

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

Centre of Excellence

Guwahati, November 6 : The inefficiency of Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora has led to the destruction of the agricultural projects which was started with crores of rupees. After Khetri and Ulubari's two projects which have been destroyed due to lack of maintenance and proper utilization, now came to light the project of Centre of Excellence for Citrus Fruits, Bamunigaon in Chaygaon, Kamrup district. The project which was started in 2016 in 88 bighas of land for citrus fruits worth Rs. 5 crore has now turned into a jungle for lack of maintenance. The Centre of Excellence for citrus fruits has been started by the then Additional Chief Secretary and Agriculture Commissioner Kamalakanta Mittal. Although it was said that the area is very good for cultivation of citrus fruits and the centre will open a new direction for farmer of the locality, all went in vain as the centre has now turned into a jungle.

Task Force To Check Price Rise

Guwahati, November 6 : The Assam Government has formed a Task Force for 10 days to control the price rise of essential commodities including onion and potato, informed State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Phani Bhushan Choudhury. Choudhury informed that the task force will be formed with the officials of Civil Supplies department, GMC, Agriculture department, police administration and district administration officials. "The Task Force will keep an eye on the price of onion which will be sold at Rs. 50 per kg in wholesale rate. The customers will be able to buy onions at Rs. 56/57 per kg. The government will also fix the price of vegetables in the Pamohi market from today and the unregistered markets will also have to follow the same price list for vegetables," the Minister added.

CM launches website of Sri Sri Anirudhadeva Sports University

Guwahati, November 6: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched a website of Sri Sri Anirudhadeva Sports University in a programme held at his official residence in Guwahati today. While launching the website, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the sports university made a good beginning and would be successful in promoting sports as well as sports related activities in the State. He hoped that the university would be able to develop competitive and scientific environment for growth of sports in Assam. He further observed that taking forward the values and ideologies of Sri Sri Anirudhadeva, the university would move ahead. **Contd...Page 6**



Sonowal flags off bus services of Bharat Benz of Mercedes

Govt to introduce bus services for State's cancer patients at Mumbai



Guwahati, November 6 : Giving a new dimension to convenience and comfort for the passengers to undertake journey, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today flagged off 20 modern Bharat Benz buses at a programme held at Assam Administrative Staff College here today. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said that with rolling off the fleet of the buses, Assam State Transport Corporation has very competitively emerged to serve the people of the state. Stating that though the people of the state had negative impression to-

wards efficacy of the ASTC, the present State government with timely and right kind of intervention has changed the weaknesses of ASTC into its strength and as a result the organisation has attained dynamism in its operation. He also said that there should be qualitative improvement of the bus services of ASTC. He at the same time observed that Prime Minister of the country Narendra Modi with his inspirational leadership has brought about remarkable changes not only in the developmental narratives of the country but also in creating positive

temperament to the people. Guided and inspired by the Prime Minister, Government of Assam has also ventured in to bring about positive and qualitative changes in the development contour of the state. Stating that Mercedes-Benz buses are known for their superior performance, Sonowal said that the buses inducted in ASTC need to be looked after to sustain their good services for long. Sonowal at the same time congratulated the Transport Department for its impressive performance especially during the COVID 19 lock down. He also inaugurated the

services of wheel chair for boarding and deboarding the bus. Considering several cancer patients of the state who go to Mumbai for advanced oncological treatment, Sonowal asked the ASTC authority to start bus service within one week to facilitate their conveyance from Assam Bhawan to hospital. Speaking on the occasion, Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary thanked the employees of the ASTC for rendering their duties dedicatedly during the COVID 19 pandemic. He at the same time announced that the corporation would very shortly start pink bus services free of cost for the women as well as free bus services for the senior citizens. Commissioner and Secretary Dr. K.K. Dwivedi gave the welcome address in the meeting which was also spoken by Chairman of ASTC Ashok Kumar Bhatta Roy its Vice Chairman Haricharan Boro and CEO Daimler Bus India Karl Alexander. Chief Minister's Legal Adviser Santanu Bharali, MD ASTC AP Tiwari and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Ahead of Diwali, these states decide to ban firecrackers during the festival

New Delhi, November 6 : With every year the air pollution increasing manifold after bursting of firecrackers during Diwali, this year these states have taken a



major decision. The move is also aimed at reducing the COVID-19 cases as the winter sets in. Ahead of the festival of Diwali, several states and UT governments have taken a major decision to ban firecrackers due to the rising cases of coronavirus. The pollution

caused by them increases the risk of COVID-19 patients. The air pollution in India as the winter sets in has been a matter of concern especially in the national capital and its surrounding areas. Delhi: Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on November 5 decided to ban firecrackers in the national capital after reviewing the COVID-19 situation. The Delhi CM said, "Coronavirus cases have increased due to the festival season and pollution. It was decided to ban crackers in Delhi and ramp up medical infrastructure, among other measures." He appealed people to shun firecrackers for the safety of their kids and family. He said, "we will celebrate Diwali together and won't burst firecrackers in any condition. There will be a

wonderful atmosphere and good vibes as two crore people will perform Laxmi Puja. It will lead to well being in each household." The CM added that he will be performing Lakshmi Puja at 7.39 pm on November 14, along with other Delhi Cabinet Ministers, which will be live-streamed, and appealed Delhiite to join in the Diwali celebrations by performing Lakshmi Puja at their homes. Maharashtra: As Maharashtra struggles with the coronavirus cases, the state government on November 6 issued guidelines. **Contd...Page 6**

India will not accept any shifting of LAC, says CDS General Bipin Rawat

New Delhi, November 6 : India Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Friday (Nov 6) claimed that situation at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh remains tense and possibility of a war with China cannot be ruled out. "The situation along



the LAC in eastern Ladakh remains tense and the People's Liberation Army is

facing unanticipated consequences for its misadventure in Ladakh because of firm and strong responses by Indian forces," Gen Rawat said. "In the overall security calculus: border confrontations, transgressions, unprovoked. **Contd...Page 6**

Gauhati HC Orders State EC To Declare BTR Poll Dates

Guwahati, November 6 :

The Gauhati High Court (GHC) has ordered to declare the election date of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) by November 20. The Election Commission has been asked to declare the dates within November 20. The order was issued based on a PIL seeking to conduct the BTC election. The court also instructed to issue election notification. Hearing a PIL (59/2020) filed on the BTC (Bodoland Territorial Council) election, a division bench of the Gauhati High Court has asked the SEC (State Election Commission) to initiate the process for BTC election. The High



Court bench comprising Chief Justice (acting) N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Manish Choudhury asked the SEC to conduct the polls "in terms with the decision of the Council of Ministers' meeting held on October 7, 2020". Earlier the state election commission

said that it will declare the poll dates after Bihar election result. It is noteworthy in the light of COVID-19 pandemic, this year the BTC election will be conducted in ballots. Assam Health, Finance and Education Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa **Contd...Page 6**

Assam Govt Rejects NGT's Order To Ban Firecrackers In Diwali



Guwahati, November 6 : The Assam Government has rejected the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to ban firecrackers in Diwali amid the coronavirus pandemic and to control the pollution level. A bench headed by the chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel on Wednesday sent notices to 18 states and union territories including Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya

to expand the scope of hearing cases on pollution by firecrackers during Diwali. Following the order, the Delhi Government, Sikkim and other states have banned firecrackers in Diwali but the Assam government on Friday said that they cannot ban firecrackers in Diwali. Speaking about ban on firecrackers, Assam Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said, "Bursting of firecrackers would not harm anything.

We cannot ban firecrackers during Diwali. People can burst firecrackers which cannot affect the environment but bursting of firecrackers polluting the environment will not be allowed." The minister also compared bursting of firecrackers with consuming alcohol. He said that if one can consume alcohol which we think as injurious to health, why people can't burst firecrackers. The NGT sought responses on an urgent basis by November 5 from the mentioned states and the Ministry of Environment and Forests on whether the usage of firecrackers would be banned from November 7 to 30. The plea on which the court issued notice suggested that green crackers will not solve the problem and the smoke from firecrackers will create gas chamber like situations. **Contd...Page 6**

AIUFD plans to contest from many Congress strongholds in Assam

Guwahati, November 6: For the 2021 Assam Assembly elections Badruddin Ajmal's All India United Democratic Front (AIUFD) is planning to contest from 40 to 42 constituencies in the state. According to an AIUFD source, the party is planning to contest from the 28 seats which were won by AIUFD in the previous assembly elections of 2006, 2011 and 2016. The party will ask for another 12 constituencies where they contested in these elections and came second. AIUFD at present holds 13 seats in the Assam Legislative Assembly that they won in 2016. If the AIUFD has its way this time



then Congress leaders and MLAs from the minority community will have to end their political careers. Many of these seats are or were held by Congress. This move of AIUFD has invited revolt within the grand old

party. Senior minority leaders of the Congress and MLAs have openly protested the alliance with AIUFD and have submitted memorandum to Jitendra Singh who is the AICC appointed. **Contd...Page 6**

Donald Trump failed US but PM Narendra Modi saved India from Covid-19: BJP chief JP Nadda in Bihar

Patna, November 6 : The US presidential election 2020 also echoed in the Bihar assembly poll campaign as BJP chief JP Nadda claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done what US President Donald Trump failed to do and "saved the country" from the novel coronavirus. The BJP president made these remarks on Thursday while addressing an election rally in Bihar's Darbhanga, which goes to the polls on Saturday in the final phase

of voting. Nadda said that people of USA had slammed President Donald Trump on the issue of coronavirus as he lags behind in the poll forecasts. "On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the right decision at the right time in the beginning of pandemic and implemented nationwide lockdown. He saved lives of 130 crore countrymen," Nadda said at a rally in Darbhanga. "When corona started in our country, there was only one testing lab in

Pune and now 15 lakh samples are tested every day. Besides, we are also manufacturing ventilators and face masks," the BJP national president said. Nadda also stated that President Trump had alleged that India is hiding actual numbers of corona deaths and active cases. The BJP chief also came down heavily on RJD and said that Tejashwi Yadav is just bluffing to garner votes. "He is attracting you with the promise of 10 lakh jobs. How would he give 10 lakh jobs

and how many jobs his father and mother had given in 15 years between 1990 to 2005?" Nadda asked. "We all knew when Lalu Prasad was in power, he used to open cowshed schools and hold 'Lathi' rallies," Nadda said. "Some people asked questions about why we are raising Ram temple issue in the Bihar election. I want to tell them that Bihar is the land of Sita's birth (Sitamarhi). Hence, why would we not discuss Ram temple in Bihar," he said. The third phase of election for



78 seats in 15 districts is scheduled on November 7 and the campaign ends on

Thursday evening. The results will be out on November 10.

The dishonest overseas operations bill strips British troops of justice



When the Commons returns next week, so does the controversial overseas operations bill. It faces cross-party amendments and a growing chorus of criticism that ranges from the Royal British Legion to Liberty to the Law Society. The closer people look at this legislation, the less they like it. This is a dishonest and damaging bill that simply doesn't do what it says on the tin: protect British troops in overseas conflicts from vexatious litigation and repeat investigations. Worse, it breaches the Armed Forces Covenant, risks British troops being dragged to trial before the international criminal court and does more to protect the Ministry of Defence than our armed forces personnel. There has been a problem, under both Labour and Conservative governments, of baseless allegations and legal claims arising from Iraq and Afghanistan. But this bill is not a solution; rather it would create fresh problems and risks for British troops serving overseas. It would be unfit as the legal framework should this country commit its servicemen and women to conflict situations in the future. From the outset, I've said Labour wants to protect British forces from long-running litigation, and have offered to work with the government on the changes needed to make this legislation fit for purpose. Sadly, ministers are in denial about the deep flaws and dangers in their bill. More than 99% of more than 4,000 criminal claims from Iraq and Afghanistan did not reach the point of prosecution, yet many British troops subject to allegations have suffered the misery of repeated investigation. This bill would have made no difference to them because it deals only with the prosecution process, and does nothing to fix failings in military investigations. So first, the government should give military judges oversight of investigations, with powers to set time limits and block reinvestigations when the evidence isn't sufficient. During the past 16 years there have also been 25,000 civil cases against the MoD by injured British troops themselves or their families. The MoD accepts and settles four in five of these cases, yet the bill brings in a total block after six years on any such claims arising from overseas deployment. The main losers

John Healey

will be troops with conditions such as PTSD or hearing loss, which often take years to come to terms with. Stripping British forces overseas of the employment rights enjoyed by everyone else - in UK-based forces and civilian life - breaches the Armed Forces Covenant. As the Royal British Legion director general told MPs on the Commons committee considering the bill: "I think it is protecting the tin: protect British troops in overseas conflicts from vexatious litigation and repeat investigations. Worse, it breaches the Armed Forces Covenant, risks British troops being dragged to trial before the international criminal court and does more to protect the Ministry of Defence than our armed forces personnel. There has been a problem, under both Labour and Conservative governments, of baseless allegations and legal claims arising from Iraq and Afghanistan. But this bill is not a solution; rather it would create fresh problems and risks for British troops serving overseas. It would be unfit as the legal framework should this country commit its servicemen and women to conflict situations in the future. From the outset, I've said Labour wants to protect British forces from long-running litigation, and have offered to work with the government on the changes needed to make this legislation fit for purpose. Sadly, ministers are in denial about the deep flaws and dangers in their bill. More than 99% of more than 4,000 criminal claims from Iraq and Afghanistan did not reach the point of prosecution, yet many British troops subject to allegations have suffered the misery of repeated investigation. This bill would have made no difference to them because it deals only with the prosecution process, and does nothing to fix failings in military investigations. So first, the government should give military judges oversight of investigations, with powers to set time limits and block reinvestigations when the evidence isn't sufficient. During the past 16 years there have also been 25,000 civil cases against the MoD by injured British troops themselves or their families. The MoD accepts and settles four in five of these cases, yet the bill brings in a total block after six years on any such claims arising from overseas deployment. The main losers

How the link between racism and Covid is being ignored

Powerful people like to point out that Covid-19 does not discriminate. Indeed, the rain, too, does not discriminate against those it falls on. But one's ability to stay dry beneath a downpour is dependent on the availability of an umbrella. Similarly, our access to security in a pandemic depends on the safety net of the state. Umbrellas can be shared or withheld. Those without one can be listened to - or ignored. I'm a youth worker, and throughout 2020 I have mentored young people from black African and Caribbean, and south Asian origins who mostly live in population-dense social housing. More often than not, their parents worked on the frontline throughout the national lockdown - carers, bus drivers, NHS receptionists, cleaners - or have pre-existing health conditions. As part of a book I'm writing, I have also interviewed many community members, including pastors, rappers and youth club managers, who fall into these same demographic groups. In doing this, I've detected a melancholic harmony among these voices - an awareness that, while the virus is affecting everyone, everywhere, it is affecting particular people disproportionately. It has been reported widely that race is a metric that can illuminate this disparity. In the summer, for example, 36% of critically ill Covid-19 patients were from an ethnic minority group, despite representing only 13% of the general population. This disproportionality can be subtly inferred from the anecdotes I've heard: grandparents died, uncles were denied operations, friends were misdiagnosed. My impression that race is relevant to the clarity of this picture is, of course, in some way explained by the relative multiculturalism of the capital, where I live. But still, The Racial Disparity Unit (RDU), led by the equalities minister, Kemi Badenoch, recently published its first quarterly report addressing the repeatedly proven high impact of Covid-19 on ethnic minorities in the UK. It made 13 recommendations for action, including the mandatory recording of ethnicity as part of the death certification process, the monitoring of how policies affect people from ethnic minorities and the

forging of culturally sensitive communications with relevant communities about the virus. All of them have been accepted by the prime minister. At a glance, this appears positive. The devil, however, is in the detail. The report explains the disproportionality faced by black and Asian groups - particularly African, Bangladeshi and Pakistani men - by focusing on factors such as people's occupations, where they live and pre-existing health conditions. In other words, it acknowledges that non-white

(BAME) groups. Within days, another report was leaked, revealing omitted recommendations gleaned from interviews with 4,000 individuals and organisations representing a broad range of issues faced by ethnic minority communities to capture their experiences of the NHS. After public outrage - "a usual whitewash!" tweeted Dr Kailash Chand, the honorary vice-president of the British Medical Association - the recommendations were added to the original report. They presented a range



people are dying at a higher rate

Ciaran Thapar

of factors as potential drivers of the virus's disproportionate effect: experiences of racism, meaning BAME workers were less likely to seek care or demand better personal protective equipment, and a historical lack of trust between patients and the NHS due to prior culturally insensitive interactions were among them. The word "racism" featured 24 times in the 69-page document. Yet in the RDU's recent report the word is nowhere to be seen. Conceding the existence of any form of racism, structural or otherwise, seems to be too much to ask from this government. Speaking at a Science Media Centre briefing, Ali said: "The second Public Health England report said that racism may contribute to some of these disparities. But they didn't present any objective evidence for that - it was based really on the views of 4,000 stakeholders... There is certainly no evidence... that blacks and south Asians were treated any differently once they reached hospital. I don't think structural racism is a reasonable explanation. Those that

put it forward need to provide evidence." This looks like colour-blindness being employed to explain away legitimate claims of prejudice. Contrary to Ali's view, such a comprehensive collection of testimonies should itself be taken as evidence - at least enough to warrant further investigation by the government. The RDU might not be moved to act by the intertwined accounts of thousands of people. But given the direction that Britain has been headed in for several years - in many ways progressive, but in other ways regressive - is it really that difficult to envision how racism is playing a role here? Ours is a society in which a mere dance seeking to express for a few seconds that the lives of black people matter can inspire tens of thousands of complaints from outraged sofa-dwellers. It is where learning about our empire's centuries-long, world-making venture of economic extortion and subjugation still falls behind the indulgence of Henry VIII as a priority in our history classrooms. It is where our prime minister himself has an established history of racist and homophobic journalism. The neoliberal emphasis on individualism and quantifying life has become so entrenched that the shared experiences of historically oppressed minority groups are subsumed and forgotten. The fact that so many of those consulted by PHE cited racism as a problem - plenty of reports over decades about links between discrimination and health inequalities exist in the literature, too - but no data has been sought to prove it, should not mean it is simply wiped from the government's agenda.

Fortunately, all is not lost. In another report, entitled *An Avoidable Crisis*, Dame Doreen Lawrence said that people belonging to ethnic minorities had been "overexposed, underprotected, stigmatised and overlooked", adding that this had "been generations in the making". As we approach winter, those without umbrellas - who belong to all races and creeds - will keep getting wetter. Their voices, and the cause for a communal shelter, need championing more than ever.

Burberry partners with Marcus Rashford to fund youth centres

Everyone wants to be connected to Marcus Rashford these days, including Burberry, which today announced a partnership with the footballer for a series of initiatives to help disadvantaged young people. The high end fashion house is providing grants for Norbrook Youth Club and Woodhouse Park Lifestyle

Centre, two youth centres Rashford attended as a child. In addition, Burberry will be providing support for arts-after-school non-profit Wide Rainbow in New York and the International Youth Foundation, which works with community leaders and young people across the world.

In London, 15 youth centres selected by Burberry and the organisation London Youth will receive grants. The brand anticipates that this project will help tens of thousands of young people worldwide. London Youth will use the money for meals and support with school work, while Norbrook will be improving their outdoor space. The announcement

Lauren Cochrane

of the 22-year-old England striker's partnership with Burberry today will be accompanied by the publication of a moving letter the footballer wrote to his 10-year-old self. "When you fall, which you will," he says, "there will always be neighbours and friends to catch you. There is no need to feel ashamed because they will catch you without judgment and comment. No questions asked. Feel the warmth of those around you and know that one day, you are going to have the platform to repay them." He adds: "For a young boy who says so little, one day you will have a voice that speaks for many." Pam Batty, vice-president of corporate responsibility at Burberry, said the organisations they were funding were "at the heart of so many young people's lives". "We believe, especially now, it is so important to help them empower the emerging change-makers of tomorrow and continue their efforts to sustain and protect the vulnerable," she said. Burberry has provided donations for vaccine research, donated 160,000 pieces of PPE and turned a Yorkshire factory making trench coats into one to make non-surgical gowns for medics and care workers. They have also contributed to FareShare, the Rashford-endorsed

food distribution charity, meaning over 200,000 meals can be financed. This is not Rashford's first brush with fashion. He appeared on the cover of September's *Vogue*, alongside model Adwoa Aboah. In his Editor's Letter, Edward Enninful described the



footballer as "a shining example of how to harness influence for good". The Burberry Foundation, the brand's charity arm, was set up in 2008. As part of this, Burberry Inspire launched in 2018 - bringing art and culture into schools. More than 5,000 students from Yorkshire to New York have been involved. The brand also provides scholarships at universities including Parsons in New York and Central Saint Martins in London. Like most fashion brands, Burberry has been affected by the pandemic. Retail sales fell by 48% in the three months to the end of June, and it was announced in July that they would cut 500 jobs worldwide. The brand launched the first official designer face mask - for £90 - in August. They were awarded a £573,000 government contract to make PPE in September. Rashford's letter to his 10-year-old self I encourage you to dream, because sometimes dreams are all you will have. I encourage you to lay your head on the pillow and close your eyes tight and think of better days to come, because luckily for us, our dreams have come true. Would I be the Marcus Rashford you see stood in front of you today if it wasn't for the hardship and struggle? Simple answer? No. You should never be ashamed to ask for help. Take pride in knowing that your struggle will play the biggest role in your purpose. Never drop your head in shame. There have been many days

that you have felt alone and, in this game we call football, there will be a few more to come. But your family and your community will never allow anyone to dim your light because that light is still needed to survive the darkest days. The noise your stomach has been making, will one day be replaced with the noise of crowds chanting your name. Buckle up little man, it's going to be quite the ride. Your community will prove to be the most special extension of your family. When you fall, which you will, there will always be neighbours and friends to catch you. There is no need to feel ashamed because they will catch you without judgment and comment. No questions asked. Feel the warmth of those around you and know that one day, you are going to have the platform to repay them. For a young boy who says so little, one day you will have a voice that speaks for many.

One day you will have a lot of things you never dreamt of owning, but never forget that stability and consistency are two of the most valuable things you will ever experience. The youth centres that you visit today on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, will prove to be central to all of the greatest gifts you receive in life - your friendships, your discipline, your respect, and compassion for others. One day you will have the opportunity to travel to lands you never knew existed, to hear languages so foreign, and experience culture so alien.

Beyoncé covers December issue of British Vogue

A 21-year-old photographer has become the youngest person to shoot a British Vogue cover in the magazine's 104-year history: Kennedy Carter, from North Carolina, photographed Beyoncé for the style bible's December issue, which features three different covers. Carter is unrelated to Beyoncé's husband, Jay-Z, AKA Shawn Carter. She takes the mantle from David Bailey, who was 23 when he shot model Enid Boulting for the February 1961 cover. Beyoncé's appearance in the magazine comes with a rare interview conducted by Vogue editor-in-chief Edward Enninful. Speaking over Zoom, the musician, fashion designer and producer said she felt "absolutely changed" by the events of 2020. "I have learnt that my voice is clearer when I am still. I truly cherish this time with my family, and my new goal is to slow down and shed stressful things from my life." She continued: "I came into the music industry at 15 years old and grew up with the world watching, and I have put out projects non-stop. I released *Lemonade* during the Formation world tour, gave birth to twins, performed at Coachella, directed *Homecoming*, went on another world tour with Jay, then [directed film] *Black Is King*, all back to back. It's been heavy and hectic. I've spent a lot of time focusing on building my legacy and representing my culture the best way I know how. Now, I've decided to give myself permission to focus on my joy." It is not the first time Beyoncé has spoken about experiencing pressures related to ambition. Her

2013 self-titled album opened with the song *Pretty Hurts*, about the pain of perfectionism. (Incidentally, she sings: "Vogue says thinner is better.") The message behind that album was "finding the beauty in imperfection", she said in an official clip about the album's making from 2013. She said at the time: "You get this trophy, and you're like: 'I basically starved. I have neglected all of the people I love, I conformed to what everybody else

Laura Snapes

thinks I should be. And I have this trophy. What does that mean?' The trophy represents all of the sacrifices that I made as a kid. All of the time that I lost being on the road and in the studios as a child, and I just wanna blow that shit up." Speaking to Enninful, Beyoncé also discussed the increased focus on Black and African creatives and culture in her work in recent years, a shift she attributed to giving birth to her first child, Blue Ivy, in 2012. "It became my mission to make sure she lived in a world where she feels truly seen and valued," she said. After having her son, Sir (twin to a girl, Rumi) in 2017, "I felt it was important to uplift and praise our boys, and to assure that they grow up with enough films, children's books and music that promote emotional intelligence, self-value and our rich history,"



she said. Enninful said: "Everyone always wants to know what it's like to work with Beyoncé and her incredible team, and the answer is: flawless. A perfectionist to the core, more than anything she wanted her British Vogue moment to be filled with positivity as this trickiest of years draws to a close." The cover coincides with the release of Beyoncé's latest Ivy Park range in association with Adidas: items from the new collection feature on the cover that shows her in a bucket hat. In 2018, she bought out Topshop boss Philip Green from the label after he was accused of racial, sexual and physical abuse, claims he denies. Beyoncé last appeared on the cover of British Vogue in 2013. She has seldom done press in recent years. In 2018, she wrote her own cover story for US Vogue, opening up about the difficulties of giving birth to her twins in 2017 and discussing her insistence that Vogue hire an African-American photographer, 23-year-old Tyler Mitchell, to shoot the cover - the first in the magazine's history.

To Prevent the Attacks on Journalists, Assam Government Should Consider Making Journalist Security Law Soon



Barpeta, November 06 : The delegation of Indian Journalist Association Barpeta got the injured journalist Abdul Khalique on his residence. During the duty on Mr. Khalique, a vicious miscreant attacked. A team, including Haq and Assistant Secretary Syed Aftab Hussain visited Abdul Khalique's Gandhari residence and took information about their health. On the incident of October 25, the injured journalist Abdul Khalique was given to the injured journalist Abdul Khalique by the Indian Journalist Association. He also demanded strict punishment for the attacker.

Abdul Khalique is not fully recovered from his injuries. The District team of the Indian Journalist Association first met with Abdul Khalique and wished him to be healthy after wearing a magnificent towel. District Executive President Azizul Haque condemned this attack and said that it is the work of aggression against the media. In the coming days, Executive President Azizul Haque should consider the Assam Government to earn Journalist Security Law to stop attacks on reporters. District President Abdul Jalil, General Secretary Manjeet Das demanded to ensure the safety of reporters and to give strict punishment to all the people attacked journalists. The District Comity Of IJA Requests to the Government of Maharashtra to be merciful to Journalist Amab Goswami. If Amab Goswami is not realised it hit be bound to hit the road. The arrest of Amab Goswami is the attack on the fourth pillar of democracy.

Annual session and felicitation function of Namkhala ASSU held

SIPAJHAR, November 06 : The annual session and felicitation function of Namkhala regional unit of All Assam Students Union (ASSU) was held with a day long programme in the premises of Deodhani ghat High School. The programme was started with hoisting of All Assam Students Union's flag by Dhruba Kalita, President, Namkhala regional unit of AASU followed tributes to martyrs by Pranjal Kalita, Secretary, Namkhala AASU. The saplings were planted by Uttam Kalita and Ashwini Kumar Das. The open cum felicitation meeting organized on the occasion was presided over by Apurba Sarma, Advisor, Namkhala AASU. Inaugurating the meeting Arup Kalita, member, central executive committee of All Assam Students Union discussed on the relevance of All Assam Students Union in present situation of the state to save the identity of the indigenous people. Bishwajit Barua, Head mater of Bhergaon Tea Estate Primary School while addressing the meeting as appointed

speaker called upon the students to be attentive in their studies to build a prosperous society. Parag Saharia, secretary of Darrang district committee of AASU, Niranjana Saikia, vice president of Darrang district committee of AASU, Paresh Saharia, President of Mangaldai Sub Divisional students Union, Sushil Sutradhar, General secretary of All Assam Scheduled Cast Students Union, Biren Kalita, President of Duni regional unit of AASU, Bipul Bhuyan, Cultural secretary of Darrang district AASU, Sarat Chandra Hazarika, retired teacher and Hiranya Kalita, Gaonburha of Athiabari village were attended as guest of honor. A good number of meritorious students belongs from the jurisdiction of Namkhala regional unit of AASU were felicitated in the meeting for their brilliant results in HSLC and HSSLC examination. A new executive committee of Namkhala AASU was constituted with Pranjal Kalita as president and Binod Bhagwati as secretary respectively.

Drugs peddlers arrested at Nagaon, huge cash recovered

A correspondent: **NAGAON, Nov 6:** Nagaon police led by Sub inspections - A Rahman and Kundan Robi Das arrested two notorious drugs peddlers from Amtola under Nagaon Sadar PS today. Police subsequently recovered huge quantities of illegal drugs and other narcotics from their possessions and also seized huge sale cash of around 5 lacs concealed in plastic bag at a nearby paddy field. According to sources of police, the arrested peddlers have been identified as Abdul Hai and his wife Jahanara Khatun of Amtola Naromari village under Nagaon police station.

Sources claimed that police recovered more than Rs 5 lacs from a paddy field while the huge cash was being concealed in some plastic bags after selling poisonous drugs and other narcotics. Police is still counting the cash at Haiborgaon Outpost till filing of this report, the sources added.

Campaigning for November 7 by-polls in Mnp ends

IMPHAL, November 06 : The silence period for the November 7 by-polls in four Assembly constituencies spread over three districts of Manipur commenced after campaigning ended at 5 pm on Thursday. By-polls to fill five out of 13 vacant seats of the state Assembly will go on November 7. However, polling will be held in four ACs as a BJP candidate in Singhat AC of Churachandpur district was elected unopposed. The four Assembly constituencies have a total of 1,31,512 electors who are eligible to cast their votes to decide the fates of 11 candidates in the fray. The opposition Congress is fielding its candidates in all the four constituencies where triangular fights will be witnessed in three constituencies. The ruling BJP is sending out its candidates in three ACs and backing an independent candidate in one constituency. A candidate of the NPP, the partner of BJP in the coalition government is also in the fray. The constituencies in which by-polls are to be held on November 7 are: Wangoi AC in Imphal West district, Lilong and Wangjing-Tenthia ACs in Thoubal district and Saitu (ST) AC in Kangpokpi district. The by-polls in these constituencies were necessitated after sitting Congress MLAs vacated their Assembly seats. A total of six Congress MLAs resigned from the state Assembly on August 10 last to pave way for the BJP-led coalition government to retain power when the state Assembly discussed a confidence motion to the N Biren-led coalition government. All the BJP candidates and an independent candidate in the fray are the resigned Congress legislators and two of the four Congress candidates are former vice-president of the state BJP unit. One of the ACs, Wangoi AC where state agriculture minister O Lukhoh is in the fray to retain the seat he had vacated before joining the saffron fold is in Imphal West district. The voting on November 7 will start at 7 am and conclude at 5 pm of the same day. Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer Manipur is all set to conduct smooth and fearless by-polls in the four ACs which will be held amid the COVID-19 pandemic with the motto of 'not leaving a single voter behind'.

Security down to the last person top priority of govt: Gov



ITANAGAR, November 06 : Governor BD Mishra on Thursday said that the national interest and security down to the last person in the remotest part of the state have always been the top priority of the government. Chairing a high-level security meeting with Chief Minister Pema Khandu and General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) of Eastern Command, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan at the Raj Bhavan here, the governor advised for more interactions and meetings between defence and civil administration to further strengthen these priorities. He stressed on the need for removal of any

bottlenecks in building better coordination, particularly in sharing of information on the matters of the defence of the international borders. The meeting was convened to review the defence and security apparatuses, coordination among the forces and the defence-related infrastructure and communication necessities, an official communiqué said. The governor said that the Indian armed forces are second to none in their fighting calibre, both in terms of men and machines. "With better relationships with the local populace, which is the 'second line of defence', we will surely defend our borders," Mishra said. He commended the armed forces for the contribution in the people's socioeconomic activities and thanked the army for developing enormous goodwill among the people of the state. The governor suggested to the army commander to help the local economy by procuring perishable goods,

such as vegetables and fruits, from local farmers. "Such gestures will not only support the villagers in their economic activities but also arrest the migration from border areas to towns. It will give a thrust to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Vocal for local'," he added. Participating in the discussion, Khandu lauded the goodwill of the army, "who are safeguarding the frontiers and at the same time generating bonhomie with local communities." He shared with the eastern army commander his interactions during his district tours with defence personnel posted in the remote high altitude posts. Earlier, the GOC-in-C briefed the governor and the chief minister about the ground situation and preparedness of the defence forces for any eventuality in the North-east region. He acknowledged the goodwill of the people of Arunachal for the Indian Army and the security forces.

COPU takes stock of status of Arunachal Bhavan in Mumbai

MUMBAI, November 06 : The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) of the 7th legislative assembly of Arunachal Pradesh grilled the managing director (MD) of the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development Financial Corporation (APIDFC) over the dilapidated condition of the Arunachal Bhavan in Navi Mumbai. A sitting of the COPU was held here on Thursday to examine the controller accountant general's (CAG) audit report on the Arunachal Bhavan. It was attended by COPU chairman Mutchu Mithi, MLAs Balo Raja and Tangpho Wangnaw, Senior Deputy Auditor General CHV Sai Prasad, General Administration (GA) Secretary Sadhana Deori, Legislative Assembly Secretary Kago Habung and Arunachal Pradesh Union of Working Journalists president Amar Sangno. Seeking a detailed report on the status of the Arunachal Bhavan, Mithi asked the APIDFC MD to submit a report on whether the Rs 10 crore upfront money which had been paid to the APIDFC by private builder M/s US Roof had been deposited in the state exchequer or not. Mithi sought the expenditure details of the upfront money and the terms of agreement between M/s US Roof and the APIDFC. He asked the APIDFC to submit it in writing by January 2021. He also sought to know if US Roof had mortgaged the building to any bank as loan component. "It is the prime responsibility of the APIDFC to work out



the modalities. More than 30 years, our people are deprived of accommodation facility, that too in commercial capital of India," said Mithi. "We found out that the government is not taking responsibility in delegating any authority to the bhavan. It is our collective responsibility to ascertain, as this discussion is for the welfare of the people of Arunachal Pradesh and also those of the students in Mumbai," Mithi observed. Raja asked the APIDFC to provide all the details in the next meeting. He also sought to know on what grounds the special investigation cell is investigating the issue. Wangnaw questioned how the land allotted to the government of Arunachal for constructing an emporium and a guest house turned into a private business centre. He suggested that the legal battle with the City Industrial & Development Corporation (CIDCO) of Mumbai be resolved before adopting any decision. What led the APIDFC to lease out a prime asset

of the state in the commercial capital of India on a 60-year agreement with US Roof? The COPU demanded a reply from the APIDFC in writing. The COPU members resolved to drop the 'notional earning', as flagged in paragraph 5.3 of the CAG's report, considering that the eight rooms allotted to the Arunachal government "hasn't started well." The COPU members sought a commitment from the GA secretary that the order of taking over by the DRC Delhi would be notified by January. To this, Deori assured that the notification would be issued by early January next year. Responding to the queries from the COPU members, APIDFC MD Hage Tari highlighted the background of the fiasco which led to the signing of the 60-year lease agreement with US Roof, and the fallout of the legal battle. He gave assurance that he would submit a detailed report and documents in the next sitting. It is learnt that US Roof has slapped an amount of Rs

1.92 crore as maintenance bill, electricity bill, etc. on the APIDFC for payment. In 1994, the CIDCO of Mumbai allotted a plot of land measuring 2,331 sq mtrs in Sector 30 A in Vashi, Navi Mumbai, to Arunachal's industries department for constructing the state guest house-cum-sales emporium. After three years, a lease agreement was executed between the CIDCO and the industries directorate in August 1997. The state government decided to float a tender to allow a private builder to develop the guest house-cum-emporium. The work was awarded to M/s US Roof's Ltd on the condition that the developer would provide eight rooms, including office and emporium, to the Arunachal government and also pay Rs 10 crore non-refundable upfront money within 15 days. The 60-year lease agreement with M/s US Roof's Ltd was signed on 12 October, 2007. The developer rented out 14,000 sq ft (one-third of the whole space) to the jewellery chain, Kalyan Jewellers. The business establishment's name has prominently overshadowed the guest house-cum-emporium, thus violating Clause 25 of the lease agreement, where it is clearly mentioned that "the premises measuring 6,500 sq ft being the owners' allocation shall be called as Arunachal Pradesh state guest house or such other names as the owners may deem fit, necessary, proper and said name shall be displayed in prominent places."

Mnp HC declares Cong MLA's election as void



IMPHAL, November 06 : The High Court of Manipur on Thursday declared election of a congress candidate in 2017 general elections to the Mainpur Assembly as null and void on grounds of failure to provide his financial assets and property in the election affidavit. Justice MV Muralidaran set aside Congress candidate Y Surchandra's election, in an order passed on a petition filed by BJP candidate M Rameshwar, challenging the Congress candidate's victory from Kakching constituency by a margin of 630 votes in the 2017 Manipur Assembly polls. In his election petition, Rameshwar had alleged that Congress candidate Surchandra and CPI candidate N Achouba failed to provide their financial assets and property correctly in the election affidavit. Interestingly, the Congress MLA Y Surchandra who is the first respondent of the petition had already been disqualified as member of the state Assembly by the Speaker recently. He was among the four Congress MLAs disqualified from the state Assembly under 10th Schedule of Indian Constitution, popularly called the Anti-Defection Law after they defected to BJP though they were elected on Congress ticket in June this year. According to Rameshwar's lawyer Asem Mohendro, after Surchandra provided false information regarding his assets and property in his election affidavit, Rameshwar had filed the petition soon after the 2017 election. Rameshwar had

also raised objections at the time of scrutiny of nomination paper by Suchandra, the lawyer said. He filed the election petition under Section 100 (1) (d) (i) and (iv) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 praying the court to declare that the election of the Congress candidate from Kakching Assembly Constituency in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2017 as null and void. He further petitioned the court to declare him (petitioner) as elected member in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2017 from the constituency, the lawyer added. Rameshwar alleged that in the nomination paper, Surchandra has failed to disclose full particulars of his assets and liabilities including the assets and liabilities of his dependants. Surchandra has failed to disclose vital material information in his affidavit pertaining to his non-agricultural lands. He has also failed to disclose the details of loan or dues to bank/financial institutions and details of deposits in bank accounts of his spouse. The petitioner then prayed the court to declare the election of the Congress candidate as null and void and to declare him as elected member of Kakching Assembly Constituency. Congress candidate Surchandra secured 11133 votes when he was declared elected in 2017 election while the petitioner (Rameshwar) got 10503 votes and was the runner-up. If Rameshwar is declared as elected from the constituency, the strength of the ruling BJP that won 21 seats in the elections to the state Assembly will increase to 23. The ruling party had already secured one more seat ahead of the November 7 by-poll after its candidate from the Singhat AC of Churachandpur district was elected unopposed.

Let's pledge to protect our state from cancer causing tobacco by adopting vendor licensing mechanism

Guwahati, November 6: On the occasion of the NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY the Consumers' Legal Protection Forum, Assam and Consumer VOICE, Delhi urged all stakeholders to take pledge to protect children and youth from tobacco which is leading cause of cancerous diseases and urging State government to implement the rules of tobacco Vendor Licensing to protect people from tobacco products. In Assam, Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data shows the mean age at initiation of tobacco use has increased from 18.1 years in GATS 1 to 18.5 years in GATS 2. The prevalence of smokeless tobacco use has increased significantly from GATS 1 to GATS 2 by 9.0 percentage points. The prevalence of any tobacco use has significantly increased from 39.3% in GATS 1 to 48.2% in GATS 2. Advocate Ajoy Hazarika, Secretary, Consumers' Legal Protection Forum, Assam says "In 2020, tobacco related cancers are estimated to contribute 3.7 lakhs (27.1%) of the total cancer burden. It is the high time we go into combative mode against this disease. Tobacco not only causes direct cancer but also affects various other organs causing peptic ulcer, oesophagus cancer, prostate, urinary bladder, and pancreas. Tobacco Vendor licensing needs to be implemented to keep the younger generation from the influence of tobacco products". Ashim Sanyal, Chief Operating Officer, Consumer VOICE says "Smoking is one of the major contributors to the rise of lung cancer. Tobacco Vendor licensing needs to be implemented to keep the younger generation from the influence of tobacco products as it will keep a track of tobacco retailers and help in effective enforcement of tobacco control laws". The National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020, released by The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR), Bengaluru, estimates that in 2020 cancer cases in the country will be at 13.9 lakh and likely to increase to 15.7 lakhs by 2025, based on current trends. These estimates are based on information related to cancer collected from 28 Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs). Additionally, 58 Hospital Based Cancer Registries (HBCRs) provided cancer data. Cancers related to use of any form of tobacco were highest in the North-eastern region of the country and in higher proportions in men. Cancer of lung, mouth, stomach and oesophagus were the most common cancers among men.

Tributes pays to sudhakantha and Jitendra Nath Bhattacharya at Doulguri

SIPAJHAR, November 06 : Tributes were paid to Sudhakantha Dr Bhupen Hazarika on the occasion of his 9th death anniversary and legendary teacher and retired principal of Hazarikapara Gandhi Smriti Higher Secondary School late Jitendra Nath Bhattacharya on the occasion of his birthday at Doulguri in Darrang district under the auspices of Doulguri Jnan uday puthibharal and Jnanjyoti Sangha, pioneer public library and voluntary organization in collaboration with Sudhakantha Sowarani Mancha, Hazarikapara. The programme started with lit the earthen lamp followed garlanded of the portrait of Dr Bhupen Hazarika. The meet organized on the occasion was addressed by Siva Prasad Sarma, President Hazarikapara branch of Assam Sahitya Sabha, khagen Saharia, State Awardee retired teacher, Mathura

Mohan Deka, Advisor, Doulguri Jnan uday puthibharal, Chandra Kumar Sarma, Secretary, Hazarikapara regional Sports Association, Girish Sarma, President Sudhakantha Sowarani Mancha and Sunil Goshwami teacher. Durlav Kalita, Dilip Hazarika, Ananta Barua, Babul Sarma Barua and Sita Ram Saharia enthralled the audience presenting Bhupendra Sangeet. Doulguri Jnan uday puthibharal offered felicitation to brilliant student Nabanita Bharadwaj for her brilliant result in BA final examination as she has secured first class first position from Cotton University. On behalf of her parents received felicitation due to her absence. Earlier Bhaba Jyoti Saharia, secretary Sudhakantha Sowarani Mancha explained the purpose of the programme. President of Doulguri Jnan uday puthibharal and Jnanjyoti



Sangha Paban kumar kalita presided over the meet. Bubul Kalita, secretary of Doulguri Jnan uday puthibharal and Jnanjyoti Sangha offered vote of thanks.

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support for Trump has actually increased

Donald Trump had won, it would be a lousy four years, then his celebrity would wear off, he would do a terrible job, and the argument of his awfulness would make itself. For the first time in history, people would soberly examine the evidence, come to their senses and, without need of a crushing military defeat, admit they'd been horribly wrong. Obviously that hasn't happened. As the agonising creep towards a possible Joe Biden victory advances, the only certainty is that the "blue wave", so anticipated on Tuesday night, hasn't materialised. Not only have the Democrats failed to secure a resounding win, but in plenty of constituencies, support for Trump has actually increased. Early electoral data showed that in parts of Texas, for instance, while record numbers in the state voted - 6.6% more than in 2016 - in some rural communities, turnout for Trump more than doubled, and Biden lost counties won four years ago by Hillary Clinton. At the national level, whereas four years ago 35% of voters thought Trump had the temperament to govern well, exit polls this week indicated a rise in that figure to 44%. All of which, frankly, is staggering. Weeks of parsing and processing the data will follow, but in the first instance, the only possible response to all this is to scream: "My God, what is wrong with these people?" What has to happen, if alleged tax evasion, a rape accusation and the small matter of 234,000 dead Americans doesn't tip them off that this guy is bad news? What can be said to be wrong with the people of Florida, 5.6 million of whom - just over half of those who voted in that state - voted for Trump? What's in the water in rural Pennsylvania? After the election in 2016, there was a rush to understand and empathise with Trump's supporters with a view to understanding exactly how this had happened. This time, there is only disgust. It isn't purely emotional. (Although, three days after the election, it is still mostly emotional. A tweet put out by the Gap retail group this week featured a Gap sweater, half red and half blue, beneath the words "Together we can move forward", inviting many spirited responses as to where precisely Gap and its sweater might be shoved.) But while it is dismal to feel such loathing towards large numbers of one's countrymen, the deeper hit has been the dawning of what this election might mean. In 2016, Trump was a one-off, an aberration, a dumb novelty whose appeal would surely wane over time. You can't say that any more. Trumpism - even to name it seems to give it a coherence it lacks - has taken seed, and if Biden wins, this election might still in some ways augur more doom than the last one. Meanwhile, the Trump machine rolls on. As with everything the man does, even at his worst he appears darkly comic. When, on Wednesday, Trump randomly declared victory in states where he had already lost, it had the mad, manic tone of Basil Fawlty denying the reality of a rat in his dining room. On cable news, there was the newly slimmed-down and full of beans Chris Christie, saying with relish that the Democrats would lose because black people didn't vote. There were similar efforts by Republicans to set white Democrats against Hispanic voters, who on the earliest evidence marginally increased their support for the president. None of it made any sense beyond the knee-jerk Republican need to sow division. There may be small increases in the numbers of black and Hispanic voters for Trump, but those numbers are still dwarfed by support in what nobody calls the "white community". In Florida in 2016, Trump won two out of 10 minority ethnic votes, a number that increased this week to three out of 10. But early polling data suggests that, as in 2016, Trump's capture of the white vote held steady at six out of 10 - this in spite of practically every white person in power promising to "do the work", stop being so racist, and log-jamming a bunch of books about antiracism on the bestseller list for most of the summer. So much for all that. On Wednesday, exit polls nationwide showed that while 55% of white women voted for Trump - up three percentage points from 2016 - some 58% of white men voted to re-elect the president. Men suck. White people suck. Everything sucks. So here we are, awaiting the final verdict, queasy with anxiety and mixed feelings. If, as looks increasingly likely (spit three times), Biden wins, we will celebrate, of course. There will be a huge collective sigh of relief. The country will start to correct and recover. But there remains a clenched sense that something has shifted, an argument has failed to be won, and that none of what has happened over the past four years is going away any time soon.

How (Not) to Defend Arnab Goswami

Arnab Goswami's brand of journalism has shrunk the space for independent media and independent journalists, and the fact-free telethons on his channel have created more space for hate-spewing public discourse. Let's prosecute Arnab Goswami. Let's not prosecute Arnab Goswami! Television of the Republic kind - and let's not rush to call it journalism - has, for years, taken over the space earlier occupied by mainstream journalism. Its political and monetary clout buoyed by a surging ultra-nationalism in the polity has allowed it to dominate space and its screechy decibels have pushed out saner voices, sober analysis and fact-based reportage. For many of us trying to ensure the survival of journalism, let alone journalism with a public purpose, it has been, in turns, frustrating, outrageous and terrifying to fight for our space while being constantly vilified in the toxicity created and amplified by some in media. There is nothing better many of us would like to do - this writer included - than to revel in the comeuppance of one who has come to symbolise some of the worst excesses of the media. Arnab Goswami's brand of journalism has shrunk the space for independent media and independent journalists, and the fact-free telethons on his channel have created more space for hate-spewing public discourse. Since he seems impervious to the basic tenets of journalistic practice we are quite content that he should receive his comeuppance - one way or the other. Journalists with a lifetime of work of great integrity have been discussing whether he needs to be supported or not, while some media and journalistic organisations such as the Editor's Guild have rushed to his defence. So what do we do with the problem that is Goswami? Or, put another way, do we have to defend the indefensible, lending

our support and voices to a man whose work undermines ours? It certainly isn't necessary for all of us to speak on Goswami's arrest for fear we will be judged wanting. In the multitude of issues that face us we all pick and choose what we want to speak about, if for no other reason than that we are swamped. The problem therefore really is figuring how we can think about it before we decide whether we want to say something about it. Some cogent arguments have been put forward in favour of remaining silent on this issue. There are many other clear cut cases of journalists of integrity being persecuted for their journalism about whom statements have not been made and who have received little support in public forums. Besides, Goswami has not been arrested for his journalism. Both arguments are correct, strictly speaking. However, the first argument leads to the phenomenon of 'whataboutery' which leads nowhere. On the second, as we well know, in the art of the political persecution of journalists, governments do not always follow a principled approach to prosecute journalists for their journalism. Censorship comes in many forms and large swathes are coming in disguise. We have seen journalists and media houses being targeted for their journalism, repeatedly, on grounds other than journalism. These kinds of attacks carry low attrition for the government as they can always be justified as necessary prosecution rather than censorship, es-

pecially if they are in the form of cases and investigations to do with financial issues or administrative matters. We know that prosecution is becoming a method of persecution. We also know that increasingly, selective prosecution is the preferred way of political persecution. While Goswami is not being investigated for financial corruption, what few dispute is the political intent of the ruling Shiv Sena in recent actions to do with Arnab and

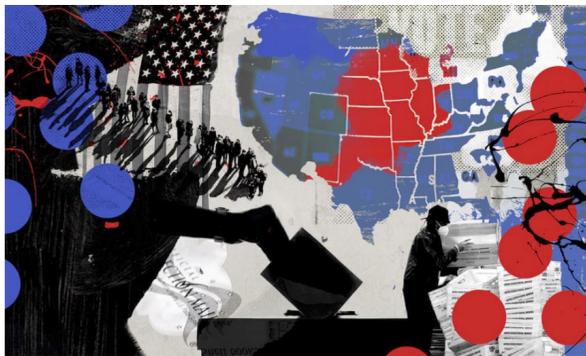


Aunohita Mojumdar

his channel. Journalists who have risked much stand up and fight for ethical journalism have argued that journalists do not need to speak on this case which is a political fight between two parties, the BJP having jumped to his defence. Regardless of who has a stake in this fight, if we accept the premise that Goswami has been targeted in a political fight because of what he broadcasts on his channel, we need to think carefully about whether this meets the threshold that requires journalists to speak up, even if it is a case of two parties (within a larger intolerant right-wing culture) who are currently engaged in shadow boxing. The grounds for arrest also seem tenuous if the suicide of an architect is being blamed on him, as the bar for abatement is quite high and requires mens rea as reported by The Wire: "In January 2010, the Supreme Court had held that for a case of abatement to be made out, there must be mens rea or intention - so the accused must have intended for the person to die by suicide. Given that, a

suicide note is not enough to file abatement charges, several legal experts have held. "It should be possible for us, as journalists, to employ the nuance that we think is a necessary part of good journalism. Not to rush to his defence or stay silent but to simply stress on the need for the law to take its own course. Not to support Goswami in a knee-jerk response, but to stress that while no journalist is beyond prosecution, every citizen should be beyond persecution, and to ask the Mumbai police to prosecute for actual crimes committed. If there is sufficient evidence that points to non-payment of dues, the charges that need to be brought against Goswami are likely that of section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) not 309 (attempt to commit suicide or suicide assistance) of the IPC. That still leaves misgivings that many of us may still have - not on the grounds of technicality but the larger ethical issue of whether we do want to extend our support in defending a median against indefensible charges even though the median's practice of journalism is indefensible. Tactically speaking - despite our momentary glee at seeing someone we dislike intensely getting his comeuppance - his arrest, on grounds that are unlikely to be sustained in the court, is more likely to make a political martyr of the man than diminish him. However, the label that follows a case of 420 - of being a cheater - is far harder to shake off. Finally, if we find Goswami's brand of media problematic, and many of us do, we need to try and counter that through means of discourse, legal remedies and using whatever organisations and means are still available to us. This could include robust prosecution of hate speech and a denunciation of fact-free media production in every platform available. To take succour in any other shortcut may be unhelpful and undermine our own strengths.

Trump has not been repudiated-a Biden presidency would face obstruction at every level



Whatever else emerges from the US's 2020 election, one thing is clear: it has not delivered a comprehensive repudiation of Donald Trump. The shock of 2016 has not been undone. There is nothing in the result to expiate the humiliation of the last four years, the disgraceful vulgarity and illegality. Even if Joe Biden is ultimately

sworn in as president, the fact that Trump was not booted off the greatest stage in world politics in disgrace will be hard for Biden's supporters to come to terms with. This is an inconvenient truth not for the US alone, it has implications for the rest of the world too. Rather than a rejection of Trump, the election results reshuffle the

finely balanced and deeply polarised configuration that has prevailed in American politics since the days of Bill Clinton in the 1990s. As in 2016, Trump lost the overall vote, but he continues to command overwhelming majorities in small-town and rural white America. Despite his vituperative hostility towards immigrants, Trump made remarkable gains among the rather diverse group crudely lumped together under the label Latino. Confusingly, he did well not only with anti-socialist communities of Cubans and Venezuelans in Miami, but with Mexican-Americans in Texas too. And he continues to garner a majority of votes from white women and white men of all

backgrounds. In the meantime no one, either inside or outside the country, should be under any illusion about the scale of the nationalist and xenophobic electoral bloc. The GOP has lurched into the territory of Viktor Orbán and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and, nevertheless, commands solid support. Indeed, for a sizeable minority of the electorate, it is precisely the stridency of Trump and the GOP that appeals. They love Trump's aggression, and his gleeful slaughter of liberal sacred cows. Now he has modelled the style, there will be plenty of others who will want to follow. In a divided country, virtually every facet of reality is seen through a partisan lens. Not unreasonably, the Democrats tried to make the election into a referendum on Trump's handling of the coronavirus crisis. But that did not prove to be a winning card. Almost half of Americans did not agree that Trump's disastrous and irresponsible performance disqualified him from the presidency. This hardly bodes well for the effort to gain control of the disease, which would be the first task of a Biden administration. If there is no collective will to take preventive action, then everything continues to ride on a magic bullet: a vaccine. But even that will not guarantee success. Opinion polling suggests that no more than a bare majority will agree to be vaccinated, with Republican-leaning Americans particularly resistant. The implication is that the US will limp along, not effectively controlling the outbreak and going through repeated lockdowns. The impact on communities and small businesses is likely to be devastating. Even assuming the virus can be mastered, a Biden administration would face an uphill political battle. Its formidable foes are the GOP in Congress, led by Mitch McConnell, the sulphurous boss of the Senate Republicans. Ahead of the election, riding a wave of over-optimism about the likely result, Nancy Pelosi played a dangerous game. The House speaker held out for a gigantic second stimulus package in excess of \$2tn, but no "blue wave" swept the Democrats to control of

Congress. Now, with a diminished majority, Pelosi will have to return to the bargaining table to negotiate with McConnell. To the pleasure of Wall Street, he has announced that he is willing to make a deal, but this is an ominous sign. Any package that McConnell will agree to is more or less guaranteed not to meet the social crisis facing tens of millions of unemployed Americans, and struggling cities and states across the country. And yet, to save the economy from catastrophe, the Democrats may well be forced to accept McConnell's terms. However necessary, any deal with McConnell should be regarded as a poison pill. Every item of Biden's progressive agenda - health, childcare and education - would be on the block. The wider world would be pleased to see a Biden administration reverse Trump's decision to exit the Paris climate agreement. But any talk of a Green New Deal would likely be cut off at the knees. The Republicans like to talk about infrastructure but in four years in office, Trump never delivered an investment programme. If Senate Republicans were won over to a Biden green energy plan, you can count on it being tailored for the business lobby. There is no chance whatsoever that the Senate would grant Biden the formal ratification of the Paris agreement, a legal victory denied to Barack Obama as it was to Bill Clinton over the Kyoto protocol. This would leave the United States unable to credibly commit to carbon neutrality. The progress of technology and the falling cost of renewable energy may be the trump card, but a technical fix can only take you so far. Deep decarbonisation may in due course open the door to a new green growth model. But, in the medium term, it requires painful structural change that will have to be initiated from the top down. Any progress in the next four years would depend on administrative makeshift and painful compromise. The Obama administration delivered a masterclass in both the potential and the limits of that kind of governance. A Biden administration would no doubt benefit from this experience, but it would face what may be Trump's most formidable legacy: a court system packed at every level with pro-business, anti-regulation judges. In a single term Trump managed to appoint a quarter of federal judges, who will be enacting his agenda for decades to come. Faced with obstruction in every direction, we should not be surprised if the de facto lead on economic policy continues to lie not with the elected executive branch, but with the Federal Reserve. The Fed chairman, Jay (Jerome) Powell, has been nothing if not accommodating. And, from the point of view of the rest of the world, Fed leadership may be no bad thing. Cheap dollars ease the pressure on the world economy.

Making Dua in a Hindu Household, or My Earliest Memories of a Secular India

• Ismat Ara

My mother was teaching me to recite "Bismillah" - meaning "In the name of Allah," a basic prayer Muslims say at the beginning of almost everything - when the invitation came. It was not a phone call or a written invite, Seema didi, our next-door neighbour, came herself to take me. It was an off day for my father, and he was working on his laptop, sitting next to us in our one-room apartment. My parents knew they could not say no to Seema didi, a young woman of about 20, lively and persistent. My mother closed the Amma Para, a children's guide to the Arabic alphabet and Quran, and got up to welcome Seema didi. Without wasting any time, a decked-up Seema didi announced, "Lakshmi puja hai aaj, Ismat ko bhej dijiye (Lakshmi puja is about to begin, please send Ismat to our house)." I was four years old, and had been summoned to a Lakshmi puja, a Hindu prayer being held in Kapashera, a Hindu-majority area near Gurgaon (now Gurugram), Haryana. My mother picked out my best frock, dressed me up, put a red bindi on my forehead and dropped me next door, where the puja was being conducted. "When you went and sat for the puja, you said bismillah before starting with the bhajan - you used to always mix up these things," she tells me now. I sat for some time in the puja, singing chants. Finally, after the puja was over, I was given a thali, a plate, and asked to roam around the neighbourhood, seeking coins of Re 1 and Rs 2 from neighbouring

houses as "dakshina" - a big amount for me that time, because it would buy me many Kismi toffees from the nearby shops. I was, like other young girls, treated like an avatar of Goddess Lakshmi, in whose honour the puja was conducted. Over the years that we lived in that neighbourhood, it became customary for me to sit for pujas, especially for Lakshmi puja. Sitting in front of the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, after the puja was over, I would often put my two little hands together and when everybody else closed their eyes to pray with their joined hands, I would make dua. My palms would be facing me, only half folded. It was an obvious result of mixed teachings. Ritu ki mummy (Ritu's mother) would read me passages from the Gita and other Hindu scriptures, while I picked up the dua gesture from seeing people in my family offer namaz. Was it a crime I was committing? Or even worse, was it a sin? After Faisal Khan, an activist from the organisation Khudai Khidmatgar was recently arrested for offering namaz in a temple compound in Mathura, these thoughts became inevitable. My parents now tell me that for a brief moment after each puja, when I returned from, they would be worried that I will lose out on Islamic practices such as namaz or fasting during Ramzan. I was more comfortable saying namaste or "Ram Ram," as was the custom in Kapashera, than salam as a child, they tell me. And this did alarm my parents a little. But Ritu ki mummy loved me immensely and said that it was mandatory that I be part of their pujas, because I brought "life" into their house, and that goddesses loved little girls. The community of Jatts and Gujjars dominating the area had an unstated

rule that my parents understood very well: no non-vegetarian food. Besides a tailor who lived a few kilometres away, ours was the only Muslim family in the locality. Ritu ki mummy, who shared her shaam ki chai (evening tea) strictly at 4 pm with my mother every day, would often tell her, "Eat chicken if you want to. We will not tell anybody. Just make sure you wash everything properly later and don't leave any traces behind." Even though my parents did not dare cook non-vegetarian food out of fear of upsetting our Hindu neighbours, it was still a nice gesture on her part, they say. The acceptance of our Muslim-ness and non-vegetarian-ness by our immediate neighbours, Ritu's mother and Seema's mother, and our cautiousness meant that we had no reason to worry, even though it was the same year that communal riots had occurred in Gujarat. However, there was one incident that my mother recalls that made her question her optimism. A young me had accidentally almost cut off Ritu's mother's finger, which was stuck in the door when I arrived and pushed it - resulting in a lot of blood. For days, my mother was not informed of my little misadventure. After about a week, Ritu casually mentioned the incident to my mother. My mother, alarmed, later had a conversation with my father. "We are adults, we can mould our behaviour to become non-threatening to the neighbours. What about her? She is a kid; she doesn't know how to act... what if something like this happens again and triggers a fight? It will become about our religion, ultimately." However, these thoughts were never permanent, nor were the fears.

Home ministry cites 'acute shortage' of IAS, IPS in J&K and Ladakh, seeks urgent deployment



New Delhi, November 06 : The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written letters to all cadre-controlling authorities, directing them to immediately send IAS, IPS and other all-India service officers on deputation to the union territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh amid an "acute shortage" there. In an Office Memorandum dated 26 October, addressed to all cadre-controlling authorities, the MHA "requested that the willingness of Central Civil Services Officers, selected through Central Civil Exams conducted by the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission)... may please be obtained" for a stint in the two UTs. The MHA asked the authorities to "provide the name(s) of suitable officer(s), eligible for deputation in terms of existing guidelines and willing to serve in the Governments of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh, along with the cadre-controlling authority's consent/no objection and vigilance clearance of the officers at the earliest". The communication, accessed by ThePrint, has been sent to the Railway Board chairman, Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Comptroller Auditor

General of India (CAG), secretaries of the ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Corporate Affairs, and Information and Broadcasting, chairpersons of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), and the Departments of Commerce, Telecommunications and Posts. While J&K has a stipulated cadre strength of 137 IAS officers, there are only 58 serving officers in the cadre. Of these, at least nine are on deputation to the Government of India. The erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated and reorganised last year as the UTs of J&K and Ladakh. Until then, the J&K cadre served Ladakh as well. There is a proposal to merge the J&K cadre with AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Union Territories) in light of the reorganisation, but it has yet to be executed. Shortage of civil servants has been a problem J&K has faced for years, but a former official of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) said the situation is not unique to it. ThePrint contacted the official spokesperson of the J&K government, Rohit Kansal, but he said the administration had no comment on the issue. Approached with queries on why there is a shortage of officers in the UTs, and the status of the proposed cadre merger, MHA spokesperson Nitin Wakankar said he would send the questions to the additional director general in the ministry. By the time of publishing, there was no response. The issue of shortage of officers in Jammu and Kashmir is not new. Sources in the UT administration say very few officers

are sent to J&K every year through direct recruitment. "At an average, four to five officers should be allotted to J&K for a better cadre. But, actually, not more than one or two are allotted," a senior J&K cadre officer said on condition of anonymity. "The retirements in the last 20 years are over four times the intake," the officer stated, adding that the bifurcation of the state has exacerbated the shortage as several officers from the J&K cadre have been moved to Ladakh. According to data analysed by ThePrint, from 1987 - the batch that accounts for the most senior officers of the J&K cadre currently serving in the government - to 2010, only one to two officers were inducted into the cadre most years, with the remaining seeing no inductions at all. However, between 2010 and 2015, the number of officers allotted to this cadre annually rose to four, only to drop again to one or two after 2015. In 2019, only one officer was allotted the J&K cadre. "If you want a well-functioning cadre, you have to allot more people to the state. Otherwise, you will have to depend on officers from other states and other services to come to J&K, and work here," said another IAS officer from the union territory. A former official of the Department of Personnel and Training said J&K is not alone in getting fewer officers than needed. "There are vacancies of IAS and IPS officers across the country. So, while the Centre tries to fill the vacancies for all the states, given that there are massive shortages across the country, it has to allot officers judiciously to each state."



shows a view of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), the main venue of the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIE), in east China's Shanghai

Over 45,000 new Covid-19 cases, 496 deaths take India's tally to 8.22 million

New Delhi, November 04 : There were 45,231 new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and 496 related deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry on Monday morning, which have taken the tally of the world's second worst-hit country to over 8.22 million. The number of active cases stood at 561,908 and India's death toll is at 122,607, the health ministry's data showed at 8am. With 53,285 recoveries in the last 24 hours, 7,544,798 Covid-19 patients have been cured of the viral disease so far, according to the health ministry. The national recovery rate has further improved to 91.68%. The

gap between recovered and active cases is no 6,982,890. On Sunday, there were 7,491,513 recovered cases in total and the ministry said that 76% of these were concentrated in 10 states and Union territories. Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra had contributed the maximum to the new recovered cases with more than 7,000 single day recoveries, it had said on Sunday. Delhi and West Bengal added more than 4,000 to the new recoveries, it also said. On Sunday, the third day in a row, the active cases had dropped below the 600,000 mark after nearly three months, "the progressive decline has been maintained", the ministry had

said. "Presently India's total active caseload is 5,70,458. The active cases have dropped to only 6.97% of the total positive cases of the country demonstrating a steady falling percentage of the total cases," it had said on Sunday. "This sustained achievement is the result of collaborative action by States/UTs under the Centre's strategy of comprehensive testing, timely tracking, quick hospitalization and adherence to the Standard Treatment Protocol which has ensured a standardised quality of medical care across the public and private hospitals and for the home isolation cases," it added.

"Lie After Lie After Lie": TV Networks Break From Live Trump Address

Washington, November 06 : Trump unleashed a flood of incendiary and unsubstantiated claims in a 17-minute address, insisting that Democrats were using "illegal votes" to "steal the election from us." "hington, United States: Several US TV networks late Thursday halted live coverage of Donald Trump's first public appearance since election night after concluding that the president was spreading disinformation. Trump unleashed a flood of incendiary and unsubstantiated claims in a 17-minute address, insisting that Democrats were using "illegal votes" to "steal the election from us." The president spoke as late vote counting in battleground

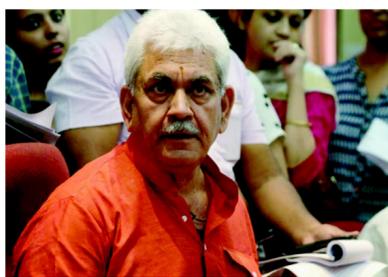
states showed Democrat Joe Biden steadily closing in on victory. "OK, here we are again in the unusual position of not only interrupting the president of the United States but correcting the president of the United States," said MSNBC anchor Brian Williams, as the network quickly ended its live coverage. NBC and ABC News also pulled the plug on their live coverage of Trump. "What a sad night for the United States of America to hear their president say that, to falsely accuse people of trying to steal the election," said CNN's Jake Tapper. He described it as "lie after lie after lie about the election being stolen," with no evidence, "just smears."

COVID-19: Ayush protocol preceded trials

New Delhi, November 06 : Traffic police personnel give samples for Covid-19 tests at a camp in Noida, UP | PTI/By Sumi Sukanya dutta/Express News Service/NEW DELHI: Even as it released full-fledged clinical management protocol for Covid-19 based on Ayurveda, the Centre, in response to a Right to Information query, has said the trials based on which the protocol was issued are still underway. On October 6, the government had recommended the use of common Ayurvedic formulations like Guduchi, and Ashwagandha in treating mild and asymptomatic Covid-19 cases. In the national clinical management protocol for Covid-19 based on Ayurveda and Yoga, released by health minister Harsh Vardhan and AYUSH minister Shripad Naik, specific measures were prescribed for preventing the disease in high-risk people and primary contacts of infected people. However, in reply to an RTI query by activist Vivek Pandey, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences recently said that "most studies are ongoing studies, data analysis is under process and therefore details cannot be provided at this stage." Pandey

had sought details of the research based on which the ayurvedic formulations for Covid and after-care had been prescribed. The recommendations were based on the report by an interdisciplinary committee for integration of Ayurveda and Yoga Interventions in the headed by Dr V M Katoch, former director general of the ICMR. The Centre had maintained that the report was based on acceptable experimental and clinical data and the findings, indicating potential benefits and safety of the medicines, were presented before the National Task Force on Covid-19 and Joint Monitoring Group and subsequently developed into the protocol on the recommendations of NITI Aayog. Based on their recommendations, the AYUSH ministry had constituted a national task force which, in consensus with expert committees from various Ayush research organisations, developed the protocol. Many experts have questioned the move to suggest Ayurvedic concoctions for Covid-19 without following rigorous scientific process and have said it could hamper efforts to control the pandemic in India.

Jammu and Kashmir govt issuing 'disappointing' remarks on issues of Kashmiri migrant employees: BJP



JAMMU, November 06 : BJP spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina has said that the persistent contradictory statements made by the Union Territory administration on issues related to Kashmir migrant employees are "disappointing" and a matter of deep concern. He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to find the reasons for continuous derailing of construction of transit accommodation in the Kashmir Valley for displaced employees. The former MLC said that the deliberate sabotage from within cannot be ruled out as experience forces the

community to be apprehensive again." The persistent contradictory statements from the Union Territory administration with regards to issues related to the displaced community are disappointing and a matter of deep concern," Raina said in a statement here on Thursday. He said that identification of locations, transfer of land to the concerned department and delay in transferring of land on flimsy grounds by the government department also needs to be looked into. He alleged that the administration is issuing conflicting statements, which is causing confusion among the community members. "The latest in the series is the conflicting reports about the transit accommodation being

constructed in the Kashmir Valley for the employees recruited under the Prime Minister's Package," he said. General administrative department (GAD) order of the department of disaster management and relief and rehabilitation (DMRR) issued on November 4 this year according sanction construction of transit accommodation is completely negating assertion of Sinha, he alleged. He said that the GAD sanction order speaks about administrative approval to the construction of 1,648 units at six locations at an estimated cost of Rs 201.60 crore. "However, the LG has on record asserted that transit accommodation for 6,000 employees will be constructed in 18 months," he added. Just a day earlier on November 3, in an interview to leading media outlets, the LG said, "Of 6,000 houses, 5,000 will be constructed within the next one-and-a-half year. The remaining 1,000 houses will also be constructed at the earliest." But the GAD sanction order is for 1,648

units only, he alleged. "Then there is this rider of fulfilment of all codal formalities and procedural norms which the administration is unable and unwilling and uninterested in complying ever since this much-hyped over publicised and unnecessarily delayed package was announced in 2008," Raina alleged. He said there is possibly a deliberate sabotage from within which cannot be ruled out. "Experience forces the community to be apprehensive yet again. It is crystal clear that these codal formalities and procedural norms will not be fulfilled and even 1,648 units will not be constructed in 18 months," he said. Raina said that Sinha needs to find the reasons for continuous derailing of construction of transit accommodation in the Kashmir Valley for Kashmiri migrant employees. "My earnest appeal to the LG is to look into the issue as a priority and constitute a committee to monitor implementation of the much-delayed package," he added.

Rainbow wave' of LGBTQ candidates run and win in 2020 US election

Washington, November 06 : More LGBTQ candidates ran for office in the United States in 2020 than ever before - at least 1,006. That's a 41% increase over the 2018 midterms, according to the LGBTQ Victory Fund. While an estimated 5% of the U.S. population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer, just 0.17% of elected officials across all levels of the American government are LGBTQ. Better political representation could help LGBTQ Americans maintain some of their hard-won rights, which have come under attack over the past four years. Since 2016, the Trump administration has weakened trans-inclusive protections in schools, attempted to remove LGBTQ protections in health care and proposed allowing homeless shelters to turn away transgender people. Marriage equality, too, may be under threat. In early October, Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito suggested that the 2015 decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, which made same-sex marriage legal across the United States, should be overturned. In short, candidates and LGBTQ rights were both on the ballot in the 2020 election, either explicitly or implicitly. While many questions remain undecided at press time, here's the takeaway from four down-ballot races I've been following as a scholar of LGBTQ politics. Democrat Sarah McBride

made history on Tuesday when she won a state Senate seat in Delaware. In doing so, she'll become the United States' highest-ranking transgender elected official and the first openly transgender person to serve in a state Senate anywhere in the nation. McBride defeated Republican Steve Washington. Previously, Danica Roem, a Virginia Democrat who won a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates in 2017, was the highest-ranking transgender person in elected office. Roem was re-elected in 2019. Other transgender women, including Taylor Smalls of Vermont and Stephanie Byers of Kansas, also won state-level races on Tuesday in notable victories. At the start of this election cycle, only three U.S. states - Hawaii, South Dakota and Mississippi - had no openly LGBTQ elected officials at any level of government. This year, candidates in Hawaii and South Dakota hoped to get their states off that list. Democrat Jared Nieuwenhuis of South Dakota was unable to win a seat for state House District 25 to become the state's first openly LGBTQ elected official in the state Legislature. However, in Hawaii, Adrian Tam - who upset a 14-year incumbent in the August Democratic primary for the state House of Representatives - defeated Republican Nicholas Ochs, making him Hawaii's only

openly LGBTQ elected official. One Georgia Senate race remained undecided on election night. The other - an unusual race called a "jungle primary" between Republican Sen.

Public notice

I Sri Lisha Sharma of Nalbari town have changed my title as Lisha Jain through an affidavit before the notary Nalbari. I will be known as Lisha Jain from today.

**Lisha Jain
W/O Rahul Jain
Ward no: 4
Milanpur, Nalbari.**



A worker cleans and disinfects a Doraemon figure at the Doraemon's Time-Travelling Adventures in Singapore exhibition held at the National Museum of Singapore

নিবিদা জাননী :

ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা লাহৰীঘাট উচ্চতৰ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ৰ মুঠ ৬১৯ জন ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীৰ একা-পোচাক যোগান ধৰাৰ বাবে পঞ্জীয়নকৃত ফৰ্মৰ পৰা নিবিদা বিচৰা হৈছে।

নিবিদাৰ লগত তলত উল্লেখ কৰা নথি-পত্ৰসমূহ গাঠি দিব লাগিব।

(১) Quotation, (২) Farm Registration Copy,
(৩) G.S.T. Copy, (৪) Income Tax Copy,
(৫) Pan Card, (৬) Trade License.

আবেদনৰ লগত যাৱতীয় তথ্যপাতি ইং ১৪/১১/২০২০ তাৰিখৰ ভিতৰত বিদ্যালয়ৰ কাৰ্যালয়ত জমা দিব লাগিব।

যোগাযোগৰ ঠিকনাঃ

অধ্যক্ষৰ কাৰ্যালয়
লাহৰীঘাট উচ্চতৰ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়
লাহৰীঘাট, মৰিগাঁও (অসম)
ম'বাইল নং- ৯১০১১৭৮৩১৪
৭০০২৩৪০৫৩

বিঃদ্রঃ বিতং তথ্য আৰু সবিশেষ (Guideline) ৰ বাবে অধ্যক্ষৰ কাৰ্যালয়ত যোগাযোগ কৰক।

Contd. From Page 1

Gauhati HC Orders State EC

Sarma during a public meeting in Mazbat in Udalguri district of Assam said that a BJP member will become the new chief of BTC on 15 December in Kokrajhar. Sarma, overwhelmed with the love showered by the people of Udalguri said that he is confident that BJP alone will form the government in the BTAD area this year. "BPF sold sour mango thrice to the people living in BTC, but this time people will eat BJP's sweet mango," said the senior BJP leader. "Hagrama remembers all the people living in BTAD including the Gorkhas, Adivasis, and Kalitas only before the election and just after the election is over, he doesn't care what is happening to them or BTC. No roads, no employment, no developmental works have been provided by the current government in the BTC area," Sarma added. Assam BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Dilip Saikia, Pallab Lochan Das, Santosh Kujur, Jitu Kisan, Ganesh Limbu and other party members and well-wishers were present in the public meeting in Mazbat, Udalguri.

Ahead of Diwali, these states

for the citizens to keep in mind while celebrating Diwali. The government cautioned against bursting crackers citing ecological concerns as it damages the environment and adds to the air pollution and noise pollution. In the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic, it cited the health of coronavirus patients both the people who are infected and the ones who have recovered as a concern. The guidelines request the citizens to not burst firecrackers and to celebrate the 'festival of lights' by lighting lamps. Meanwhile, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) imposed a ban on the bursting of firecrackers at public places during Diwali in view of rising COVID-19 cases in the city. Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani announced on Thursday that violators shall be penalized and the SOPs in this regard would be issued shortly. The BMC said that the ban has been proposed in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the early winter that has set in. A BMC official said that bursting firecrackers would release a lot of smoke and other pollutants which would adversely impact the health of COVID-19 patients and increase the risk of infection among the other high-risk categories like children or senior citizens. Karnataka: Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on November 6 said the state government will be issuing an order banning the use of firecrackers during Diwali. "We have discussed it (cracker ban), we are taking a decision to ban the use of firecrackers during Deepavali. The government will soon be issuing an order to this effect," Yediyurappa said. Speaking to reporters, he said due to COVID and related reasons the use of firecrackers is being banned this time. State Health Minister K Sudhakar on Thursday said firecrackers can badly impact the health of those who have already been infected by coronavirus. He also said experts have advised to control their use, and a final decision will be taken after consultation with the Chief Minister. West Bengal: The Calcutta High Court on November 5 ordered a ban on bursting of all kinds of crackers or fireworks for Kali Puja, Diwali, and Chhatpuja in West Bengal, besides putting a ban on the sale of firecrackers in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. A division bench of justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee gave the direction while hearing Public Interest Litigations (PILs). Odisha: The Odisha government on November 3 banned the sale and use of firecrackers across the state during the festive season to check air pollution which can aggravate health conditions of COVID-19 patients. The period of the ban is from November 10 to 30, according to a government order. The people of the state burst firecrackers on the occasion of Deepavali and Kartik Purnima, which fell on November 14 and 30 respectively this year. Chief Secretary A K Tripathy issued a direction to prohibit sale and use of firecrackers in all parts of the state from November 10 to 30. "Any person found violating this order shall be punished under the provision of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and other relevant laws," the order said. "Considering the potentially harmful consequences of burning of crackers amidst COVID-19 pandemic situation and approaching winter, Government of Odisha, therefore, prohibits the sale and use of firecrackers from 10th to 30th of November, 2020 in the public interest," the chief secretary said. Rajasthan: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on November 2 announced that the state has taken the decision to ban the sale and bursting of firecrackers. He tweeted, "State govt has taken the decision to ban the sale and bursting of firecrackers in order to protect the health of COVID-19 infected patients & public from poisonous smoke emanating due to fireworks. In this challenging corona pandemic time, protecting lives of ppl is paramount for govt." The chief minister also appealed to people to celebrate Diwali without firecrackers, saying pollution caused by them increases the risk for coronavirus patients. He said as per the advice of medical experts, the festival should be celebrated without crackers. Air pollution is an important cofactor increasing the risk of mortality from COVID-19 as per latest research, the National Green Tribunal was informed on Thursday. Senior advocate Raj Panjwani and advocate Shibhani Ghosh, who has been appointed by the tribunal as amicus curiae in a case related to ban on firecrackers, told a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel that particulate air pollution contributed 15 per cent to COVID-19 mortality worldwide. "The latest research on exposure to air pollution and risk of death from COVID-19 infection suggests that 'air pollution is an important cofactor increasing the risk of mortality from COVID-19'," they said. "The study also states that this finding should provide 'extra motivation for combining ambitious policies to reduce air pollution with measures to control the transmission of COVID-19'. The study estimates that particulate air pollution contributed 15 per cent to COVID-19 mortality worldwide," they added.

India will not accept any shifting

tactical military actions -- spiraling into a larger conflict therefore cannot be discounted," Rawat said. "Our posturing is unambiguous. We will not accept any shifting of the Line of Actual Control," he asserted. Talking about the overall security calculus, Gen Rawat said border confrontations, transgressions and unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted. The Chief of Defence Staff also touched on the issue of cross border terrorism from Pakistan and the way it has been dealt with by the Indian armed forces. His statement came amid an ongoing military talk between India and China at Chushul of Friday. The military level talks underway since 9.30 a.m. were the eighth round. Referring to security challenges, Gen Rawat said the "constant friction" with the two nuclear-armed neighbours (Pakistan and China) poses a danger of regional strategic instability with the potential for escalation. He also suggested that the two countries with whom India had fought wars are increasingly acting in cohesion. The Chief of Defence Staff said the unabated proxy war unleashed by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir accompanied by vicious anti-India rhetoric have taken the ties between the two countries to a new low. India and China have been engaged in a worst seven-month-long border dispute at the LAC. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough. "The surgical strikes after the Uri attack and Balakot air strikes have delivered a strong message that Pakistan no longer enjoys the impunity of pushing terrorists across the LoC under the nuclear bogey," Gen Rawat said at the seminar organised by the National Defence College. He said the new Indian template to deal with terrorism has injected ambiguity and uncertainty in Pakistan, adding India will confront terrorism with a firm hand. The CDS said India understand the importance of leveraging defence diplomacy in building mutual trust and partnerships with strategically important countries. He also said that in the coming years, Indian defence industry will be growing exponentially and contribute to the overall defence preparedness. "The industry will deliver us state-of-art weapons and equipment fully made in India," General Rawat said. The officer said that as India grows in stature, security challenges will rise proportionately.

CM launches website of Sri Sri

with sincerity and futuristic activities. Vice Chancellor of the university JP Verma, registrar Sanjay Dutta, executive member Dr. Paramananda Sonowal, Niranjana Saikia, Prof. MN Dutta etc. were present among others at the launch of the website.

AIUDF plans to contest from

In-charge for Assam. Currently, Badaruddin Ajmal is in Silchar for a four-day-long visit preparing ground for the upcoming election campaign. Ajmal in his meetings with party workers in Silchar has said that AIUDF will win 12 seats in the Barak Valley. After their grand alliance was finalized by the Congress last August, AIUDF President Ajmal has started meetings with party leaders and party legislators. With the aim of defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party in the forthcoming Assam Assembly elections, the Congress is already allied with Ajmal's AIUDF and the Anchalik Gana Morcha (AGM), led by journalist-turned Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Kumar Bhuyan. The alliance was formally sealed on 3 November in the presence of Jitendra Singh, General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee and In Charge, Assam. Meanwhile, after its alliance with Congress, Ajmal-led AIUDF has become increasingly aggressive. The AIUDF has so far referred the Congress as their Big Brother, although they yearn to be the Big Brother (kingmaker) after the Assam Assembly elections.

Assam Govt Rejects NGT's Order

tribunal has already issued notices to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, while, it has observed that Rajasthan and Odisha have ordered for the ban on sale and use of firecrackers this year. The tribunal said, "The scope of proceedings may need to be extended beyond NCR so as to suggest that in all the concerned states where air quality is not satisfactory may consider taking action on the pattern of action taken by the states of Odisha and Rajasthan." As per reports, the panel has sought replies from Assam, Chandigarh, Bihar, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal as the air quality in these state is poorer than the permissible limits.

Jan Andolan Campaign on COVID-19 to begin in Hailakandi

Hailakandi, Nov. 6 : The Hailakandi district administration has asked the health authorities and all heads of offices to take immediate steps for a Jan Andolan Campaign on COVID-19. In a letter to the Joint Director, Health Services and all district heads of government establishments here on Thursday, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Health, NK Shah directed them to generate a mass movement (Jan Andolan) on COVID-19 and to ensure strict compliance of State and Central Government instructions to prevent the spread of the deadly virus. The three key messages of the Jan Andolan Campaign on COVID-19 are wearing mask, following physical distancing and maintaining hand hygiene. As part of the campaign, a pledge has to be taken by all employees of the government offices, PSUs, grassroot organisations and frontline workers for remaining vigilant and in adopting precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease and to encourage others to follow the key COVID Appropriate Behaviours to win the fight against the disease. It may be mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Jan Andolan Campaign on COVID-19 on October 8. A low cost, high intensity campaign driven by people's participation for dissemination of information on COVID-19 using all media platforms. It aims at 'unlocking with precautions' that is COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour in the New Normal. The district administration has already constituted a five-member district level committee for public health response to COVID-19 on October 16.

ASDC demand immediate eviction in Daldali Reserve Forest area of Karbi Anglong bordering Dimapur Town

Diphu, November 06: Regional Party of Karbi Anglong, Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) has demand to take immediate eviction to curb the illegal encroachment came from Nagaland in Daldali Reserve Forest area of Karbi Anglong bordering Dimapur Town. In this regard ASDC lead by its President ex-MLA Chandra Kanta Terang along with ex-MLA Hemsing Tisso has submitted memorandum to in favour of the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and Deputy Commissioner of Karbi Anglong. In the memorandum given by ASDC stated that there are large scale encroachment in Daldali Reserve Forest area Karbi Anglong bordering Dimapur Town by Nagaland government. People from Dimapur town of Nagaland and its adjacent area back by the government of Nagaland have been encroaching large track of land belonging to Karbi Anglong in the most organized and concerted manner continuously for a long period of time. Border pillars were removed, roads were constructed and Indian Reserve Battalion Camp was set up inside Karbi Anglong, construction of electric post by Nagaland government and Forest Patrolling Roads constructed by Karbi Anglong were obstructed. All these activities by encroachers from Nagaland are surprisingly happening in a Forest land which is illegal and forbidden as per law. That the area in question is not only a reserve forest but it is also interstate border with state of Nagaland and as such it is responsibility of the state government to look into the matter and for that matter it is the responsibility of the concerned government machinery and KAAC to bring to the notice of the state government about the encroachment by the people from Nagaland. The magnitude of the encroachment has been increasing with its passing day and if no step is taken from the authority, then it may come when the area of encroachment may reach within few kilometers of Diphu town. So, to protect the land of Karbi Anglong from the hands of illegal encroacher, it needs to take immediate steps by evicting the area, as mentioned in the memorandum.

Written test for posts of accountant, computer operator on November 22

Hailakandi, Nov. 6 : The written test for selection of shortlisted candidates for posts of accountant and computer operator under CMMU, DAY-NULM will be held here on November 22. Chairperson, District Level Selection Committee, CMMU, DAY-NULM informed that the online screening test of the shortlisted candidates held on October 11 at SS College, Hailakandi, has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances and the date for fresh written exam is slated for November 22 at the same venue. All the shortlisted applicants are requested to check their individual e mail or download their respective admit cards by logging on to: https://niyukti.assam.gov.in/nulm_hailakandi This is stated in a Press Release issued by the DIPRO, Hailakandi.

Gauhati HC Takes Up Bail Plea Of Akhil Gogoi, Next Hearing On Nov 19

Guwahati, Nov. 6 : The Gauhati High Court on Friday has taken up the plea seeking bail of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) chief Akhil Gogoi under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The court is scheduled for the next hearing on November 19. Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi presented that the witness's statement was not enough to file a case under the UAPA against Akhil. A division bench of Guwahati High Court comprising justices Kalyan Roy Surana and Ajit Borthakur heard Gogoi's bail plea. Senior Supreme Court advocate Ahmadi from Delhi represented Gogoi and argued for about three hours. It may be mentioned that Advocate Ahmadi argued that the testimony of two key witnesses on the basis of which a chargesheet has been filed against Gogoi under the Criminal Activities Prevent Act is not enough. The senior advocate pointed out some information based on the statement of the two witnesses concealed by the investigating agency. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta is likely to argue in the next hearing for the investigating agency NIA on November 19.

Balipara Foundation to organise 8th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics TM Forum 2020 in December

Guwahati, November 06 : A pandemic. A clarion call. A reality to address Ecological Leadership over Economic destruction. Balipara Foundation is pleased to announce the 8th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum 2020 and the first virtual edition of - Ecology is Economy from 1st to 5th December across 12 Eastern Himalayan capitals and 20 global locations. Since its inception in 2013, the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, organised by Balipara Foundation, has been addressing conservation challenges through the framework of Rural Futures and Naturenomics™, to put nature back into economics and now to seize this opportunity. This year, in its one-of-a-kind virtual avatar, the objective of the forum is the 'Nature Action Agenda' - the Ecology is Economy plan, with the vision to discuss pressing issues and opportunities for action in ecology, economy and community-centered conservation. With support from our principal partner and mentor - Tata Steel Foundation, Naturenomics™ Partner - Tata Consumers Products Limited, the goal is to generate recommendations for communities, businesses, governments, social and conservation non-profits to collaborate on transitioning to a green circular economy. Requiring collective action and interconnected cooperation the world over, the road to recovery with Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum will open the window for dotting the plans and steps in enhancing Ecology in Economy. "Ecology is the foundation of our economy. 60% of India's GDP depends on nature. Healthy ecosystems make life on earth possible, feed us and give us water. The future of our country depends on the future of our ecosystem" - Ranjit Barthakur, Founder, Balipara Foundation sharing his views on theme of the forum this year. The virtual conference will see above 60 eminent personalities from multi-disciplinary fields, across 20 countries like Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Netherlands, USA, UK, Japan, Philippines, Chile, Argentina, India, Hongkong, Congo, Korea, Bhutan and more, who will engage on the discourse on the opportunity to tackle this ecological crisis and catalyze green growth. Some eminent personalities to attend the 5-day forum are Paul Polman, Co-founder and Chair of IMAGINE, UK, Prof. Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Renowned Historian & Author, India, Vandana Shiva, Food Sovereignty Leader - Navdanya, India, Desiree Driesenaar, External Expert - Blue Economy with European Commission, Netherlands, Adele Jones, Sustainable Food Trust, UK, Sonam Wangyel, Korea University, Korea, N.G. Subramaniam, Chief Operating Officer, Tata Consultancy Services, India, Mark Gough, CEO - Capital Coalition, UK, Bhupesh Chaudhary, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Mizoram, India, Stephen Ferns, Ark 2030, Switzerland, Alex Robinson, Page 1 of 2 Director - Nature Capital, UK, Vivek Pathak, Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific, International Finance Corporation, Hong Kong, and eminent members from the global political, bureaucratic and corporate leadership - Google, Facebook, Infosys, Unilever, Tata Group, Dannon, L'Oréal, Walmart, Procter & Gamble and many others. As frightful tremors of the COVID-19 pandemic are felt across the world causing devastation and unprecedent paradigm shifts across nations, economies, industries, cultures and societies, human kind has been unpleasantly received a wakeup call, a mighty jolt, to face the dysfunctional nature of its existence. As individuals and nations alike face the pressure of the unfolding pandemic, it is the unique circumstance of our time in history to understand, transform and embrace the opportunity to re-shape and re-design the future of our being. This comes with a truer and deeper understanding of the nature of our interdependence - towards resilience, participation, and sustainability. The goal through the Forum is to generate recommendations for communities, businesses, governments, social and conservation nonprofits to collaborate on transitioning to a green, circular economy. The forum will end with the virtual Balipara Foundation Awards on 5th Dec, which will recognize extraordinary visionaries of the Eastern Himalayas and their indomitable contribution, who continue to live in harmony with nature and adopt sustainable methods for greening the economy. As part of the Rabindranath Barthakur Memorial Lecture, Renowned historian, and author Rudrangshu Mukherjee will deliver the key leadership address - Ecology is Economy, from a historian perspective and how the most critical imperative is to create an enduring change for the planet, is recognizing that Ecology is Economy. Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ Forum, an auxiliary of Balipara Foundation, is the largest forum of its kind in the region, dedicated towards community building in Asia. Balipara Foundation, launched in 2007, works in collaboration with local communities to establish Naturenomics™ Civilizations - a global vision for an ecologically regenerative, community-centric model of economy through afforestation, access to potable water, healthcare, and sustainable housing. The Balipara Foundation has successfully created 2 million natural assets by 2020, through the Rural Futures programme, with partnership with the forest fringe communities. Balipara Foundation invites interested participants to visit www.baliparafoundation.com or www.ehnf2020.virtualmnc.com and register themselves for free to attend the forum during 1st-5th December 2020

Forest personnel on charge of IPL gambling arrested at Nagaon

A correspondent : NAGAON, Nov 6: Nagaon police on charge of IPL gambling, arrested one forest personnel on Thursday last. According to sources, the arrested forest personnel has been identified as Wahidur Rahman of Nagaon wildlife forest division. Police appeared him before court and police remanded him for two days, the sources added.

Biswanath AJYCP burnt effigies

A CORRESPONDENT :

BISWANATH CHARIALI,

Nov 6: As a protest against

the failure of the state government

over the price rise of daily commodities,

the Dakshin Chariali regional committee

of Asom Jatiyatbadi Yuba Chatra Parishad

(AJYCP) along with Biswanath Chariali sub

divisional committee of AJYCP staged a demonstration

in the mid way of Biswanath Chariali town

on November 6. During the demonstration,

the protesters had burnt down the effigies of Assam Chief

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Supply Minister Phanibhushan Choudhuri.

The protestors shouted slogans against the government and demanded immediate action about price hike. The programme was attended by Amarjyoti Bora,

president in charge of Biswanath district AJYCP, Diganta Baruah, secretary, Nihar Saikia; Joint secretary along with other office bearers.

Court records statements of two eye witnesses to Abhi - Nil mob lynching case

A correspondent : NAGAON, Nov 6: After postponed of court proceedings due to COVID 19 pandemic situation for several months, Nagaon court today recorded the statements of two eye witnesses of the sensational Abhijit - Nilutpal mob lynching case today.

The two eye witnesses to the gruesome murder of the two Guwahati based youths Abhijit Nath and Nilutpal Das - Raju Basumatary and Mangal Teron recorded their respective statements in the court.

It may be mentioned that a mob from Panjuri village near Dokmoka in Karbi Anglong district on June 8, 2018, indiscriminately lynched both Abhijit Nath and Nilutpal Das, suspecting them as child traffickers when they were on the way back to Guwahati from a picnic spot near Dokmoka.



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus returns with a bang in win over Olympiakos

Manchester, November 06 : Manchester City have a maximum nine points in a group stage that is going perfectly. Factor in a fine display from Ferran Torres at centre-forward and Gabriel Jesus's goal-scoring appearance as a substitute following a long lay-off and Pep Guardiola was left pleased. His team are rolling along impressively, showing signs of the formidable force they can be. After this victory over Olympiakos a draw in the reverse fixture in Greece guarantees passage to the knockout phase. "We need one more point to qualify," Guardiola said. "Now we have four or five days to recover well, have one day off, and prepare for Liverpool [on Sunday]. It is good news that Gabriel is back. And, in the first half, we were really good. "The impressive Torres's opening goal made it a third scoring game in a row for him in the Champions League. "He moved really well without and with the ball," said the manager. From kick-off to the interval City swarmed all over their visitors, the ball being pinged around at will, exemplified when Ilkay Gündogan chipped towards Raheem Sterling and Olympiakos were fortunate no teammate was found. What they did not require was Rúben Semedo to dribble near his penalty spot and run straight into Kevin De Bruyne. This time Pedro Martins's side escaped but moments later they did not. Gündogan tapped to Riyad Mahrez and he passed inside to Torres. A quick one-two with De Bruyne and the forward was in and firing past José Sá to put City in front. Olympiakos were befuddled, dazed. Possession was scarce and ill-used



when it occurred, such as when Mathieu Valbuena had a chance to cross but spooned the ball into Ederson's hands. John Stones and Nathan Aké, who was making his Champions League debut, were spectators at the back called upon occasionally to trade passes before allowing Gündogan, Phil Foden and De Bruyne to move the side upfield. Better came from Olympiakos when Valbuena, his radar adjusted, floated in a teaser for Lazar Randjelovic to run on to - Ederson managed to collect but it was marginal. Torres, though, was proving irresistible, flitting around the frontline to receive and open up space for teammates. Sterling beat Sá but was ruled offside and so City's supremacy still had only the opener to show for it. An Oleksandr Zinchenko-Mahrez-Foden sequence ended with the ball fizzing before the visiting keeper but once more the Greek side did not concede. Guardiola was frustrated at his team's slender lead as the second half kicked off. And he would have been conscious of his side's vulnerability to the quick

"If one team was going to score it was going to be Olympiakos," said Martins of that juncture in the contest. Yet Jesus's introduction for the closing phase was welcome and confirmed the win, though Olympiakos did still threaten sporadically. A José Holebas surge took him beyond Kyle Walker but the former Watford player did not trouble Ederson before, at the other end, De Bruyne joined Torres on a break and collected the latter's pass though he unloaded a shot straight into Sá's hands. With around nine minutes remaining De Bruyne turned provider, his pass being taken by Jesus and, after a shimmy, the City No 9 smashed the ball into the roof of Sá's net. "It was an amazing finish, hard for the keeper," said the Brazilian. João Cancelo wrapped up the scoring with a long-range shot in the last minute. Guardiola said. "There is one more game before the [international] break. Now is the time to enjoy tonight, nine points. And then tomorrow we recover. I'm delighted with the situation we have - and there is sunshine [forecast] in Manchester for the next few days." City are hitting top gear at the right moment, but Liverpool on Sunday will be a far sterner test.

Don Talbot, mastermind behind Australia's golden swimming era, dies aged 87

Paris, November 06 : Don Talbot is being remembered as a "coaching magician" after the former Australian swimming mentor and inaugural Australian Institute of Sport director passed away on Tuesday, aged 87. He International Swimming Hall of Fame member first took charge of Australia's swim team in the 1960s and held official titles at seven Olympic Games. He also enjoyed stints with both Canada and the United States and was named the inaugural director of the Australian Institute of Sport in 1980. The master strategist returned as Australian swimming's head coach in 1989, overseeing a resurgence that culminated in 18 medals - five of them gold - at Sydney's 2000 Olympics. Australia then topped the medal count at Japan's 2001 world championships, the Fukuoka meet marking the country's first defeat of the Americans in the pool since Melbourne's 1956 Games. Originally a teacher, Talbot made his name as a swimming coach by steering Latvian-born siblings John and Ilsa Konrads to world records in the 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle. Talbot was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1990, current chairman John Bertrand on Wednesday remembering a "fiercely loyal



and supportive" coach who transformed his domain. "Don Talbot was at the helm of Australia's golden swimming era," he said. "A coaching magician who returned the Australian national squad to its best results in over 30 years at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, he changed the way people thought about high performance. "We have much to thank Don for and his legacy will remain as one of Australia's most successful swimming coaches and a true inspiration. He will be missed by all, in and out of the pool around the world." Talbot served on six Commonwealth Games teams - three as head coach and three as coach - and held a staunch belief that Australia should be the world's No 1 swimming nation given its proximity to water. Respected US-based Swimming World Magazine described Talbot as "a giant in coaching" while Swimming Canada sent their "thoughts to his family and friends in a tribute on Twitter."

Andrew Yang wants to take the fight to Dana White's UFC



London, November 06 : The former Democratic presidential candidate has been hotly tipped to serve in the cabinet of a Biden administration, where an overhaul of professional MMA could be a top priority. "You do karate, chink?" the biggest bully barked at Andrew Yang, as he kneed the future 2020 US presidential candidate in his groin and sent him face-first into the schoolyard dirt. It was a taunting question Yang's tormentors often asked him before they beat up the town's only Asian kid. Yang was an easy target. He was smaller and scrawny compared to his peers - something he couldn't help because he'd skipped a grade to join them. Yang endured years of beatings, until he decided to take his aggressors' advice and train in a martial art. It took a few years, but by age 14, Yang was able to do something he hadn't before. He won a fight. "Someone picked a fight with me and I surprised them because I started to fight back," Yang told the Guardian. "He hit me first and didn't expect me to hit back. He seemed really surprised by the suddenness of it." It wasn't a long affair, but it ended with Yang having been pulled off his attacker by the other astonished schoolchildren. What does Yang's experience have to do with sports? For mixed martial arts, it turns out a whole lot. As an active campaign surrogate on the trail, Yang is reportedly high on Joe Biden's list of potential cabinet appointees should the former vice-president win Tuesday's presidential election. Depending on his placement, Yang believes

he could get the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, which establishes federal protections for boxers, extended to MMA within the next two years. All MMA promotions would be affected by the new regulations, but none so much as the UFC, which enjoys a global lion's share of the sport's overall profits. Yang, who studied kung fu and competed in taekwondo through his early 20s, loves watching UFC fights. He got hooked on a reality show called The Ultimate Fighter in 2005 and was immediately drawn to it. The brainchild of the UFC, TUF is widely credited with introducing mixed martial arts to a new generation of fans who supported and sustained the new sport as it punched, kicked and choked its way into mainstream consciousness in the mid-2000s. Yang was among that crucial generation. He waxed about the first live TUF finale pitting Forrest Griffin against Stephan Bonnar - a barn-burner that became water-cooler fodder that Monday and convinced Spike TV to sign TUF up for a few more seasons. Yang even had his bachelor party at a UFC event in Las Vegas. As Yang's appreciation for MMA grew, so did his connection to the fighters and his curiosity as to how it all worked. Many state athletic commissions are required to provide a list of the fighters' purses. When Yang looked at one, his jaw dropped. The numbers just didn't add up. "I admire the fighters, as they're disciplined in their training," Yang said. "They should not worry about making ends meet when they're one of the top fighters in the world." With data provided last year through discovery in an anti-trust lawsuit currently playing out against the UFC, it can be ascertained that anywhere from 10% to 18% of the UFC's total revenues go to the fighters, as opposed to the 50% athletes get in other major sports. It should be noted that these figures only reflect fighter pay through 2017. Today, more fighters are making million-dollar paydays - newly retired lightweight Kingpin Khabib Nurmagomedov - made at least \$3m (but probably closer to \$10m) for his seven-minute destruction of Justin Gaethé at UFC 254 a week ago. Yet two other fighters on the same card took home purses closer to \$13,500. They should not worry about making ends meet when they're one of the top fighters in the world Yang saw such a discrepancy

in fighter pay that he included 'Empowering MMA Fighters' as one of his presidential campaign platforms. His plan was to bring federal regulation to MMA through the Ali Act, which was passed in 2000 to protect prizefighters from coercive contracts, among other fighter protections when dealing with promoters. "The Ali Act would fundamentally change the UFC's business model," wrote Erik Magraken, a managing partner of the British Columbia litigation firm MacIsaac & Company, who has written extensively on the subject for combatsportslaw.com. "The door would be open for more competition from other promotions. Stars would enjoy market free agency far more frequently and open bidding from multiple promoters would be a reality. Many of the exploitative contract provisions the UFC has used to gain their position in the market would be prohibited." Currently, MMA fighters are widely signed to multi-fight contracts with lengthy duration terms. If a fighter is injured or turns down a bout for another reason, their contract freezes until they become active again. The UFC also has a liberal ability to cut a fighter at any time. "The UFC has such market prominence that they can treat their fighters, even stars, as replaceable cogs in the machine," wrote Magraken. "This option would largely be lost if the Ali Act was in place. Every prominent fighter would force the books to be open. Many fighters would take a stand. "Free of long-term contracts, fighters would have the ability to negotiate one fight at a time and talent would likely spread more evenly across all the sport's promotions. The Ali Act would also address rankings. Unlike boxing, there are no independent organizations to rank the fighters, largely because the UFC hasn't agreed to work with one. The UFC provides its own rankings for the independent media to vote on, though a vast majority do not participate. Recently, welterweight Leon Edwards was abruptly cut from the UFC's rankings, because he wouldn't commit to any of the opponents presented to him. A few hours later Edwards had a new opponent and his name returned to the rankings within hours. "Promoter-controlled titles would be eliminated," wrote Magraken. "Instead, these would be overseen by outside sanctioning organizations. These organizations are regulated under the legislation with requirements for objective ranking criteria and other protection for the fighters - rank and title would become objective property rights of fighters. These could then be used when exploring and negotiating their market worth instead of tools of promotional control." Yang believes this will be a strong start, but federal regulation will be the first swing in a one-two combination. "Applying the Ali Act would be a big step forward, but to me, MMA fighters need either a union or pro association, so they can negotiate for a fairer share of the revenue stream," Yang said. "Big changes need to happen, and I'd like to do this on a human level."

Relief for Real Madrid as Rodrygo seals rollercoaster win over Internazionale



London, November 06 : When at last the final whistle went, Zinedine Zidane turned to his right, Antonio Conte turned to his left and they turned the tunnel together. Former teammates, they embraced, each man knowing that he could have been in the other's shoes at the end of a tense, open and unpredictable night. A game that both teams needed to win and both could have won ultimately ended with Real Madrid defeating Internazionale 3-2. Victory came thanks to a superb goal from the substitute Rodrygo who, asked afterwards if he was happy or relieved, replied "both". That made sense: his winning goal had come when Madrid, who came into this game with a single point, were most under pressure; it also lifted them off the bottom of the group and left Inter there instead. It could have gone either way, until Vinicius delivered the ball from which Rodrygo changed the match and the shape of things to come. This was dynamic and open from the start, Samir Handanovic tipping over from Marco Asensio as early as the fourth minute and then seeing Fede Valverde's delivery drop dangerously inside the six-yard box before

Valverde struck over. The scoreboard - an old-style square with dotted numbers straight out of a Subbuteo stadium - signalled just six minutes gone, and within three more Nicolò Barrelo had headed Ivan Perisic's clipped cross off the bar. A moment later, Thibaut Courtois saved from Lautaro Martínez. That first Inter advance came from a route that was to become familiar - Achraf Hakimi sprinting into space on the right. His most decisive contribution, though, was to accidentally set up the opening goal for Madrid after 24 minutes. Hakimi, who played at this training ground every day for 12 years having joined the club at the age of eight, delivered a back-pass that ended up being the perfect through ball, bending into the path around Handanovic and rolled into an open net. An error had always seemed possible, if not necessarily like that. Inter were determined to play the ball out from very deep, dangling the bait, drawing Madrid in and then releasing the ball beyond that first line of pressure into the space beyond. It worked often, but it was a fine line that contributed to a fine game, particularly on a slick surface. There were opportunities at both ends. Arturo Vidal had already hit into the side-netting and Hakimi had dashed beyond Ferland Mendy, but now Inter trailed. Soon it was 2-0, Sergio Ramos heading in from a corner. Inter weren't done. An astonishing backheel volley from Barrelo that drew gasps from the few people inside this ground concluded a cir-

cuit of possession and set up Martínez, rushing into the area. His finish was worthy of the pass, the first time shot as hard as it was accurate. And a moment later, he almost sent Hakimi away again, but Thibaut Courtois was out quickly. That momentum remained deep into the second half. As Inter stepped up, pushing ever higher, now it was Madrid playing from very deep: partly inviting pressure, partly subjected to it. The difference was that Madrid weren't really finding a way out, unable to connect with the men waiting further up. The one time they did, Lucas Vázquez shot just wide. And although Inter were not making clear chances, when the goal arrived on 67 minutes it was no great surprise. Nor should it have been the end of it. Arturo Vidal lifted the ball into the area where Martínez expertly brought it down for Perisic, who turned away from Vázquez and cut the shot into the corner. Inter almost took the lead when Ashley Young sought Hakimi. Then, as the pitch opened even more and they began dashing right through it and leaving Madrid's defence exposed, they passed up clear opportunities. Martínez bent the first past a post when he might have passed. He then did deliver the second, struck just wide by Perisic. They paid for it. Zidane sent for the boys from Brazil, Vinicius and Rodrygo introduced. And just when Madrid were at their most desperate, Inter gathering pace, Valverde released Vinicius. He ran up the right and pulled back the perfect pass for Rodrygo to slip in the knife.

Vuelta a España: Roglic wins his fourth stage and reclaims red jersey

Paris, November 06 : Primoz Roglic reclaimed the Vuelta a España overall lead when he won the 13th stage, a 33.7km time-trial ending with a sharp climb up to the Mirador de Ézaro at an average gradient of 14.8%. The Slovenian looked nothing like the rider who lost the Tour de France yellow jersey on the final time-trial, crushing the pedals in the last ascent to clock 46 minutes, 39 seconds and beat Will Barta by just one second. Richard



Carapaz (Ineos-Grenadiers), who started the day in the red jersey, limited the damage to finish seventh, 49 seconds off the pace. He dropped to second overall, 39 seconds be-

hind defending champion Roglic of Jumbo-Visma. Britain's Hugh Carthy, who surged into contention with an impressive win on the Angliru in the 12th stage on Sunday, was on-par with Roglic in the first part of the solo effort against the clock but the EF Education First rider conceded 25 seconds up to the line. Carthy remains third overall, 47 seconds adrift. "It's beautiful, eh?" Roglic told Eurosport. "It's a long time since I won a time-trial.

I felt strong, surprisingly. I thought I would suffer a lot more." Wednesday's 14th stage is the first of three hilly rides before the top contenders go all in on the 17th stage, which finishes at top of the Alto de la Covatilla on Saturday. Earlier, race organisers announced that all riders and other members of the 'race bubble' were tested for coronavirus, for a fourth time, on their rest day. All 681 tests came back negative.

Diogo Jota shows pedigree with terrific treble in Liverpool's trip to Bergamo

London, November 06 : Diogo Jota's superb hat-trick lit up Liverpool's 5-0 Champions League thrashing of Atalanta on Tuesday and served further notice to the club's famed frontline that the Portuguese striker does not intend to play solely a supporting role. Liverpool face Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday and it now seems almost unthinkable that Jota's name will not be in the starting lineup. That may have seemed unlikely at the start of the season when Liverpool signed the 23-year-old from Wolverhampton Wanderers to provide competition to Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane, and Roberto Firmino, who had developed into one of the most feared attacking trios in football. With Firmino's form under the



spotlight after an underwhelming start to the campaign, Jota slotted in alongside Salah and Mane against Atalanta and put on a clinical display of finishing before being replaced by Firmino in the 65th minute. "I'm playing in the best team of my career so far, that's for sure. I don't know if it was my best

moment, but obviously scoring goals is my way of playing football, so I'm really happy with it," Jota told BT Sport. Eyebrows were raised when Liverpool splashed a reported 41 million pounds (\$54 million) to secure the signature of Jota, who scored 16 goals - nine of them in the Europa League - for

Wolves last season. He has already begun paying back that fee in earnest with seven goals in 10 games, and he tormented the Atalanta defence together with Mane and Salah. "Obviously (they are) two world-class players, we all know their quality makes it easy for me to do my job because they are outstanding players," he explained. Jota is swiftly developing a taste for European competition having scored three hat-tricks in the Champions League and Europa League combined since the start of last season - the only player to have done so more than once. With a trip to Manchester City to come on Sunday, the Portuguese picked the perfect moment to stake his claim to a starting spot. Liverpool manager

Jürgen Klopp hailed Jota's recent form but said Firmino's influence on the team's success should not be forgotten. "Good performances never give me headaches... The world is sometimes a really bad place that in the moment when somebody is shining, we speak immediately about another player who played for us, it feels like, 500 games in a row," Klopp said. "We would not be in the Champions League if Firmino would not be with us. And immediately I have to explain why he is not in the team. It's important we have more than 11 players and tonight Diogo used his shape in an incredible way and played a super, super game. But that says nothing about Bobby and has nothing to do with causing me headaches."

Simona Halep tests positive for COVID-19, says she's 'recovering well'



Paris, November 06 : Simona Halep, who is ranked two in the world, tested positive for the novel coronavirus and is recovering well from her mild symptoms. "Hi everyone, I wanted to let you know that I tested positive for COVID-19," the 29-year-old Romanian said on Twitter on Saturday. "I am self-isolating at home and am recovering well from mild symptoms. I feel good... we will get through this together." The former world number one did not travel to New York for this year's U.S. Open Grand Slam due to health concerns over the pandemic. Halep, who won the French Open in 2018 and is the reigning Wimbledon champion, made the trip to Paris for the claycourt Grand Slam but went down to eventual champion Iga Swiatek in the fourth round at Roland Garros this month. The Women's WTA Tour has a tournament scheduled in Austria from Nov. 9 but Halep had said her 2020 season was over following her French Open defeat.

SRH vs MI: We approach each game with never-say-die attitude, David Warner

London, November 06 : Warner (85 not out off 57) and Wriddhiman Saha (58 not out off 45) lit up the last league game of the tournament with an unbeaten 151-run opening stand to chase down a 150-run target in 17.1 overs. "It feels good now after that dreadful loss against KXIP. They (MI) rested a few players but to hold them to 150 on this ground was great. A lot of credit goes to the bowlers, (Shahbaz) Nadeem was superb. "We were trying to be as clinical with the bat then, and it feels good," he said at the post-match presentation. It was a third straight win for SRH who had to beat Mumbai to qualify. "We have a never say die attitude and that is how we approach each game. We had a couple of injuries but they are here in spirit and we are doing it for them. If we can take this performance and momentum into the next game we'll be really happy. "... We looked at 2016, we were in the same situation where we had to win every game to win the title. A dropped chance by Rashid Khan and his reaction shows how much it means to him. If we can take this performance and momentum into the next game we'll be really happy." On his performance, he said: "I pride myself on getting my team to a great start. That is my duty, my job. Fortunately, the last few games have been great and we have been able to go in a positive manner." SRH finished third in the points table with 14 points and a much better run-rate than Royal Challengers Bangalore, who finished fourth on the same number of points. Both teams play the eliminator in Abu Dhabi on Friday. "RCB are a great team, very well led by Virat (Kohli).

Diego Maradona surgery for bleeding on brain ends with success



London, November 06 : Diego Maradona has had successful surgery for possible bleeding on his brain less than a week after his 60th birthday. "It was all successful and it happened as expected," Maradona's public relations team said in a statement Tuesday night. Maradona had a subdural hematoma, which is an accumulation of blood between a membrane and his brain, his personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, said. Luque, a neurologist, said the problem likely was caused by an accident, but Maradona said he doesn't remember the event. The Argentine soccer great will rest in his room in a private clinic outside Buenos Aires for at least 48 hours. Maradona was accompanied to the clinic by his daughters Dalma, Giannina and Jana and other relatives, according to local media. The surgery closed a journey that the 1986 World Cup champion started in another clinic in the city of La Plata, where he was admitted with anemia and dehydration. Donato Villani, the head of the Argentine national team's medical staff, told television channel TyC Sports that such a surgery normally goes well, "but it is different with Diego," citing Maradona's past treatment for cardiac problems and his use of drugs and alcohol. Maradona was admitted to the Ipsena Clinic with signs of depression on Monday. Luque said Maradona, whose "Hand of God" goal in the 1986 World Cup quarterfinal against England is among the most controversial in the tournament's history, had felt sad for about a week and refused to eat before arriving at the clinic. Maradona has lived in La Plata since the end of 2019, when he became coach of Gimnasia y Esgrima. Maradona turned 60 last Friday and showed up that night for Gimnasia's national championship match against Patronato, which his team won 3-0. He left before the end of the first half, which raised questions about his health. Before undergoing surgery on Tuesday, the former star for Barcelona, Napoli and Boca Juniors reported feeling better. "Diego feels much better than yesterday and feels like leaving," Luque said Tuesday morning. "He spent the night well and we have been joking." Maradona led Argentina to a World Cup title in '86. He has continued to cause controversy since his heyday as a player, getting sent home from the 1994 World Cup in the United States and dropping in and out of the game as a coach.

Rusty Sathiyam Gnanasekaran restarts with all-win record

London, November 06 : The sound of drums inside a small table tennis hall can be exhilarating for the initiated. But unnerving for a newcomer. The Sathiyam Gnanasekaran from eight months back - before the coronavirus pandemic - would fall in the former category. He's a veteran in the sport. A World No. 32 who has reached as high as 24, the best-ever for an Indian. But in Gdansk, Poland, where Sathiyam was to play his first competitive match since March, even he was thrown off guard by the drumbeats. "There are normally drums (at events), I'm used to this," he says. "But I hadn't played for so long in this type of setting. In a way, I was re-learning what kind of atmosphere to expect." The restart was rusty, when he turned up for Sokołow SA Jarosław in the Polish Superliga last month. But soon he was in the groove, and by the end of his short stay in Poland, the Indian paddler had a 4-0 record. The biggest challenge for the 27-year-old, however, was mental. "I was worried how the mind and body would react. I had kept expectations low. I stopped comparing myself to what I was before." Physically, however, he says he's better than he has ever been, having worked hard on his fitness during the lockdown. "I feel much stronger, I have greater endurance, the explosiveness has increased,

and it can go on for longer. Now I just need to get more matches." Getting used to the "new normal" was another challenge. Players in the Polish League are allowed to remove their masks only once they're at the table and ready to play. There are no handshakes, with balls and tables sanitised after each set. But the biggest change Sathiyam had to get used to was to refrain from wiping the sweat on his hands on the table. "You're allowed to use a towel after every six points, so it became a habit to rub my hands on the table. Now we're not allowed to do it, but can use the towel whenever required. Weirdly, this was bit of a challenging aspect," he adds. Back in Chennai now, Sathiyam's looking forward to the Tokyo Olympics. And he is inspired more than ever before to make it there. In 2015, he did not attend the tournament that would decide who would contest the final Olympic qualifiers after his father passed away. He and coach S Raman then set their sights on

Tokyo. "My coach was always pushing me. I won something, he'd say, 'ok, what next?' Then top 100, 'what next?' Top 50, 'what next?' Never settling, never being satisfied. Now he's setting a target of breaking into the top 15 and putting up a good performance at the Olympics." The ace paddler has given himself the best opportunity. He's played a lot in the highly-rated German league. He's invested in a robot-essentially a feeder that can alter spin and pace in shots fired at the paddler - and even hired Chinese player Shen Yaohuan to help him train in Chennai. Now Sathiyam's due to play in the Japanese League for Okayama Rivets. It was a move originally scheduled for after Tokyo 2020, but is now an ideal opportunity for him. His teammates include World No. 13 (formerly 5) Koki Niwa. And he'll compete against current and former World No. 4s Tomokazu Harimoto and Jun Mizutani respectively.

David Warner leads from the front, Wriddhiman Saha shows T20 credentials against Mumbai Indians

Mumbai, November 06 : David Warner and Wriddhiman Saha made short work of a victory target of 150, as Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets with 17 balls remaining to reach the playoffs in style. SRH had to win their last three group league fixtures to qualify. They lived up to the challenge, knocking Kolkata Knight Riders out in the process. MI weren't full strength for this game. With the Qualifier 1 scheduled for Thursday, they rested Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult and Hardik Pandya. That, however, doesn't dilute SRH's performance, who played aggressive cricket to secure qualification.

Warner's captaincy was top-class. As a batsman, he led from the front to score 85 not out off 58 balls. Saha, on a roll, remained unbeaten on 58 off 45 deliveries. SRH will face Royal Challengers keeping notwithstanding. He is never considered for limited-overs internationals and even his franchise belatedly brought him to the playing XI fold. Jonny Bairstow was SRH's 'keeper-batsman' of choice. After coming back to the team, this was Saha's second half-century in three matches. He had taken a superb catch to dismiss Saurabh Tiwary off Rashid Khan's bowling. Saha started off with a six and four

off Nathan Coulter-Nile before laying into Dhawal Kulkarni. Warner, at the other end, took James Pattinson to the cleaners. The partnership grew from strength to strength and remained unseparated till the end. SRH bowlers set up win Earlier, Rohit Sharma, who was not picked for the tour of Australia last week because of an injury, returned to play for his franchise in their final group league fixture. His innings though was short-lived. On a tacky Sharjah pitch, he charged down the track to play a lofted drive over covers against Jason Holder. Rohit mistimed it and the ball fell just short of Abdul Samad at



sweeper cover. Three balls later, Rohit once again came down the track to Sandeep Sharma. He didn't quite get to the pitch of the ball and checked his shot, and the catch went to Warner at mid-off. Stroke-play was difficult on a slow surface and the conditions suited the SRH bowlers.





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