The opening half was played at wonderful, vertiginous pace. Scotland cared little about artistic merit; they reached the interval halfway towards the evening's objective. Ukraine had been the better side but lacked ruthlessness. A Scottish success during the first period involved keeping Mudryk, one of the finest emerging talents in world football, relatively quiet. The Shakhtar Donetsk man delivered a reminder of his menace within three minutes of the restart. Acrobatics from Gordon, high and to his left, kept the scoreline blank. Mudryk's battle with Aaron Hickey was a key and fascinating element of this game. It remains possible that the pair will be teammates at Brentford before too long.

Southgate admits younger England players felt pressure in Nations League

Milan, September 28 : Gareth Southgate has admitted some of his younger England players felt the weight of the shirt during a high stress Nations League get-together. The manager was the focal point for criticism after the 1-0 defeat against Italy in Milan last Friday, the travelling fans booing him at full time. The result had followed the 4-0 home defeat against Hungary in June when Southgate was also jeered - the final tie in a sequence of four, which started with the away loss against Hungary and took in draws with Germany and Italy. The fear was that the negativity would hold the team back and they wobbled in the Wembley game with Germany on Monday, falling 2-0 behind in the second half. But Southgate was delighted with the quality and character they showed to take a 3-2 lead, even though a soft, late concession gave Germany a draw - feeling the emotion and experience would bolster them for the World Cup in Qatar, which kicks off in late November. "They have been through a lot and the psychology of it all is fascinating for us," Southgate said. "Different expectations, different levels of experience in the group. Some young ones that are actually handling it brilliantly and some that are needing help and guidance. They will be thinking: 'What is this?'" We have talked about how the shirt feels and



they are experiencing for the first time a little bit what some of the older ones have been through in the past. That [comeback against Germany] is what we want. That's the style of play that we know they are capable of. We have to keep instilling the belief and the confidence in them to be able to do it." Southgate pushed the theme of resilience in adversity and he applied it

specifically to Harry Maguire, the Manchester United defender, who has lost his place at club level and continues to live under an unforgiving spotlight; he was badly at fault for Germany's first goal and he lost the ball in the buildup to their second. Southgate has said that Maguire's prospects would become "more complicated" if his lack of football at United

persisted for the "seven to eight weeks" leading up to the World Cup. The manager added on Monday night that he had to "focus on our best players - unless that situation becomes untenable". He has given himself the wriggle room to drop Maguire in Qatar. But his backing for one of his key lieutenants remains strong. "I know everybody says he's important to me - he's important to us," Southgate said. "It's us. It's not me. Why do we pick him? Because he's one of the players who gives us the best chance of winning. We should all be wanting a Harry Maguire that's playing regularly and playing with confidence." That applies, of course, to quite a few players but he's the one that everything lands on, which must be a tough space for him. But he's showing tremendous character. He has got the character to get over this because he's a boy that has been from Sheffield United to Hull City ... he's not one where everything has been smooth." 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. Southgate suggested that Trent Alexander-Arnold faced a battle for inclusion in the 26-

man World Cup squad, as he was behind Kieran Trippier in the right-back pecking order - not to mention Reece James. Trippier's ability to play on the left side is another point in his favour. Southgate also explained why he omitted Alexander-Arnold from the 23-man match-day squad against Germany, having left out the left back, Ben Chilwell, against Italy. "Firstly I didn't want any player to sit in the stand for two matches," Southgate said. "Against Italy we didn't need the left-back cover [on the bench]; against Germany, we did because of the way we went with the team, so we needed Chilly on the bench. And we had Kieran who, at the moment ... I feel his all-round game is ahead [of Alexander-Arnold]." I've had long conversations with all of them [who have been left out]. I've been very clear with them about where they stand, what they need to improve upon, what they're doing well. They're very clear on where they sit." Southgate will not see his players again until 14 November when they report for the World Cup. They travel to Qatar the next day and their opening fixture comes against Iran on 21 November. "This tournament is unique," Southgate said. "We don't get the four weeks we had ahead of Russia at the last World Cup. We have to adapt better than anybody else."

ECB developing proposal to host Tests between India and Pakistan

Lahore, September 28 : The England and Wales Cricket Board is developing a proposal to host Test cricket between Pakistan and India on neutral ground in England. It has been 15 years since the two countries last played a Test match against each other, and 10 since they last played a white-ball series. Since then, the fixture, which has the highest profile in world cricket, has taken place only when they have been drawn against each other in International Cricket Council tournaments. The negotiations are described as a "work in progress" but the ECB board member Martin Doolan has made it clear to both the Pakistan Cricket Board and the Board of Control for Cricket in India that England are keen to host the matches if the opportunity arises. There is a possibility that it may happen anyway if the two teams reach the World Test Championship final in 2023, which will be played at the Oval. But that is unlikely since India are fourth in the standings, and Pakistan fifth. There is also the 2025 WTC final at Lord's. But the



idea has also been discussed of arranging a one-off Test between the sides at Edgbaston, and, beyond that, even a three-Test series. The ECB's offer is motivated by the belief it is important for the popularity of Test cricket around the world to get the two teams playing each other again. England previously hosted Pakistan in both Test and T20 series against Australia in 2010, when they were unable to play in their own country after the terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team in 2009. The idea of reprising the arrangement fell away when

relations between the ECB and PCB soured after the spot-fixing scandal that broke later that summer. After years of hard work to repair their reputation as an international venue, the PCB's preference is for any potential India v Pakistan series to be played in one of the two countries involved. But political relations between their governments may make that unlikely in the near future. India and Pakistan went 18 years without a Test in the 1960s and late 1970s, but the teams played against each other regularly in the decades afterwards.

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Prayas Trophy: Upper Assam FC winner

Assam Rising, Margherita, September 28 : The All Assam Prayas Trophy Prize Money Football League tournament held at Ledu Bazar High School ground in Margherita subdivision concluded successfully on Tuesday evening. The football tournament was organised at the playground of Lidu Bazar Higher Secondary School in association with Margherita District Sports Association and under the initiative of Prayas NGOs. The final match of

the Prayas Trophy Prize Money Football League tournament was played between Assam FC and Himal Club of Dulaijan. In the final match, Upper Assam FC defeated Dulaijan's Himal Club 1-0 to win the effort trophy. Tridev Gorky of Upper Assam FC won the man of the tournament title. Sixteen football teams from different parts of Assam participated in the tournament. Ranajyoti Neog, secretary of Tinsukia District Journalists' Association, was the

guest of honour at the closing ceremony. Former prominent football players Bhanu Chakraborty, Nelson Tasa Anup Biswas, Margherita District Sports Association Working President Bappi Sarkar, Secretary Satya Kakati, Football Secretary Ramzan Ali, Youth Social Worker Dhiraj Sonowal, Deepak Chetia, Journalist Tapan Dey, Hemanta Gogoi were also present as guests. The screening of the National Anthem of India was followed by a gathering of guests.

England 'Offers' To Be Neutral Venue For India vs Pakistan Test Series, BCCI 'Not Interested'

New Delhi, September 28 : England and Wales Cricket Board has informally offered to be the hosts if India and Pakistan plan to play a bilateral Test series but BCCI sources said chances of that happening in near future is "next to nil". The UK daily 'Telegraph' reported that "Martin Darlow, the deputy chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has held talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board during the current Twenty20 series and offered England's grounds as venues for ideally a three-match Test series in future." While the ECB has made the offer for its own commercial gains, the powers that be in the BCCI laughed off the suggestions and said that no such possibilities might arise at least in next few years. "Firstly, ECB spoke to PCB about an Indo-Pak series and that's a bit weird. In any case, a series against Pakistan is not something that the BCCI will decide but it is the decision of the government. As of now, the stance remains the same. We only play Pakistan at multi-team events," a senior BCCI official privy

to India's position told PTI on Tuesday. India and Pakistan last played a short bilateral white-ball series back in 2012 in India and the last Test series dates back to 2007. With the tense political relations between the neighbours, it is a big 'No' from BCCI irrespective of whether it is played at home, away or a neutral venue. The newspaper states precisely the reason why ECB made the "generous offer". "The matches would attract big crowds in the UK, which has a large ex-pat south Asian population," it said. "The matches attract huge sponsorship revenue and



television audiences." However, the paper made it clear that even "PCB is not keen on playing India at neutral venue but are grateful for the ECB's offer, which shows the growing

relationship between the two boards." It stated that with the big nations again starting to tour Pakistan, it will be a "retrograde step in their eyes" if they happen to play on a neutral venue.

El Tráfico: LAFC and LA Galaxy eye MLS attendance mark at Rose Bowl in 2023

Washington, September 28 : LAFC and LA Galaxy will open next year's MLS season at the Rose Bowl on 25 February, the first match between the city rivals to be held at the 90,888-capacity stadium, the teams announced on Tuesday. "This rivalry has, from day one, delivered an energy and electricity that together with incredible moments and memories

on the pitch, has established it among the most engaging not only in Los Angeles but across MLS," LAFC co-president & CBO Larry Freedman said. "It is only fitting that we are now taking it to one of the most iconic venues in all of sports." It will be the 17th meeting between the teams in the derby known as El Tráfico. The Galaxy, who called the Rose Bowl home from their

start in 1996 until their move to Carson in 2003, have won seven and lost four of their previous encounters. "The LA Galaxy are excited to write a new chapter in the storied soccer legacy of Los Angeles as we kick off our 2023 campaign against our intercity rival LAFC at the iconic Rose Bowl Stadium," said LA Galaxy president Chris Klein.

"Power Game Is Back...": Ex-India Star On How Virat Kohli Turned The Tide



New Delhi, September 28 : Virat Kohli has got back his "power game" and things have started falling in place for him ahead of the T20 World Cup, feels former India Test cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar. Kohli had endured a lean patch for nearly three years before he decided to take a

month-long mental health break while reinventing himself during last month's Asia Cup. He finished as India's highest run-getter and since then continued his good form in the just-concluded T20Is against Australia, where his half-century in the series decider gave

glimpses of vintage Kohli that the fans have been yearning to see. "See, right from the Asia Cup every match that he got runs, not just the runs, there was some improvement coming. I think the power game is back, he's trusting his power game. There was a time when he was getting runs but his power game was not coming. That is starting to happen," Manjrekar said on Sports 18. The fact that he is being able to hit good balls for boundaries is a welcome sign, said Manjrekar. "He's dispatching good balls for big boundaries and sixes. It's all about confidence, this is a guy who's damn self-confident and drives himself to excellence but for long-time runs weren't coming and his confidence was tender," he

said. Kohli was the second highest overall run getter in the Asia Cup, scoring 276 in five innings at an average of 92.00, a strike rate of 147.59 with two half-centuries and a ton. "During the Asia Cup, slowly and steadily, certain things start to happen, the pull shots came in, and the sixes started going more into the stands than just going over the rope as it was going in the IPL. So, the pieces falling back to frame the perfect picture. Now it's all about putting all these kinds of performances in the main event," Manjrekar said. In the following three-match T20 series against Australia at home, which India won 2-1, Kohli totalled 76 runs from three innings at an average of 25.33, with 63 being his highest individual score.

If England fail in Qatar it won't be because they left out Alexander-Arnold

London, September 28 : Maybe, just maybe it's all going to be OK. Yes, there is no sensible universe in which a chaotic 3-3 draw looks like the tournament send-off of champions. And yes, one of the first rules of film states that the moment anyone suggests things might just be OK is a guarantee that, in fact, they're definitely going to be anything but. Never open the cupboard door. Never shout 'Who's there?' into the darkness. Never sing along happily to the radio in the shower. And never, ever, approach a major tournament convinced that an underwhelming England can wing it, that things might click. They don't click. There is no click. The good news from the defeat by Italy and the draw against Germany is that there are only three things

wrong with this England team right now. The bad news is those three things are the defence, the attack and the goalkeeper. And yet somehow, watching Gareth Southgate give his final pre-tournament address deep in the grey concrete keep of Wembley Stadium on Monday night it was tempting to feel that strangest of things: not exactly hope but a sense that this team might just exit the World Cup, whenever that might be, with a growl as opposed to a whimper. There is a sense of divvying up right now. In the last few games it has been possible, for the first time, to see ghosts around this England team, a flicker of familiar outlines, the shadows of England managers past lurking just out of sight as Southgate paces his touchline, feeling a tug at his jacket tail, hearing the whisper at his back. Now you, too, are like us. And this thing will soon be gone. How it plays out, what the story of that unravelling becomes, will be significant for Southgate and indeed for whoever comes next. The reality is he has been a good England manager. Defensive football and a narrow attacking plan have taken England deep in two tournaments. But that winning plan has now grown old. The defence has got worse, not better. Harry Kane and Raheem Sterling, first-choice attackers five years ago, are still first-choice attackers now. The alleged golden hand of generational super talent has turned out to be more of a rag-bag. Building another team is hard. Southgate has his limits as a coach. It hasn't happened. The question now is how to apportion blame, because blame is key to the way



England football wants to see itself. There can be no reasonable failure, no acceptable falling short; only howlers, oversight, lions led by donkeys. The natural state of grace, the default option - England win - betrayed only by the greed and folly of those at the centre. It is a common misconception that the national sport is football. The national sport is in fact moaning about football, and moaning about football in a way that sustains this delusion. Right now it seems likely this urge will settle on one player. It is clear enough with no games left to play that Trent Alexander-Arnold will not be in the squad for Qatar. This is a great shame because he is a wonderful footballer, pure joy to watch, and perhaps the most unusual, original, luxurious creative player of this England generation. But the idea Alexander-Arnold ought to be seen as a cause celebre, his non-selection a public injustice, an example of All That Is Wrong is also misguided, a notion that just falls apart under any scrutiny. It may well be the case that Southgate has the wrong plan, or a dull plan, or a plan you simply don't like. But to suggest not picking Alexander-Arnold is un-

just or illogical or personally motivated is absurd. Most simple, he hasn't had a very good season. Meanwhile England have three other high-class right-backs, all of whom play in multiple positions, all of whom are less risky defensively. And Southgate is not - have you been watching? - about being risky defensively. Reece James is also a fine young player with a Champions League pedigree. Kieran Trippier is a tournament warrior. Kyle Walker is ... Kyle Walker. All three are ahead on form. And in fact the opposite is true: it would be illogical and unfair for Southgate to pick Alexander-Arnold ahead of any of these three right now. This is where the Harry Maguire comparison may intrude. Like Alexander-Arnold, Maguire is also in poor form and yet he continues to be picked. Explain that, bro. In reality the two are unrelated. There is not a similar line-up of ready alternatives for Maguire. Maguire was in the Uefa team of the Euros last summer, whereas Alexander-Arnold has never played well for England. It might be a bad choice, false loyalty, doomed to fail. But there is still a logic behind Maguire. This selection has a chain of reason be-

hind it, and is entirely in keeping with the last six years. 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. Has Alexander-Arnold been given a chance to earn the same margin for error? Eighteen caps in five years suggest not. He has had a run when fit and available. He would have been at the Euros but for injury. Meanwhile this has hardly been a problem position. England conceded one goal en route to the Euros final. The full-backs have scored important goals. We're good, thanks. There is a case that Alexander-Arnold should be selected for England outside of this process as a special case, simply because he is so talented, because of all that creative capacity going unused. And he is a uniquely dreamy kind of footballer, not so much a full-back as a roving playmaker, and a relentlessly creative force. But he basically plays one bespoke position very well when he is in form, in a Liverpool team geared to fit. England don't play that way. And he's not in form. So why all the noise? Why must this become a cause celebre, an injustice, with implications of animosity and favouritism? What is it in this set-up that needs to find a sense of betrayal in every run of poor results? As anyone who has watched them for long enough will know, England have had lazy, incompetent, partial managers in the past. But, whatever Southgate's failings, this is not that.

India Suffer Defeat To Vietnam In Hung Thinh Football Tournament

New Delhi, September 28 : India suffered a 0-3 thrashing at the hands of a higher-ranked Vietnam in the second and final match of the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament in Ho Chi Minh City on Tuesday. It was a reality check for the 104th ranked Indians after three convincing wins in June in the Asian Cup qualifiers and a 1-1 draw against Singapore in this tournament on Saturday as they were literally outplayed by the 97th ranked Vietnam in the second half. Phan Van Duc (10th), Nguyen Van Toan (49th) and Nguyen Van Quyet (70th) scored for Vietnam to no reply from the Indians whose defenders had a mediocre outing, especially in the second half. The Indians, however, were on equal terms with their opponents in the first half only to be blown away in the second session. Vietnam won the tournament with two wins from s many matches. They had also thrashed Singapore 4-0 in their opening match. India and Vietnam had played many a memorable matches in the past, one among them being the 2002 LG Cup final which India triumphed 3-1 having come back from behind to win the trophy. India and Vietnam last met in 2010 in an inter-

national friendly in Pune with the Blue Tigers running out 3-1 winners with Chhetri scoring a hat-trick. But since then, Vietnam football has been on the ascendancy and they have been able to compete with the top teams of the continent. Earlier this year, they reached the final round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and also made it to the last eight stage of the 2019 Asian Cup. The home side did not take long to surge ahead with Phan Van Duc finding the target in the 10th minute. The goal, though, could have been avoided had keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and central defender Sandesh Jhingan communicated well. Both Gurpreet and Jhingan, who was in the starting eleven after sitting out the last match due to late arrival on account of visa issues, went for the ball off a corner but the Indian goalie could lay his hands on it. Jhingan's header somehow fell in the middle of the Indian box and Van Duc's sharp left-footer bulged the net even as Gurpreet managed a faint touch. Just a minute before the strike, Gurpreet had to dive full stretch to his right to save another shot from a Vietnam attacker. Vietnam went on the offensive but India also gradually came



to their own and they had two clear scoring chances in the first half, courtesy fine assists from Akash Mishra who was superb on the left channel. In the 26th minute, Mishra was in the thick of an Indian counter-attack and he sent a superb pass to Ashique Kuruniyan, at the edge of Vietnam box on left side. Kuruniyan's volley beat the goalie but went inches wide off the Vietnam far post. Even closer than Kuruniyan's effort was that of skipper Sunil Chhetri just before the half time whistle was blown. Mishra chipped one from the wide left for Chhetri, who guided his header towards the far post, but missed it by a whisker. The veteran striker reacted with disbelief with hands on his

head. Vietnam pressed hard just as they came out after resumption and they had a couple of shots at the Indian goal. The second goal from Vietnam came four minutes after resumption as Nguyen Van Toan won an aerial duel with Anwar Ali and then beat Gurpreet with a shot. By the 65th minute, head coach Igor Stimac substituted Chhetri, Udanta Singh, Chinglensana with Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco and Roshan Singh but there was no change in India's fortune with Vietnam scoring their third five minutes later. Van Quyet was gifted the ball from a headed clearance inside the Indian box and he curled it past Gurpreet to punish the visitors for yet another defensive sloppiness.