

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Brendan Fraser won't attend Golden Globes ...

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Owen Farrell eager for action not words as 100th cap beckons



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Militant Group

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 17:

The Assam Police has neutralised the recently-formed militant Adivasi People's Liberation Army (APLA), a top official said on Thursday. Nine cadres of the group were arrested on Wednesday from Golaghat and Karbi Anglong districts and arms and ammunition were recovered from them, he said. Special director general of police G P Singh tweeted "@assampolice has neutralised a newly formed insurgent group APLA from Golaghat and Karbi Anglong area in less than four days. Nine cadres have been detained and weapons seized."

Human trafficking

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 17:

Udalguri Police in Assam on Thursday arrested one person for allegedly being involved in human trafficking. According to officials, the accused had sold off two minor girls in Delhi. A police team arrested the accused from Nonaipara Tea Estate in Paneri in the Udalguri district of the state. Officials identified the accused as Sonu Mukta. During interrogation, Mukta reportedly let out explosive details on camera about a deadly nexus of human traffickers in the state. Police also informed that the accused sold off the two minor girls for a sum of Rs 10,000.

Minor killed

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 17:

Assam Police on Wednesday arrested a 44-year-old man for murdering and attempting to rape a 14-year-old minor girl in Assam's Sonitpur district. According to police, the arrested person was identified as Hazrat Ali, a resident of Bhakumari village under Dhekiajuli police station in Sonitpur district. Ali is a resident of the same village as the victim girl. Police officer Kishore Baruah of Dhekiajuli police station said that the incident occurred at around 5:30 am on November 15 and police arrested the accused person on Wednesday.

Demonetisation: Govt Submits Affidavits to Supreme Court

New Delhi, November 17:

Noting that the demonetisation action should not be seen as a standalone measure, the Centre said it was "one of the critical steps in the series of transformational economic policy steps" and "a major step to fight the menace of fake currency notes, storage of uncounted wealth and financing of subversive activities". The Centre told the Supreme Court it began consultations with the Reserve Bank of India in February 2016 - at least eight months before notifying demonetisation i.e., withdrawal of legal tender character of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, on November 8, 2016. "It was taken after extensive consultation with the RBI and advance preparation... The then Finance Minister had stated in the Parliament... that Government consultation



with RBI began in February 2016; however, the process of the consultation and the decision-making were kept confidential," it said in an affidavit. "The withdrawal... of a significant portion of total currency value was a well-considered decision," the Centre said in the affidavit, which it said should be read as part and parcel of its earlier two affidavits filed on De-

cember 1, 2016, and in October 2018. Defending its action, the Centre said the decision was based on RBI's recommendation for the withdrawal of the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes and its proposed draft scheme for implementation. "The Central Board of the RBI made a specific recommendation to the Central Government for the withdrawal of legal tender character of

the existing series of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 banknotes. The RBI also proposed a draft scheme for the implementation of the recommendation. The recommendation and the draft scheme were duly considered by the Central Government," the Centre said in the affidavit. The final notification published in the Gazette of India was based on this, it added. In this

case, changes were made to the design and specifications of the new bank notes introduced for the supply of currency into the economy. The preparations, therefore, included the finalisation of the new designs, development of security inks and printing plates for the new designs, change in specifications of printing machines and provision of stock with RBI branches in various parts of the country, it said. Noting that the demonetisation action should not be seen as a standalone measure, the Centre said it was "one of the critical steps in the series of transformational

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Xi Jinping was not 'criticising' Justin Trudeau, says China



BEIJING, November 17:

China's foreign ministry on Thursday said Chinese President Xi Jinping was not criticising Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a day after Xi was seen confronting him at the G20 summit over alleged leaks from a meeting they held. Chinese foreign ministry

spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular media briefing that Beijing supports having frank exchanges as long as they are held on an equal basis, and said China hopes Canada will take action to improve bilateral ties. "The video you mentioned was indeed a short conversation

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Veer Savarkar wrote letter to British

'Begged' to remain their most 'obedient' servant: Rahul Gandhi



New Delhi, November 17:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday (November 17, 2022) again targeted Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and said that he helped the British, adding that he wrote a mercy petition to the then rulers. Addressing a press conference during his Bharat

Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra, Gandhi also showed a paper to the media persons, claiming it was a letter written by Veer Savarkar to the British. He reiterated that Savarkar had helped the Britishers. "I will read the last line, which says 'I beg to remain your most obedient servant' and is signed V D Savarkar," Gandhi said. Gandhi said he was of the view that Savarkar signed the letter out of fear and in doing so, betrayed Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Pandit Nehru and other leaders of the free-

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Gyanvapi Mosque Case

Court rejects Masjid committee's petition

Varanasi, November 17:

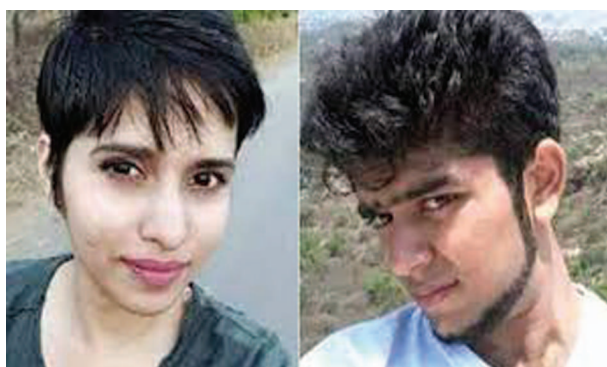
A Civil Fast Track Court in Varanasi on Thursday rejected the Gyanvapi Masjid committee's objection to a petition seeking the right to worship 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the mosque complex. Civil Judge Senior Division Mahendra Kumar Pandey found the petition filed by Kiran Singh worth hearing and fixed December 2 for taking up the matter, Assistant District Government Counsel Sulabh Prakash said. The court re-

jected the objection filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee questioning maintainability of the plea. The suit was filed by Kiran Singh "Bisen," the wife of Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh chief Jitendra Singh Bisen. The decision was postponed for two days by Civil Judge Mahendra Kumar Pandey, who cited the backlog of cases. The suit prays that the possession of the entire Gyanvapi complex be handed over to the Hindus

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Shraddha Walkar murder

Amend laws for stricter punishment in 'love jihad' cases, BJP MLA writes to Yogi Adityanath



Lucknow, November 17:

BJP MLA Rajeshwar Singh on Thursday urged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to amend the state laws dealing with heinous crimes and proposed stricter punishment

for 'love jihad' in view of the gruesome killing of a woman by her inter-faith partner in Delhi recently. He also recommended changes, including fast-track trial, no bail to accused, automatic special protection to witnesses be-

sides death penalty for rape and murder, and life imprisonment for rape in such (love jihad) cases. Love jihad is a term used by right-wing groups and activists to allege a concerted effort by Muslim men to convert Hindu women to Islam through marriage. Demanding amendments to the criminal procedural law, Singh said there is a need to broaden the definition of

allurement in cases of 'love jihad' and it must include marriage, or a promise of marriage or conjugal relationship or live in relationship. A copy of the MLA's letter has also been marked to Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju. "The bone-chilling incident of a Muslim man brutally murdering and then chopping the body of the Hindu girl

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Seven killed, four injured in road accidents in Assam

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 17:

At least seven people were killed and four injured in separate road accidents in different parts of Assam on Thursday, police said. Five people were killed in two accidents in Nalbari district, and one each in hit-and-run cases in Lakhimpur and Nagaon districts, they said. In one



of the accidents in Nalbari, four people were killed and four others injured when the vehicle they were travelling in rammed into the

railing of a bridge in Banekuchi area early in the morning. The vehicle was returning to Guwahati from Howly area in Barpeta district. The passengers were employees of a private hospital in the city. "We suspect it to be a case of over-speeding and there was low visibility due to thick fog. The driver and

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Soon, USB Type-C charger to be mandatory for all smartphones in India including iPhones

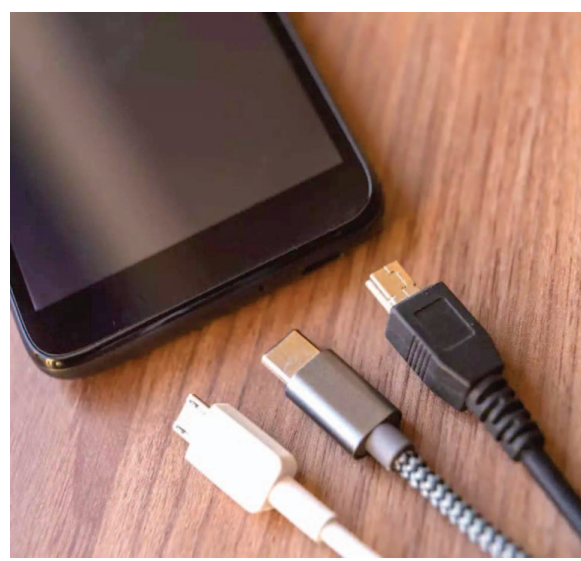
New Delhi, November 17:

By Sneha Saha: India, just like the EU (European Union), will soon move to a common charger policy wherein smartphones, laptops and tablets will need to use the same charging port. With this universal charger policy, consumers will no longer need to buy different chargers every time they buy a new device. The move will reduce the amount of e-waste that the country generates year-on-year.

Now, this comes as bad news for Apple. The decision to build a universal charger policy comes after the government held wide-ranging consultations over the last few weeks. Currently, it is being decided that the common charge rule will be applicable only to smart devices including smartphones, laptops, and tablets. The government is yet to decide on chargers for low-cost feature phones. The goal behind the new charger rule is to reduce the massive amounts of e-waste that

India generates. As per an ASSOCHAM-EY report from Electronic Waste Management in India, the country generated 5 million tonnes of e-waste, which leaves India right behind China and the United States. As per Bloomberg report, consumer affairs secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said that the decision to bring a universal charger policy was made after an internal government meeting. "During the meeting, a

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2 Islamic teachers held for allegedly torturing student in Madrasa



Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 17:

Assam's Cachar police arrested two Islamic religious teachers for alleg-

edly torturing a 14-yr-old student who accused them of teaching Jihad in a Madrasa, officials said. According to the police, two teachers from Swadhin Bazar Islamia Madrasa Ethim Khana, both from Sonai town in Assam were arrested on Wednesday night and an FIR was registered against them after a student's

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Brendan Fraser won't attend Golden Globes after claiming he was sexually assaulted



London, November 17 : Brendan Fraser says he won't attend next year's Golden Globes, even if he's

nominated for his acclaimed performance in *The Whale*, after having alleged that he was sexually

assaulted by the former president of the organisation that runs the awards. In 2018, Fraser publicly alleged that Philip Berk, a longtime Hollywood Foreign Press Association member and a former president of the organisation behind the Globes, once groped him at a lunch in Beverly Hills, in 2003. Fraser has said that the alleged incident was a factor in why he disappeared from Hollywood for so long: "I was blaming myself and I

was miserable - because I was saying, 'This is nothing; this guy reached around and he copped a feel.' ... it made me feel reclusive." In 2018, Berk called Fraser's account "a total fabrication", but acknowledged he had written an apology to Fraser over the incident at the time. After an internal investigation, conducted when Fraser went public, the HFPA concluded in that Berk had "inappropriately touched" Fraser, but said Berk's action "was intended to be taken as a joke and not as a sexual advance." Berk remained a member of HFPA until he was expelled last year, after he called Black Lives Matter "a racist hate movement". "I knew they would close ranks," Fraser told GQ on Wednesday. "I knew they would kick the can down the road. I knew they would get ahead of the story. I knew that I certainly had no future with that system as it was ... I think

it was because it was too prickly or sharp-edged or icky for people to want to go first and invest emotionally in the situation." Last year's Golden Globes were all but canceled after the organisation was plunged into scandal over ethical indiscretions and the revelation that the group then included no black voting members. Many stars, publicists and studios said they were boycotting the Globes. Earlier this year, the HFPA, after reforms, said the 80th Golden Globes will be broadcast on 10 January. "I have more history with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association than I have respect for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association," Fraser told GQ Magazine in a cover story published on Wednesday. Asked whether he'll be involved with the ceremony if nominated, Fraser said, "No, I will not participate."

Nitin Gadkari falls sick on stage in Siliguri

New Delhi, November 17 : On Thursday, Nitin Gadkari came to lay the foundation stone of a long road from Shiv Mandir in Siliguri to Sevak's Cantonment. The event was held at Dagapur ground near Darjeeling Junction. The Union Minister was feeling ill on stage. So the event was quickly stopped. He went to rest in the green room. But sitting in the green room he felt even sicker. According to party sources, the Union Minister's blood sugar level has decreased. As per the advice of the doctor, Saline has been started. The minister received first aid in the green room. After that, a doctor from Siliguri was taken to see him through the green corridor. He started Nitin's treatment. Later, BJP MP from Darjeeling Raju Bista left for his home in a car with Nitin. Arrangements will be made

held at Dagapur ground near Darjeeling Junction. The Union Minister was feeling ill on stage. So the event was quickly stopped. He went to rest in the green room. But sitting in the green room he felt even sicker. According to party sources, the Union Minister's blood sugar level has decreased. As per the advice of the doctor, Saline has been started. The minister received first aid in the green room. After that, a doctor from Siliguri was taken to see him through the green corridor. He started Nitin's treatment. Later, BJP MP from Darjeeling Raju Bista left for his home in a car with Nitin. Arrangements will be made

for the Union Minister's treatment at his home in Matigara. Doctors are also with them. After the ceremony in Siliguri, he was supposed to go to Dalkhola. According to sources, the event may be cancelled. He can return to Delhi from Siliguri.

Iran protests: young boy among at least a dozen shot dead on night of turmoil

Tehran, November 17 : As many as 15 people have been shot dead in Iran, including members of the security forces and a nine-year-old boy, in separate incidents as the country experienced one of its most serious and widespread nights of protests of the past nine weeks. On the anniversary of the 2019 uprising, state news agencies blamed terrorists on two motorcycles for the killing of seven people in a shopping centre in the southern city of Izeh Khuzesta. However, protesters said members of the Basij militia force ran amok, killing among others a nine-year-old boy sitting in a car with his father. State news agencies said two volunteer Basij patrolmen were among the dead, and 10 were injured. A further five people were killed in the Isfahan area, including security forces, in a separate shooting. Reports of further deaths in Kurdistan took the night's total death toll to 15. Internal Iranian news agencies followed the government line that unknown anti-government forces or Islamic State terrorists were responsible, but witnesses claimed unarmed civilians were shot. The total number of deaths during the latest protests has spiralled to 348, according to Harana, a human rights agency, though the figures are impossible to verify. In at least three cities, seminars were set alight. Government news agencies said the killings might be a sign that the protests were turning into an armed insurrection. An investigation of the bullets in the bodies of



those shot dead is to be held and there is now likely to be a massive propaganda battle in which the government will argue the protests are the seedbed for the "Syrianisation" of Iran, and a collapse of public order. Videos posted on social media showed shops closed in Tehran's Grand Bazaar as protesters chanted anti-government slogans. However, the state claims there is no enthusiasm for these strikes and that organised gangs were harassing hard pressed business owners into pulling down their shutters. The regime's difficulty, acknowledged by many reformist politicians and academics inside Iran, is that many protesters have long ago stopped taking their news from what they regard as utterly discredited official sources, and instead rely either on internal social media or international Farsi-speaking satellite broadcast channels, such as BBC Persian or Iran International. At least five protesters have now been

officially sentenced to death, according to the media centre for the judiciary, one for allegedly setting fire to a government building. The protests began over the death of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini, but have since transformed into a wider protest against the regime, that the French president, Emmanuel Macron, has likened to a revolution. Speaking in Bali on Wednesday, Macron said: "Something that has changed [on the ground in Iran] is this revolution of women, young people of Iran, defending universal values like gender equality. It's important to commend the courage and legitimacy of this fight." Iran's interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi, has claimed several alleged French intelligence agents have been arrested. He said: "People of other nationalities were arrested in the riots, some of whom played a big role. There were elements from the French intelligence agency and they will be dealt with according to the

North Korea launches ballistic missile, threatens 'fiercer' military response

London, November 17 : North Korea launched a short-range ballistic missile Thursday toward its eastern waters, South Korea's military said, hours after the North threatened to launch "fiercer" military responses to the US bolstering its security commitment to its allies South Korea and Japan. South Korea's military detected the launch from the North's eastern coastal Wonsan area at 10:48am local time, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. It said South Korea has boosted its surveillance of North Korea while maintaining a military readiness and a close coordination with the United States. It was North Korea's first ballistic missile firing in eight days and the latest in its barrage of tests in recent months. North Korea previously said some of the tests were simulations of nuclear attacks on South Korea and US targets. Many experts say North Korea would eventually want to enhance its nuclear capability to wrest bigger concessions from its rivals. Earlier on Thursday, North Korean foreign minister Choe Son Hue warned that a recent US-South Korea-Japan accord would leave tensions on the Korean Peninsula "more unpredictable." Choe's statement was North Korea's first official response to president Joe Biden's trilateral summit with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts in Cambodia on Sunday. In their joint statement, the three leaders strongly condemned North Korea's recent missile tests and agreed to work together to strengthen deterrence.



A model presents creations during the opening ceremony of an ethnic clothing festival held in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province

New Zealand house seller throws in free Tesla as market tumbles

Auckland, November 17 : As New Zealand's housing market continues to plummet, the owners of one home have opted to throw in a free Tesla to try to entice buyers. The advertisement for a newly built five-bedroom house and granny flat in Auckland is headlined "brand new Tesla and brand new home". New Zealand's housing market has been dropping steadily for a year, with high mortgage rates scaring many prospective buyers away. Real Estate Institute (REINZ) data released this week shows that the median house price was down 10.9% annually, to \$825,000. The overall volume of houses sold in October had also dropped dramatically: down 34.7% compared with last year, from 7,486 to 4,892. Auckland's median price dropped 12.7%

from October 2021, to \$1.09m. Properties were staying on the market for longer, REINZ said, with the national median stretching to 44 days in October, up 10 days from the year before. The Auckland homeowners had been hoping to stand out in what has become an intensely competitive market, Barfoot & Thompson sales agent Kapil Rana told TVNZ, adding that the vehicle was a "bonus", rather than an add-on to the market value.

Name Correction

I Mr Amarendra Tiwari, S/O Tarkeshwar Tiwari, by caste Hindu, resident of House No 37, Nizaraban Path, Fataasil Ambari, Guwahati -25, Kamrup (M) Assam have corrected my name as Amarendra Tiwari instead of Amarendra Kumar Tiwari by an affidavit on 16th November, 2022 at Guwahati.

No. DMCTT/23894

NOTICE

The following tenders are available for download at <http://dhubrimedicalcollege.in/>

1. The Tender for the work - Supply of Article & Stationary Items for Dhubri Medical College & Hospital on Rate Contract Basis. Notice No. DHC&H/HMS/Stationary/2022-23/23887 Dated: 15/11/2022
2. The Tender for the work - Hiring of Vehicle For Dhubri Medical College & Hospital Dhubri (Assam). Notice No. DMC&H/Accounts/Vehicle Hiring/2022-22/23886 Dated : 15/11/2022
3. NIQ for supply of Laboratory items for Deptt. of Anatomy. Notice No. DMC&H/Accounts/Deptt. Anatomy/2022-23/- Dated : 15/11/2022

Principal cum Chief Superintendent
Dhubri Medical College & Hospital
Dhubri, Assam
Janasanyog/C/14280/22

PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon Building Circle, Nagaon on behalf of Governor of Assam invites item rate bids in two bid system for the work "**Repair/Renovation of the Government Residential Quarter No.-JUD/05 damaged due to burglary at Nagaon" for the year 2022-23.**" with an approximate value of **Rs. 23,21,335.00** from APWD registered Class-I (A/B/C) & class-II contractors (under this Circle) having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours up to **22.11.2022:-**

Sd/
(Er. M.K. Saikia)
Superintending Engineer, PWD,
Nagaon Building Circle, Nagaon.

No. DTA/225/ST(P)Govt.Girls/2022/1204,
SHORT NOTICE TENDER

Fresh Bids are invited from the Eligible Suppliers affixing Non Refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five paise) only in favour of Director, Tribal Affairs (P), Assam for fixation of suitable Rate/Rates.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Cost of Bid document and Earnest money to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid documents
1	Supply of Furniture for Girls Hostel	Rs.9,00,000/A (inclusive of all taxes and Charge)	2% of Tender value	Director, Tribal Affairs (Plain), Assam	Rs. 1000/-

Details Bid documents may be collected from the office of the undersigned from 17th November, 2022 to 28th November, 2022 during office hours. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM of 28th November, 2022 and will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR,
TRIBAL AFFAIRS (P), ASSAM.
Janasanyog/C/14300/22



The 5G equipment is on display at the booth of the Chinese telecom company ZTE at the Libya International Telecommunications and Information Technology Exhibition in Tripoli, Libya

CM Dr. Sarma launches Assam Millet Mission



Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 17: With a view to expanding and increasing millet cultivation across the state, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched Assam Millet Mission at a function held at Khanapara here today. Along with launching the Millet Mission, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also inaugurated six Soil Testing and Quality Control Laboratory at Bongaigaon, Morigaon, Udalguri, Golaghat, Karimganj and Darrang and two knowledge centres at Dhemaji and

Titabor virtually at the same programme. Synchronizing with the programme, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also started the process of distributing 126 combined harvester, 1000 mini trucks, 450 village level farm machinery bank, 12000 Solar PV Pump Set, 8500 five HP Diesel Pump set, 5091 power tillers, seeds 223963 quintals, 1461 multipurpose pulveriser. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said, "In the annals of agriculture history of the state, it is a historic day. The day which marks the launching of Assam Millet

Mission is targeted to raise nutrition quotient and doubling of farmers' income. The mission will also increase crop productivity and contribute to crop diversification". Specifying his government's initiatives for the welfare of the farming community, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma urged upon the farmers to take

the advantage of Mission Basundhara 2.0 and convert the status of their lands to patta land. He also informed that from next year, his government has set the MSP for paddy at Rs. 2040 per quintal. He, therefore, asked the farmers to sell their paddy to the government. He also said that with the subsidy, the government is helping the local youth to set up mills and other agri infrastructure. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also asked the farmers to plant trees of different varieties, for example sal, agar etc around their farmland which besides giving them commercial benefits will also mark demarcation of their lands. He also asked them to diversify in palm farming. Moreover, considering the huge demands of lemon, bhut jolokia, joha rice, he asked the farmers to grow these crops abundantly to become economically self-sufficient. He also asked them to be

judicious in their farming practices and help the state in starting a new revolution in agriculture. He also talked on the necessity of making Assam self-sufficient in milk, poultry, fish, egg etc and the government's intervention to give a new lease of life to these sectors. Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Asish Bhutani gave the welcome speech in the programme which was attended among others by Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Minister for Public Health Engineering etc Jayanta Malla Baruah, Minister for Tea Tribe Welfare Sanjay Kishan, MLA Dispur Atul Bora, Chairman Assam State Agriculture Marketing Board Manoj Baruah, progressive farmers and host of other dignitaries.

Hojai Dist. Admin. and Ajmal foundation celebrates National Press Day

Assam Rising, Hojai, November 17: Hojai District Administration along with Ajmal Foundation celebrated 'National Press Day-2022' in befitting manner with various activities at Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education in Hojai on Wednesday. On this occasion, Ajmal Foundation honoured two senior journalist of the district namely, Ramesh M u n d r a, S p e c i a l Correspondent, Dainik Purvoday and Swapan Das, Correspondent, Dainik Jugansanka, Lunding along with single female journalist of the district Pallavi Kalita, Correspondent Pratidin Time (electronic and print) were honoured for their contributions in the field of journalism. Ajmal Foundation provided financial aid to the families of four journalists namely Late - Bimla Prasad Talukdar, Rakesh Kejarwal, Ranjan Sharma and Salimuddin posthumously. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Khasrul Islam, Director, Ajmal Foundation apprised everyone about the welfare schemes taken up by Ajmal Foundation for the welfare of journalist of the State. He said on the instruction of the trustee of Ajmal

Foundation Maulana Badruddin Ajmal and Sirajuddin Ajmal this schemes are initiated and in coming years many more initiatives for the betterment of media persons will be taken up. Dr. Akhil Ranjan Dutta, professor, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University who graced the occasion as Chief Guest said the media persons are the pillar for the formation of a strong society. He said the credibility of the journalists depends upon their truthfulness and unbiased workings. Dr. Dutta emphasized on regional reporting. He said regional reporting plays a pivotal role in the overall development of the society. Deputy Commissioner Simanta Kumar Das who was present as guest of honour also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the significance of media in the upliftment of the society. ADC Manas Jyoti Nath, Dr. Pijush N a n d i, a s s o c i a t e professor, Hojai Girls College and former senior journalist; Anup Barhakur, noted social worker and many other eminent personalities shared the dais. On the other hand, Hojai District Administration felicitated twenty four government recognized journalists of the district with a book and certificate. Ajmal Foundation felicitated all the journalists of the district with phulam gumcha and a certificate. The event

concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. MRH Azad, General Manager, Ajmal Foundation followed by the national anthem.

Lachit Barphukan birth anniversary theme song released

The theme song is a tribute to the valour and sacrifice of Lachit Barphukan: CM

Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 17 : Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today released the theme song of 400th birth anniversary celebration of legendary general of Assam Lachit Barphukan in a programme held at Janata Bhawan today. The theme song is composed by renowned singer Zubin Garg. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the theme song is a tribute to the valour and sacrifice of Mahabir Lachit Barphukan and a step towards spreading the importance of Lachit Divas celebration and the emotions attached to it at all levels. He hoped that the theme song would boost nationalistic fervor among the people and contribute to further promoting the ideals of



Lachit Barphukan among the younger generation. The Chief Minister also informed in detail about the programmes undertaken by the state government to celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of the great Ahom general from November 18 to 25. The state government will also officially take over 50 bighas of land from the local people on November 20, he said adding that the state government will provide Rs. 12 crore as a mark of gratitude to the local people who donate

the land. Dr. Sharma said the huge project, which will cost around Rs 160 crore will include a 150-foot-tall bronze statue of Lachit Barphukan, an auditorium, guest house, an amphitheater and light & sound show. He also informed that the state government has taken steps to preserve the memory of the Battle of Alaboi and as a part of this, a 30 meter high hengdang will be erected at the memorial to glorify the sacrifice of Assamese soldiers. In addition, there will be a museum, gallery, audio-visual gallery, exhibition hall etc. at the memorial. The Chief Minister said the central program of the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan will be held from November 23 to 25 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. A seminar on the golden era of the Ahom reign will be held on November 23. An exhibition will be organized in New Delhi on the same day where various artifacts from the Assam State Museum will be displayed. A cultural evening will also be held in New Delhi on the same day. Another seminar will be held in the morning of November 24. Union Home

Minister Amit Shah will attend the central function in the afternoon. A documentary based on the life of Lachit Barphukan will be launched at the event. The Chief Minister said the state government will also take initiative to broadcast the documentary through various electronic media in the next phase to spread the heroism of the great general in India and abroad. He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the closing ceremony of the 400th birth anniversary celebration of Lachit Barphukan on November 25. Prime Minister Modi will address the country's leading intellectuals, several members of the Union Cabinet, MPs and delegations from Assam. He said the Prime Minister's address will be relayed at district and block levels and at various educational institutions in the state. The Chief Minister also said that history as a subject will be introduced in the academic curriculum of the state from April 1 next year. The event was attended by Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Environment & Forest Minister Chandra Mohan Patowari, P&RD Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Revenue Minister Jogen Mohan, Tea Tribes Welfare Minister Sanjay Kisan, PHED Minister Jayantamalla Barua, Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora and Chief Secretary Paban Kumar Barhakur among others.

NE Zonal level science drama competition today at RSC

Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 17: Regional Science Centre, Guwahati is going to organize a North East Zonal Level Science Drama Competition at this Centre on November 18. The aim of the competition is to create science awareness among the students and others at large through Science Drama. The best Drama team from each north east state will participate in the NE Zonal Level Science Drama Competition. Each team comprising 8 students studying in classes VI-X will perform their drama for 30 minutes before a panel of

judges. The theme of this Science Drama Competition will be based on main theme: Science & Technology for the benefit of mankind, Sub Themes like (a) Story of Vaccines (b) Pandemic: Social & Scientific issues (c) Technology Innovation for Improving Quality of Life (d) Basic Sciences & Sustainable Development. Two best Drama teams (winner & Runner) in the competition will be selected for National Level Science Drama Festival which will be held at Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bengaluru on January 5 to 6 next. S. Natarajan, Deputy Director General, Guwahati Doodarshan Kendra to be present as the Chief Guest in the valedictory function at the auditorium of Centre at 4pm on November 18. The drama Competition started from 11 o'clock in the morning.

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53rd Annual Session of Orang Bodo Sahitya Sabha held

Assam Rising, Udalguri, November 17 : The 53rd annual conference of Orang Primary Bodo Sahitya Sabha was held at Thelemara Primary School with a day-long programme. A discussion on the present condition of Bodo language



and Bodo medium was also organised at that session. Nabin Malla Boro the noted Bodo writer has requested Bodo people to cultivate a habit of reading Bodo literature and take steps to admire their own language. Baidyanath Upadhyaya addressing the people urged to read Bodo literature and newspapers for the development of Bodo language. The discussion session was inaugurated by Abindra Mochahari, the former Vice President of Udalguri district Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The

session was moderated by Mantu Basumatari the former Vice President of Udalguri district Bodo Sahitya Sabha. During the session the Bodo people have given a floral tribute to the martyrs of Bodo language movement. A delegate session was also held and the session was chaired by Bijoy Shankar Basumatari, the president of Orang primary Bodo Sahitya Sabha. Nilut Swargiyari the BTR EM has also taken part in that session.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Existential threat posed by global heating

For the best part of three centuries, there has been a consensus about the goal of economic policy. Since the dawn of the industrial age in the 18th century, the aim has been to achieve as rapid growth as possible. It's not hard to see why there has been this focus. Growth has raised living standards, increased life expectancy, improved medical care and resulted in better educated, better fed populations. Indeed, it is a mark of how successful rich western countries have been in lifting people out of poverty that developing countries are keen to have what we've had. If faster growth means cleaner drinking water, more children in school and fewer mothers dying in childbirth then the world's poorer nations want more of it. But there's an obvious problem. If developing countries are to have the same - or even remotely the same - standards of living as developed countries, that means a lot higher use of resources and additional pressure on the planet. It means an increase in energy use and the risk of an irreversible global climate crisis. Given the existential threat posed by global heating, the concept that growth is good is being seriously challenged by those who say policymakers should be aiming for zero growth or even degrowth economies, ones that are shrinking. Make no mistake, it is a good thing that the accepted wisdom is being questioned. The idea that faster growth is the solution to every problem is no longer tenable. There is nothing new about the current debate. Thomas Malthus predicted eventual famine once population growth exceeded food supplies. John Stuart Mill's comment, that the "increase in wealth is not boundless", paved the way for what became known as steady-state economics. Herman Daly, who died last month, long championed the idea that the constraints of the natural world imposed limits to growth. Robert Kennedy famously said that gross domestic product measured everything except that which makes life worthwhile, and his words resonate now even more strongly than when he uttered them in 1968. That said, achieving a steady-state economy or degrowth is not going to be easy. Far from it, it will be hellishly difficult. For a start, it will mean changing the way we think about economic success. Political debate is conducted by parties that vie with each other to promise voters the best growth strategy. Language matters, so when GDP is rising, that's good news, and when it is falling, it is bad news. Countries are judged by where they sit in international league tables of growth. It would be the hardest of sells for any politician to try to convince UK voters they should welcome the recession that is now only in its early stages.

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Letter to The Editor

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

All hail Jeff Bezos the philanthropist! The rest of us will just keep paying our taxes

How bracing to wake up yesterday and read that Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had donated \$100m to Dolly Parton's charitable endeavours, at his own "Courage and Civility" event. (Sarcastic airquotes: my own.) The many, many news reports about this act suggested it was a truly incredible sum from the second richest man in the world, who - according to recent estimates - gets richer by about \$205m a day. Anyway, once I'd peeled myself off the ceiling, I got busy on the government's tax calculator. If you're on the median average UK salary - and you pay your taxes - your take-home pay is £72 a day. Looked at one way, then, Jeff's benevolence would be the equivalent of donating £34.56 to charity. Have YOU ever donated thirty-four quid to charity? Do you pay your taxes? If so, you're actually being more generous than Jeff Bezos, who, famously, avoids almost all of his. And yet,



where's YOUR splashy news write-up in all the fine news outlets of the world? Where's YOUR fawning TV interview? Why does no one refer to YOU as a "philanthropist"? We'll come to the obvious answers to those questions shortly, but for now, let's look at the stage-managed hoopla around these so-called Courage and Civility awards. And yes, that title does make it sound like Jeff just demanded a warehouse operative bring him two inoffensive abstract nouns that were out of copyright. In fact, Bezos announced the initiative last year, shortly after disembarking his little space

rocket, possibly sensing a planetary disdain being levelled at the kind of guy who could put himself in zero gravity for four minutes but couldn't figure out how to treat his workers properly. Anyway, the Courage and Civility awards are now an actual thing. And alongside Sunday's self-effacing ceremony and his attempt to piggyback on the lifelong

Marina Hyde

altruism and extraordinary charitable service of HRH Dolly Parton, Bezos granted an exclusive sit-down with CNN. First impressions? Jeff interviews like a chat tool, and resembles your local area's most uncompromising and least booked 58-year-old Vin Diesel lookalike. Having long refused to sign the Giving Pledge - a promise by many of the world's richest individuals to donate most of their wealth to charitable causes - Bezos announced that

he intends giving "the majority" of his money away in his lifetime, according to CNN. And yet, does he intend to do this? His answer - "Yeah, I do" - feels somewhat vague and short on specifics. But taking Jeff at his word, I mean it from the bottom of the heart when I say: BIG FRICKING DEAL. Most people give a significant amount of their money away during their lifetime, via a little something we call the taxation system. I know! Where's our red-carpet gala? I tell you what, next time our paychecks arrive, why don't we all get our hair done and put on black tie or a big old dress and graciously twat our way down a red carpet going "You're MOST welcome!" for the cameras. According to what Bezos told CNN, philanthropy "is really hard". It certainly seems to be for him. Do recall he was only dragged kicking and screaming to the giving-a-shit game, having spent years accruing billions before it was finally pointed out to him that not having some kind

of philanthropic arm looked fairly abysmal. In 2017 Bezos asked Twitter users for ideas on how to help the world "in the here and now", before embarking on a truly committed programme of ignoring every single one of them who suggested paying his workers properly and contributing fair tax. A year later, he actually uttered the words: "The only way that I can see to deploy this much financial resource is by converting my Amazon winnings into space travel." That was the same year Amazon helped kill a Seattle tax on big firms to alleviate the homelessness crisis, by threatening to pull a huge building project. The business and tech commentator Scott Galloway calls Bezos "the mother of all welfare queens" for the vast benefits he's drawn from public money and the tax breaks he remorselessly chases and demands.



The longer this war lasts, the higher the chances that it will spill over into Nato territory. Last night's missile explosions that reportedly killed two people in the Polish village of Przewodów, 20km from the border with Ukraine, are testimony to a dangerous trend of miscalculation that could lead to escalation. As long as Russia continues its desperate tactic of missile barrages against civilian infrastructure, this risk is high. But while attention is focused on Russia's indiscriminate long-range strikes, and the emerging G20 and Nato reactions, Moscow's position on the ground is weaker than it has been in months. The loss of Kherson last week was a major blow - to the point that even senior Russian commanders have acknowledged setbacks for the first time. Kherson was a key strategic asset for the Russian invasion: it is a regional capital, an important Black Sea hub and home to a major shipbuilding industry. The region is also the location of the North Crimean canal, a major source of fresh water for Crimea. Russia's advances in the south of Ukraine earlier this year were

aimed at creating a land corridor to Crimea, asserting control over this important trade route and establishing a launch pad for the occupation of Odesa. Now, that is all in jeopardy. Once Ukraine establishes its positions in the area it will be able to target northern Crimea and put further pressure on Russian supply lines in the south. The Ukrainian army is already attacking positions around the Kinburn Spit on the left bank of the Dniro river. This could in turn put the Russian occupation of Melitopol and Mariupol at risk and ultimately render the isthmus of Perekop - the narrow strip of land connecting the Crimean peninsula to the rest of Ukraine - vulnerable. Perekop is the door to Crimea. This is significant for the outcome of this war, as it will further weaken Russian capacity to maintain control over the peninsula; Gen Sergei Surovkin, Vladimir Putin's commander in Ukraine since early October, may need more troops to reinforce defences of Crimea, forcing the Russians to downsize the area of their military campaign. The operation to retake the city was the result of a carefully planned counteroffensive - the kind of

operation many analysts would have considered unthinkable just a few months ago. It began in September as Ukraine targeted bridges and ferry routes, cutting off Russian supply lines over the Dniro river. The plan to trap Russian formations on the right bank worked. The Kremlin was forced to choose between retreating to save manpower and a part of its military equipment, or leaving both to capture or elimination due to lack of essential supplies and Kyiv's growing firepower. It

Orysia Lutsevych

opted for the first. The scale of the loss can be seen in official Russian communication: it is the first defeat officially acknowledged by the senior military leadership. As the only large regional centre captured by Russia without sustaining major destruction, Kherson was an important propaganda tool for Putin's domestic audiences. From day one the Kremlin presented its "special operation" as a campaign to liberate Russian-speaking "compatriots" from Kyiv's oppression. The annexation of four Ukrainian regions - including Kherson - after sham referendums in September was meant to bring these territories into the Russian fold permanently. Putin insisted people in these regions were joining Russia for ever, and billboards reading "With Russia for ever" popped up on many streets of Kherson. Losing Kherson shows that for ever is a short-term notion, and that Putin is not infallible. The Russian president himself has stayed silent on the retreat,

trying to distance himself from failure. His propagandists, however, explain the "disastrous" turn of events with reference to the "unexpected" coalition of more than 50 countries backing Ukraine against Russia. To calm the panic, Putin's frontman and deputy chair of Russia's security council, Dmitry Medvedev, has declared that the land will be returned to Russian control. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov insists it is still part of Russia despite the retreat. This gap between rhetoric and reality will surely slowly sink in with the wider public in Russia. Combined with Russia's staggering human and materiel losses to date, this will only increase pressure on Putin. The G20 summit in Bali further isolated Russia, hitting its international reputation. Russian attempts to cement its own coalition in opposition to the G7 and fuel anti-US sentiments are failing. The global south is unlikely to stick with the losing side for long. President Zelenskii's appeal to world leaders provided a clear road map for ending the war: a withdrawal of all Russian forces and the return of Ukraine's territories. For Ukraine the liberation of Kherson is also a boost for continued resistance and evidence of the strength of its armed forces. It is further proof that Russia's forces, the so-called "second army in the world", are - at best - the second army in Ukraine. Since the start of the war, the overwhelming majority of Ukrainians have believed in their ability to repel Russian aggression. Victories such as

Kherson reinforce that conviction. Despite the celebratory mood, the Ukrainian leadership is cautious. Russia is still a dangerous adversary. Surovkin managed to preserve most of the approximately 30,000 Russian troops who were in Kherson. It is difficult to predict next steps, but the Kherson contingent will probably be redeployed to strengthen Russia's presence in the eastern military theatre. Russians desperately need a victory and Donbas could now become their main focus. Taking control of the major railway hubs around Pavlivka and Vyhledar would enable the extensive and rapid supply of artillery munitions to the battlefield. Depending on the weather, the war could either continue at the current pace or, if it gets too wet, turn into a heavy artillery duel across large parts of the existing frontline. For Ukraine to maintain and strengthen its current strategic initiative, western resolve and assistance remain key. Kherson is yet more proof that military aid to Ukraine is effective. Ukraine has liberated about 50% of the territory taken by Russia since the start of the war. A premature push for negotiations would allow Putin to consolidate his positions and mount new attacks. Kherson proves that Ukraine can win this war. Video footage of local people greeting Ukrainian soldiers in surrounding villages and in Kherson's central square speaks volumes. Old ladies hand out apples and abandoned bullets to Ukrainian soldiers; residents dig up Ukrainian flags hidden in glass jars in their gardens. Those flags flying again over Kherson must serve as a constant reminder that this outcome is attainable as we face new challenges in the months to come.

Air quality is better but not enough to banish air purifiers. Here are options for your room & car

Thanks to the seedy concoction of traffic pollution from cars, stubble burning in Punjab, after-effects of Diwali firecrackers and construction work across the city, air purifiers in the last five years have gone from a luxury to a necessity in Delhi. But air purifiers are not only expensive, especially from brands like Dyson, but also high on maintenance. On top of that, air purifiers aren't there in most vehicles. If your vehicle is more than four years old, you'll be hard-pressed to find them in public spaces. That's why so many people in the last couple of years during the pandemic migrated from Delhi to hill stations or coastal cities like

Goa. What's the solution for people who cannot leave Delhi? It certainly is not to breathe the poisonous air. There are many options when one talks about air purifiers. But when one is looking for affordable options, there is no escaping Xiaomi's products, which is the market leader in air purification products since 2016. Its smart air purifiers are cheap not just in terms of buying cost but also for maintenance for things like the HEPA filter. They are smart as they can be connected to your smartphone remotely over Wi-Fi. They provide a multitude of information about the state of the air, the purification functions and the health of the filters. I recommend

the Xiaomi Smart Air Purifier 3 out of all the air purifiers Xiaomi sells. A more straightforward solution can be had from the local brand Kurin systems - Ventii. Unlike the Xiaomi products, this is not a smart air purification system with things like smartphone connectivity. It works effectively with an accurate AQI sensor. It is also cheap to maintain, provided the Kurian systems have enough stock of



Sahil Mohan Gupta

the filters in its inventory. Like I mentioned in my previous column on Diwali shopping guide, Blue Air models are one of the best in business. They

can clean large rooms seamlessly and are generally effective even if people are smoking cigarettes in the room, something that I highly advise against. One of the better models is the Pure Blue 121, which can clean big rooms with ease. For people who are looking for a combination of brand cachet, effectiveness and unique industrial design, they should go for Dyson's products. Their models also include the ability to have heating and cooling, and even a humidifier baked into the air purification system. In particular, the Dyson Hot+Cool could be handy as winter is upon us. Philips is a long favourite of many people when it comes to air purifiers, but in my books, its products are not on the level of Dyson and BlueAir in terms of cleansing capabilities. Honeywell also has solid air purification products, which can do the job for some. Sharp's products are excellent too as their ionising technology is cutting edge, which helps remove allergens effectively. Most modern cars are now standardising air purification systems - be it Hyundai, Kia, MG Motors or the luxury car brands like Mercedes Benz and BMW, but what if you bought a car before the pandemic? In that case, you will need a portable air purification system, which can be charged from the cigarette lighter socket or USB. O2 and Honeywell

have great products for the same, but the best solution is a personal purifier like the Kurin System Atom. It is an air purifier face mask, which looks akin to Darth Vader's mask from Star Wars. It provides one sure-shot way of getting pure air as it is right on your face. It is slightly bulky but now it even supports USB type C charging and its filter can be manually replaced as well. It retains charge for around four hours, which makes it perfect for commuting via public transport, even jogging in the smog and flights where apart from recycled air, there is a risk of getting Covid as well. It is the one thing that can be used anywhere and all the time, the fit will be slightly uncomfortable, so an adjustment will be imperative. One should always have multiple filters - at least two filters apart from the one pre-installed on the air purification system. This way, you can keep switching between filters each day and it will extend the life of all the filters as they have a performance curve. After getting dirty, the effectiveness of the filters deteriorates quite rapidly, that's why it is best to rotate them so that they don't reach the degradation cliff. To further manage filters better, it is best to clean the filters and the innards of the air purifier at least three times a week. This will make sure the effect is maintained. It is also best to have a separate AQI sensor from the air purification system as after prolonged use, they often become faulty and a redundant AQI sensor will be your guide to know if your air purifier is working properly or not.

RRR sets Japanese box office on fire

All Quiet on the Western Front review



Mumbai, November 17 : Film-maker SS Rajamouli's latest blockbuster RRR continues its dream at the box office in Japan. The film has grossed over JPY 209 million (Rs 11 crore approx). The filmmakers revealed that more than 1.3 lakh people have watched this film in cinemas in Japan within 20 days of its release. The film has already out-

earned other Indian blockbusters, which made a dent at the Japanese box office in the past. RRR has sold more tickets than Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's 3 Idiots (JPY 170 million). And it's well on its way to surpassing the earnings of Baahubali: The Conclusion (JPY 300 million). But, what remains to be seen is will hit beat superstar Rajinikanth's

Muthu collections. The film, which was released in Japan 27 years ago, remained the highest-grossing film there with JPY 400 million. Ahead of the release of RRR in Japan, the makers of the magnum opus arranged a big media push. The film's main cast and crew, including Rajamouli, Ram Charan and Jr NTR camped in Japan for several days through media interactions and fan events. The film has expected to open on a positive note, adding to RRR's over Rs 1200 crore global collection. After conquering the Japanese box office, the filmmakers are not preparing to focus their energy and resources on the film's Oscar campaign.

London, November 17 : The film is the third notable adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's Anti-World War I novel of the same name. It is the first German-language adaptation of the book and is directed by Edward Berger. The film is Germany's official submission to the Oscars 2023 in the best foreign language film category and I am really hoping that it is selected and ends up winning the honor because this is the best anti-war film that I have seen in years. Closely following the book and other adaptations, the story revolves around a group of friends from college during World War I who are inspired by heroic and lofty



dreams of fighting for their fatherland, Germany but soon experience and comprehend the fearsome face of war after joining the army and experiencing death and carnage up close and personal in Germany's western front against France. As the story toggles between the exploits and experiences of these young men as they mature as human beings under the fire of war, we also see the German political apparatus trying to barter peace with France which proves to be elusive and often brings with it substantial doses of insults. The director keeps the atmosphere so ripe with tension and a feeling of something evil lurking in

the air that it becomes impossible to be comfortable or enjoy seeing the men having fun or cracking a joke once in a while. This was not the case with the first two film adaptations. There were moments there that felt uncharacteristically funny, loud, and caricature-ish. They were stark departures from how the rest of the film unfolded and this sparingly took me out of the experience. The way "All Quiet on the Western Front" begins this time is starkly different.

We land smack in the middle of the war. We then see the journey of a uniform of a fallen soldier from the battlefield all the way back to a new recruit and from here on the story starts following the journey of the young men. There are no training montages. The character of Himmelstoss is completely done away with even though he was an important character in the book and the two previous films.

5 Best Oscar-winning movies

Mumbai, November 17 : With the advent of OTT platforms, we are never short of movies to watch. Streaming platforms allow us to create our own list of favourite movies from our favourite genres. The list of award-winning movies can be long and sometimes we may be spoilt for choice. When it comes to Oscar winning movies, taking a pick can be a herculean task, for there are films that have won the hearts of people and left indelible marks on audiences the world over. Making a list of must watch Oscar winners can be a tough ask. Forrest Gump (1994) - this Robert Zemeckis's Oscar-winning movie is a cult classic that won hearts the world over upon its release and remains one of the finest pieces of cinema to be created. The story revolves around a young man named Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks) who has a low IQ. Facing insurmountable odds, Forrest faces every challenge and overcomes life-altering events - from fighting in the Vietnam War to changing



presidents - with childlike curiosity and zest. As he narrates his life to a stranger sitting on a bench, about his achievements, the friends and foes he made, his childhood in Alabama, and his strong resilient mother (Sally Field), all he wants is to reunite with his childhood sweetheart Jenny (Robin Wright) who he has loved since the first time he saw her in his school bus. Forrest Gump (1994) is a movie for the ages. A Beautiful Mind (2001) - in the 2001 Oscar winning movie, A BEAUTIFUL MIND, Russell Crowe plays the role of John Nash, a genius mathematician who won the Nobel Prize in 1994. The story takes place in the 1950s at Princeton University where John begins his jour-

ney as a graduate student. Sharp yet asocial, Nash outsmarts his classmates and contemporaries with his intelligence and his innovative works on game theory. Later, while teaching at MIT he meets his future wife Alicia (Jennifer Connelly). His genius takes him to the Pentagon where he meets William Parcher who enlists him to work on deciphering Russian codes. However, Nash and Alicia's world comes

crumbling down when Nash's work with Parcher turns out to be a figment of his imagination. Nash suffers from delusions and hallucinations and is diagnosed with Schizophrenia. CODA (2021) - if ever there was a feel-good movie it is CODA. The movie which is an acronym - Child of Deaf Adults follows the journey of seventeen-year-old Ruby (Emelia Jones) and her life as the only hearing member of her deaf family. Ruby's day begins at the strike of dawn as she works on her family's fishing business helping out her dad (Troy Kotsur) and brother (Daniel Durant) before school in the morning. Nomadland (2020) - the tumultuous descent of American life

into crippling poverty after the 2008 financial crash is chronicled with cinematic finesse in this Oscar winning by Chloe Zhao. It is 2011 in the Nevada city of Empire, where Fern, a middle-aged woman has lost her home along with her husband as the local U.S Gypsum plant has shut down operations. Green Book (2018) - it's 1962 in a racially segregated America and Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) is a famously gifted African-American classical pianist who is about to go on a concert tour to the deep south. In desperate need of a driver and protection, Shirley hires Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), a bouncer from an Italian-American neighbourhood in New York City.

Ayushmann Khurana's 'ayush' in danger as Jaideep prepares his deathbed

Mumbai, November 17 : Ayushmann Khurana has returned with the teaser for his next flick, An Action Hero. In the film, he portrays an actor whose life takes a 180-degree swing after he is suspected of murdering a municipal councillor's brother, and his fans' devotion transforms into a boycott demand. The trailer begins with Ayushmann's automobile getting hit by Jaideep's car, which has a powerful effect. It quickly becomes a cat-and-mouse chase as Ayushmann runs to London to save his life, but he follows him there as well. As London cops become



involved in their battle, chaos follows. While the trailer displays some fascinating battle scenes, Jaideep's lines and the manner he delivers his

sentences with a Haryanvi accent catch the viewer's attention immediately. After about a minute, Ayushmann's speech can be heard in the background

as he flees the crime scene. Ayushmann says, "Mai ek hero tha, do life jeerathatha, ek reel life aurek real life, usne aakedonoke beech kadhaagakeechdiya." (I was a hero with two lives, a reel life and a real life. He came and blurred the divide.) The rest of the video depicts Ayushmann and Jaideep Ahlawat's cat-and-mouse pursuit, and it concludes with Ayushmann's speech, "Ladnamerakamhai, shaukhnahi" (I fight because it's my job, not because I like to). Anirudh Iyer's An Action Hero is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, and Anand L Rai. The film will be released in theaters on December 2.

Varun Dhawan's new movie 'Bhediya'

Mumbai, November 17 : Varun Dhawan-starrer Bollywood film Bhediya is all set to hit the theatres on November 25. Bhediya, a comedy horror, was shot entirely in Arunachal Pradesh. "The movie showcases the scenic beauty and cultural grandeur of our state," said Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu. Bhediya was "filmed in the

picturesque regions of Ziro, Sagalee, Pakke Kessang" in Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu also thanked producer and director Bhediya Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik respectively "for choosing our beautiful state for shooting the movie". Amar Kaushik's directorial Bhediya movie, the story

of a shape-shifting werewolf, was shot entirely in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. The movie showcases the scenic beauty and cultural grandeur of Arunachal which happened to be a living paradise of earth. Bhediya is the story of a young man whose world has gone wild and crazy after being bitten by a wolf. When people tend

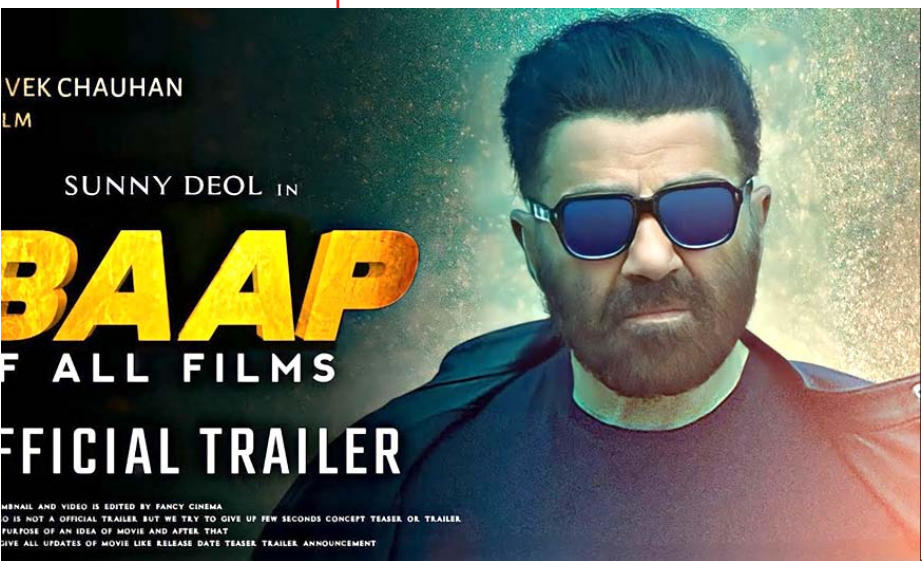
to lose their hearing it is somehow heightened. Foul smells have turned into fragrances and fragments of human bones were recovered from his stools. The film's underlying theme is also about dealing with one's inner problems. While the trailer might be frightening, it also has some amusing one-liners that will make you laugh.

Kangana Ranaut begins Assam schedule of 'Emergency'

Mumbai, November 17 : Actor Kangana Ranaut has started shooting for her next film 'Emergency' in Assam. Ranaut had recently toured the state for location hunting and visited sites like Kaziranga and Karbi Anglong. The actor posted a picture from the film's set on her

Instagram Stories and wrote, "Ok, let's do this. Commencing Assam schedule... #emergency" Billed as the story of a watershed moment in the political history of India, 'Emergency' is written and directed by Ranaut. She also stars as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the up-

coming film. The film will also feature veteran actor Anupam Kher in the role of revolutionary leader J P Narayan, Shreyas Talpade as former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Milind Soman as Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, and Mahima Chaudhry as author-cultural activist Pupu Jayakar.



Baap: Jackie Shroff shares character poster

Mumbai, November 17 : After releasing the first look of his upcoming film Baap, Jackie Shroff has now unveiled the character posters of the movie. Featuring Mithun Chakraborty, Sunny Deol, Sanjay Dutt and Shroff, the film is an action drama and brings the 90s superstars together for the first time. The character poster of Shroff introduces him as Jaikishan, who is seen wearing a scarf around his neck and a coloured pair of glasses. Dutt exudes the Kaante vibe and plays Ballu in the film. A look at Deol's character Arjun suggests that the actor is once again back to playing an angry character. Chakraborty's Yeda Bhagat wears an army cap and a muffer around his neck. Sharing the posters, Jackie Shroff wrote on Instagram, "Khalnayakhoya Hero, machadenge Gadar. Koi shaq!! #BaapOfAllFilms." The caption hints at the various superhit roles played by each actor. While Sanjay Dutt is popular for his film Khalnayak, Hero marked the debut of Shroff in Bollywood. Gadar was one of the most popular films of Sunny Deol and "Koi Shaq" is the dialogue which became synonymous with Mithun Chakraborty. Baap is backed by Ahmed Khan and his wife Shairaah Ahmed Khan's banner Paper Doll Entertainment along with Zee Studios.

Contd. From Page 1

Xi Jinping was not 'criticising'

both leaders held during the G20 summit. This is very normal. I don't think it should be interpreted as Chairman Xi criticising or accusing anyone," Mao said. In video footage published by Canadian broadcasters on Wednesday, a translator for Xi can be heard in the video telling Trudeau that "everything we discussed was leaked to the paper(s), that's not appropriate." Xi himself can be heard saying, in Mandarin, "that is not appropriate, and we didn't do it that way." Xi then goes on to say "if there is sincerity, we can communicate well with mutual respect, otherwise the outcome will not be easy to tell." WATCH: Xi Jinping confronts Justin Trudeau over alleged leaks of their closed-door meeting at G20 summit Mao did not answer a question from Reuters on why this short exchange on Wednesday was set up and what Xi meant when he said "that is not appropriate, and we didn't do it that way." Xi's displeasure was possibly due to media reports, citing government sources, that Trudeau brought up "serious concerns" about alleged espionage and Chinese "interference" in Canadian elections when meeting with Xi on Tuesday. Trudeau's first talks with the Chinese leader in more than three years. The talks were kept informal, according to a Canadian government source, explaining why no official readout was published by either side. "Firstly, I want to stress that China never interferes in the affairs of other countries," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao said on Thursday. She did not say whether news of Trudeau bringing up alleged Chinese interference on Tuesday was the reason behind the recorded exchange between the two leaders the following day. The video captured a rare candid moment for Xi, whose image is carefully curated by Chinese state media. Mao also said on Thursday that Xi saying to Trudeau: "otherwise the outcome will not be easy to tell," was not a threat, as both leaders were engaging in a "normal" exchange and merely "expressing their respective positions".

Demonetisation: Govt Submitts

economic policy steps" and "a major step to fight the menace of fake currency notes, storage of uncounted wealth and financing of subversive activities". Citing RBI data, the affidavit pointed out that there was a massive increase in the circulation of bank notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 vis-à-vis Rs 50 and Rs 100 in the preceding five years. "This showed a steep rise to the two highest denominations, i.e., 76.4% for Rs 500 and 109% for Rs 1,000 from 2010-11 to 2015-16," it said. Simultaneously, the government and RBI had considered the introduction of a new series of notes which can tackle black money, counterfeiting and illegal financing by withdrawing legal tender of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes. Outlining some of the "perceptible benefits" of the decision, the affidavit, filed in response to petitions challenging the 2016 demonetisation said, "The number of fake currency notes and their value came down significantly, both in terms of the detection in the banks and seizures by the security agencies... volume of digital payment transactions increased many-fold... information about deposits made into the bank accounts... enabled the income tax authorities to detect a significant amount of unaccounted income." The overall impact of the withdrawal of the legal tender character of the Specified Banking Notes (SBNs) on economic growth was transient with the real growth rate being 8.2 per cent in FY 2016-17 and 6.8 percent in FY 2017-18, both being more than the decadal growth of 6.6 percent in the pre-pandemic years, it said. The affidavit pointed out that "secrecy and confidentiality were critical requirements of this consultation and decision-making process. Consequently, printing of bank notes of the new series was executed under this constraint. Therefore, reasonable restrictions on the exchange of the SBNs and cash withdrawal from the bank accounts were put in place, considering the availability of stock of the new currency notes of various denominations, past utilisation patterns and considering the needs of the ordinary citizen, to minimise hardships and also to keep in view the equitable distribution of available cash.

Veer Savarkar wrote letter

Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said his party has "immense respect" for VD Savarkar and that he does not approve of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the freedom fighter. His remarks came days after Rahul claimed that Savarkar wrote a book on himself with a different name and highlighted how brave he was. The former Congress president had also said that Savarkar used to take pensions from the British, work for them, and work against the Congress. "We do not approve of Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Savarkar. We have immense respect and faith for Swatantra Veer Savarkar and it cannot be erased," Thackeray said. He also asked why the Centre has not conferred the Bharat Ratna on Savarkar. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction has an alliance with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party, as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi. His son and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray had participated in the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra last week.

Amend laws for stricter

into 35 odd pieces, in the city of Delhi, is reminiscent of the 'love jihad' crimes that have been reported recently from across the nation," the ruling party legislator stated in the letter. The police officer-turned-politician said a series of such similar events have led to a scenario of "perpetual fear and profound distrust bordering on a sense of alarm in the community" and is, therefore, definitely a "cause of great concern" for all legislators across the country. "These hate crimes perpetuated by radicalised members of a certain community do not deserve to be treated as regular criminal acts, necessitating a fast-track approach to investigations, charge-sheet and trial, within the framework of our rule of law, thereby ensuring that the trust reposed by the common man on our criminal justice system is not impacted adversely," Singh said. He said he has personally engaged with different sections of the society and compiled their thoughts for the chief minister's consideration. The MLA said there is consensus amongst his constituents that it is necessary to carry out amendments to the statute through the state legislature, as has been done in the past "to ensure the safety of women and thereby maintain public order". Singh was referring to the killing of Shraddha Walkar (27) allegedly by her partner Aftab Poonawala (28) in Delhi's Mehrauli area in May this year. Poonawala had allegedly strangled Walkar and sawed her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence before dumping them across the city over several days past midnight, according to police. In the proposed legislative amendments in the letter, the BJP MLA stated, "In order to ensure that such offences are not repeated in the future, it is necessary that we adopt a time-bound schedule for investigations and trial such that the investigation is completed within 60 days of the registration of the offence and the trial within 60 days thereafter." "It is also necessary to consider stricter punishment for the offences relating to 'love jihad', including mandatory death penalty for offences of 'rape' and 'murder' and life imprisonment for those involving rape," Singh said. He also lauded the state government for bringing the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act (UPPCRA), 2021, but added that there is a necessity to widen its scope to deal with heinous offences.

Seven killed, four injured in road

three others were killed in the accident," a police officer said. Among the four hurt, one sustained grievous injuries and was admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital. In a similar accident in Ghograpar area, a vehicle carrying three people hit the railing of a bridge early in the morning. One was killed on the spot, while the two others were injured, another police officer said. In a hit-and-run accident in Naoboicha in Lakhimpur district, a local youth was killed when the motorcycle he was riding was run over by an unidentified vehicle. In another similar accident, a woman was killed on the spot after being hit by a speeding vehicle while she was out for a morning walk in Raha area of Nagaon district.

Court rejects Masjid committee's

and the plaintiffs be allowed to offer their prayers to Swayambhu Jyotirlinga Bhagwan Vishweshwar and worship the 'Shiva Linga' reportedly found inside the mosque premises on May 16. It is important to note that this is a different suit not connected with another suit pending before the Varanasi Court filed by 5 Hindu women worshippers seeking all-year-round rights to pray inside the Gyanvapi Mosque premises.

Soon, USB Type-C charger

broad consensus emerged among stakeholders on the adoption of USB Type-C as a charging port for electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops. Further, it was deliberated that a different charging port may be adopted for feature phones," Singh said. A couple of months ago, the EU made it mandatory to use a single charging port for mobile phones, tablets, and cameras by 2024. The rule is applicable to Apple iPhones as well, which currently use the Lightning port. So, does that mean Apple will need to launch the next iPhones with a USB Type C port? This is largely possible since India, as well as Europe, are important markets for Apple and the company will consider abiding by the rule of the land. Rumours are that next year's iPhone model, dubbed iPhone 15, will offer a USB Type C port instead of a Lightning port. The common charger policy may not impact Android phones much, since most OEMs have already moved from micro USB to Type C ports in the last few years. The Indian government is said to be planning to build a common charger policy for smart devices, but there is no clarity on what awaits for feature phones that are still stuck on microUSB due to cost issues.

Members of CSM protest

been transferred illegally from Assam State Zoo. "A protestor said, "Whatever that is happening here, it is illegal as animals have been transferred unlawfully to a private zoo owned by a private firm. "Another protestor said, "Zoo exchange should not be happening at night, there are no rules being followed here. Even rescued animals have been transferred from here. We demand a list of animals being transferred from here to a private zoo."

2 Islamic teachers held for allegedly

complaint. A case under various sections of the IPC was registered against them at the Sonai police station. Joseph Keivom, an official from Sonai police station, said the arrested accused have been identified as Abdul Hussain Laskar (51) and Dilowar Hussain Mazumder (28). Speaking to the media, the student alleged, "the teachers used to tell them if they destroy Hindus, they'll get special blessings from Allah." The FIR mentions that the teachers used to threaten to kill those who refuse to attend the post 11pm special classes. The boy said he was facing some health issues and refused to join the special class but they threatened to kill him. "They came to my room, burnt my medicines and beat me mercilessly and locked me in a room," the student said. The boy was taken home by his father after the alleged incident. The Madrasa authority, however, denied the allegations and said that the student was involved in some wrongdoings. "He learnt many criminal activities. The teachers were trying to bring him back from his bad company and they used sticks to beat him. This much a teacher can do I think," said Fakrul Islam Laskar of Swadhin Bazar Islamia Madrasa Ethim Khana. Fakrul further alleged that the boy's father demanded money from the Madrasa as compensation and threatened to lodge FIR if they refuse to pay. "He took his son back home on October 20. We gave ten thousand rupees as compensation but he demanded more (one lakh). He is trying to put pressure with this false allegation," he said. Meanwhile, the superintendent of police of Cachar district, Numal Mahatta said that the police are investigating the matter. "A minor has alleged about Jihadi activities and there are counter allegations too. We are trying to get adequate information and the matter will be investigated thoroughly," he said.

Govt rubbishes media reports claiming Covaxin approval due to political pressure

New Delhi, November 17 : The Union Health Ministry on Thursday termed "misleading" and "fallacious" media reports which claimed that regulatory approval for the COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin was rushed due to political pressure. It said scientific approach and prescribed norms were adhered to in approving COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use authorisation. There have been media reports claiming that Bharat Biotech, manufacturer of the indigenous COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, "had to skip certain processes" and "speed" up clinical trials due to political pressure, the ministry said. The reports further claimed that there were several irregularities in the three phases of the clinical trials conducted for the vaccine. "These media reports are completely misleading, fallacious and ill-informed. It is clarified that the Government of India and the national regulator i.e. CDSCO have followed a scientific approach and prescribed norms in approving COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use authorisation," the ministry stated. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control



Organisation (CDSCO) met on January 1 and 2, 2021 and after due deliberations made recommendations in respect of the proposal for Restricted Emergency Approval of the COVID-19 virus vaccine of Bharat Biotech. Before Covaxin was approved for restricted emergency use in January 2021, the Subject Expert Committee reviewed the data on the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine and recommended for grant of permission for restricted use in an emergency situation in the public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode, to have more options for vaccinations, especially in case of infection by mutant strains. The SEC's approval for the commencement of phase 3 clinical trial of the proposed dose of Covaxin was based on scientific data presented by Bharat Biotech and established practices in this regard, the ministry said. Moreover, the purported 'unscientific changes' in clinical trials of Covaxin, as claimed in the news reports, were made after submission made by Bharat Biotech in CDSCO, compliance of due process in CDSCO and approval from the DGCI. Based on the further submission made by Bharat Biotech and assessment of interim efficacy and safety data by SEC of CDSCO, the condition of administration of the COVID-19 vaccine in 'clinical trial mode' was removed on March 11, 2021, the ministry said. Authorisation for COVID-19 vaccines including Covaxin for restricted use in an emergency situation with various conditions and restrictions was granted by the national regulator only on the recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee of CDSCO. The Subject Expert Committee consists of domain knowledge experts from the fields of pulmonology, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology, paediatrics, internal medicine, etc.

NFR Mazdoor union Lumding branch submits memorandum

Assam Rising, Lumding, November, 17 : N.F. Railway Mazdoor union Lumding branch submitted a memorandum before General Manager/NFR. GM Ansul Gupta took the matter seriously and instructed DRM/LMG. J. J.S. Lakra to take necessary action on the matter. According, a joint inspection was held today regarding renovation of model both Community Hall, Upper babupatty and Recreation Club, South hill Colony between NFRMU Br. Secretary Com. Tarun Chowdhury, Com. Biltu Singh, Vice-president, Com. Rajib Nandi, Treasurer, Com. Malay Sankar Roy, Com. Madhumita Dey Paul, AGS/PNO at LMG. Com. Subrata Dey, CEC and Administration Side Sr. DEN/IV/LMG, A.K. Verma, ADEN/II/LMG, with the presence of Pranab Kalita SSE/W/North/Lmg and SSE/W/South/Lmg. They assured us the renovation will be done before the GM scheduled inspection at LMG.

Patient with multiple heart defects treated at Kauvery Hospital

Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 17: Kauvery Hospital Chennai, a unit of Kauvery Group of Hospitals, a leading multispecialty healthcare chain in Tamil Nadu, announced the successful treatment of a woman with multiple heart defects, in a single stage surgery that lasted for over seven hours. The woman, aged 55, presented to emergency care with severe chest pain and back pain along with high blood pressure. A Coronary Angiogram was done as her ECG was abnormal. "When the catheter was being passed through an artery in the groin, it was found that it could not be negotiated into the heart because of a congenital narrowing of the aorta called 'Coarctation of Aorta'. Therefore, an angiogram was done by approaching through the arm. This revealed a critical block in the artery supplying the left ventricle (coronary arteries) and that needed an intervention as well," says Dr K.P. Suresh Kumar, Chief Cardiologist, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai. Further evaluation threw up another surprise in the form of a congenital abnormality in her aortic valve. The aortic valve was bicuspid (having two leaflets instead of three), with a significant leak (Aortic Regurgitation). A Bicuspid aortic valve is present among 0.5-1.4% of the world population. All the four procedures were successfully completed through a single 15 cm incision in the front of the chest and the procedure took seven hours for completion. Her high blood pressure was also controlled after the surgery. Post procedure, the patient made a steady recovery in the cardiac ICU. Speaking on the success of the surgery, Dr. Aravindan Selvaraj, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai said, "The patient underwent multiple surgeries which lasted for over seven hours. She showed tremendous will power to recover; she endured all the procedures and treatment boldly, and was fully awake and talking the next day after the surgery! The expertise and skill of Dr. Raghuram, Dr K P Suresh Kumar and their team have helped detection of multiple defects of the heart and correcting them during one operating session, with minimal incision." The woman recovered completely and was discharged on the fifth postoperative day with an excellent surgical outcome, normal blood pressure and good heart-function.

Workshop on Mission Bashundhara - II held



Assam Rising, Kaliabor, November 17: Workshop on Mission Bashundhara -II was held at Kaliabor. The workshop was organized by the Revenue Circle Office of Kaliabor at the auditorium of the sub-divisional office on Thursday. In the workshop, all Grampradhans and Latmandals of the revenue circle were trained in relation to Mission Bashundhara- II so that the common man could be benefited through the scheme. Circle Officer Nitisha Borah trained all and offered analysis about Mission Bashundhara - II in the workshop.

National press club observed at Nagaon

Staff Reporter, Nagaon, November 17 : Along with the rest of the nation, the District administration in association with Nagaon press club observed the national press day at the auditorium of Nagaon Press Club today. During the day, a lecture on 'the role of media in nation building' was also organized. Noted budding Assamese literary critic and professor Arindam Borkatoki was present as the keynote speaker while deputy commissioner, Nagaon Narendra Kr Shah graced the occasion as the guest. The programme was chaired by Jadab Saikia, president of Nagaon Press Club. In the programme, the members of Nagaon Press Club as well as other press clubs of the district were felicitated by district administration as well as Nagaon press club. Simultaneously, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Vishwavidyalaya also observed the national press day at its auditorium this afternoon. On occasion of the day, a lecture on 'Bartoman Asom Sangbad Madhyam Aru Sangbad Kormir Dayobadhata' was also organized where local media person Hareswar Borah was present as the keynote speaker. Mrinal Kr Bora, Registrar of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Vishwavidyalaya delivered the welcome address and elaborated a brief note on the history of national media as well as media in Assam. Gauri Prasad Sarma, PRO of the university anchored the entire session. In his speech, the keynote speaker Borah elaborated a sketch on the current media scenarios in the state and regretted that due to various reasons or circumstances, the state media had to lose the public faith or credential. He urged the media fraternity to do self analysis to redeem its losing faith in the public mind. Registrar of the university, Dr Mrinal Kr Bora informed that over 13 students from the university had cleared national eligibility test and JRF in the current year among those 13, 7 students cleared national eligibility test while 6 students cracked JRF.

National press day celebrated at Morigaon Dist. Library

Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, November 16: Media A sentence can sometimes destroy someone and sometimes create. So journalists should always be careful when presenting news. Journalists often give views when they do the news. The Commissioner also emphasized the social responsibility of journalists who have a family and a personal life. The contribution of journalists to society is immense. He said that citizens who are conscious of the society should also be aware of the suffering and financial difficulties of journalists. National Press Day was celebrated at Morigaon District Library on the basis of Assam. He said every journalist should control himself. If a journalist does journalism under the control of someone else or a party, it becomes dangerous. The Professor delivered even more important speeches. The event was attended by Morigaon Zilla Parishad President Isme Ara Begum, Mayor Morigaon Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Kshitish Chandra Pegu, Additional deputy Commissioner Arundhati Narah Mipun and several prominent journalists of the district.

Brentford's Ivan Toney charged with 232 alleged breaches of betting rules



London, November 17: Ivan Toney could be banned from playing for months after he was charged by the Football Association with 232 alleged breaches of its gambling laws. The Brentford striker, who has been in scintillating form for his club and had hoped to be included in England's 26-man World Cup squad, was charged on Wednesday after the FA concluded an investigation into activity which covered a period of nearly four years. "Ivan Toney has been charged with misconduct in relation to alleged breaches of the FA's betting rules," the FA said in a statement.

"It is alleged that the Brentford FC forward breached FA rule E8 232 times between 25 February 2017 and 23 January 2021. Footballers who play in England are banned from making any type of bet on football, or asking others to do so on their behalf. The FA's rule E8 also bans the sharing of privileged information for the purposes of betting and sanctions can be tough. In 2020 England international Kieran Trippier was banned from playing for 10 weeks and fined £70,000 after he was found to have shared information about his upcoming transfer to

Atlético Madrid with his friends. An appeal made to Fifa to reduce the ban, observing that Trippier had not benefited financially from his actions, was rejected. The former England player Daniel Sturridge was banned for six weeks after sharing privileged information on a transfer, this ban was extended to four months after a failed appeal. Last year, two Boston United players were charged with, between them, 757 breaches of Rule E8, related to placing bets on matches. The pair, Andi Thanoj and Jay Rollins, were subsequently found guilty and banned for five months. Toney has one week to reply to the charges, with a deadline set of Thursday 24 November. The 26 year old has scored 10 goals in the Premier League for his club so far this season. In a statement, Brentford said: "The club has been in discussion with Ivan and his legal representatives about this matter and those conversations will continue privately. We will make no further comment until the matter has been completed."

James Maddison savours 'pinch-me moments' after getting England call

Doha, November 17: James Maddison reached down to touch the white line before pointing his index fingers skyward and tilting his gaze in the same direction. It was a moment in time for the Leicester midfielder, one he feared might not come - his entrance into England's opening World Cup training session in Qatar - and he wanted to savour it. Then again, there have been quite a few like that of late, beginning with his call-up into the squad by Gareth Southgate last Thursday - a shock after three years out of the picture - and rolling into him being selected as the player for England's welcome media conference here. "Every one at the minute is almost like a pinch-me moment," Maddison says, all easy confidence and warmth. "It's surreal." Maddison finds himself as a spokes-



man of sorts for the squad despite his inexperience and absolutely because of his self assurance and star quality, taking questions on pretty much everything including England's chances of glory. After reaching the semi-finals of the last World Cup and the final at Euro 2020, he feels they are

poised to make the decisive step. "You have to go into a tournament like this with the belief you can win it," he says. "If you have any sort of doubt then you probably will come across a hiccup along the way. Our belief is fully there, we are invested. Hopefully we can go that one step further." Really, though, it was impossible to ignore the drama of Maddison's personal story; how he nipped in at the very last to Southgate's travelling party after presenting an irresistible case with his club form over the calendar year. He says he had never given up hope of playing for England again, even when he thought he deserved a

chance previously only to be overlooked, but there was no doubt that a part of him was ready for disappointment. "I was kind of braced for both," Maddison says. "I think it was the saying of hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. I hadn't been in a squad for three years and I'm not naive. I understand how it works. But I also had that hope." Maddison had been in the office of the Leicester manager, Brendan Rodgers, last Thursday morning and he had not heard anything from Southgate. "He [Rodgers] was just being a good man manager and putting his

arm around me if I didn't get the call, and how to stay motivated for the game at West Ham on Saturday and how to enjoy the break." Then Maddison went into the changing room and saw that he had missed a call from Southgate, who had not selected him since the fixtures in November 2019 - when he gave him his debut and only cap as a 56th-minute substitute against Montenegro. "So the heart starts beating," Maddison says. "I had his number saved still! I called him back, he gave me the good news and it was all a bit of a blur. I couldn't tell you what Gareth said. After the call finished, it was a bit of a head on the wall moment, a big deep breath and a call to my parents. My dad actually cried and he is not a crier. I don't think I've seen him cry for years. I had dinner that night at home in Coventry with my mum and dad - and my little boy and my partner. I wanted to see my parents. It's a moment I will cherish forever." Maddison uploaded a photograph to social media of himself as a kid in an England shirt, his face painted with a St George's cross. "It hasn't sunk in," he wrote. "I'm going to the World Cup. Dreams really do come true."

Cristiano Ronaldo says Alex Ferguson advised against Manchester City move

London, November 17: Cristiano Ronaldo has said he was close to joining Manchester City but a talk with Sir Alex Ferguson changed his mind. The forward also claimed younger players "don't care" as much about football as his generation in his TalkTV interview with Piers Morgan. Part one of the interview was aired on Wednesday night, following the drip feed of social media snippets this week. In it, Ronaldo confirmed he had spoken with Ferguson before his return to Manchester United last summer, with his former manager at Old Trafford telling him a move to City was "impossible". "I wouldn't say that Manchester City wasn't close," Ronaldo said. "But as you know, my history in Manchester United, your heart, you're feeling the way that you did before, makes the difference. And of course, as well, Sir Alex Ferguson. I spoke with him. He said to me 'it's impossible for you to come to Manchester City'. And I say 'OK, boss'. I did [make] a conscious decision, and I repeat, I was with conscience that it was a good decision." Ronaldo also hit out at younger players making their way through the professional game, claiming "they don't suffer - and they don't care. Their hunger [is different] ... I think they have things more easily, everything's

easy." "They don't care - some ones, yes, but most of them no," he added. "But for me that is not surprising because they are not going to have longevity in their careers. It is impossible. In my generation you see many players reach 36, 37, 38 at a high level and I think this generation you will count on one hand how many will reach that level." Earlier on Wednesday, Raphaël Varane has admitted Ronaldo's interview - in which he fiercely criticised Manchester United's owners and the manager, Erik ten Hag - has sent shockwaves through the squad. In clips released on social media, Ronaldo told Morgan he did not respect Ten Hag and claimed a number of individuals at United were trying to force him out. The 37 year old forward also claimed the Glazer family, owners since 2005, did not care about the club. United are taking legal advice - and awaiting broadcast of the full interview - before issuing a response and while a statement did say their "focus remains on ... continuing the momentum, belief and togetherness being built", the effects of the interview are clearly being felt by the rest of the United players. Varane, who is preparing for the World Cup with France, told the radio station Europe 1: "Obviously it affects us. We follow what is happening and



what is being said. We try to calm the situation in our own way, we try not to get too involved in it. When it's a star like Ronaldo, even more so we try to take it with distance, that is to say that we do not try to change the situation alone, we are part of a collective. What I want is the best for my team so whatever the decision [by the club], as a player, we will accept it and

give the best of ourselves." Ronaldo missed training with Portugal on Wednesday because of a stomach bug. It caps an eventful week for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who has also been involved in awkward exchanges with his international teammates, Bruno Fernandes and João Cancelo. Portugal will get

their World Cup campaign under way next week against Ghana. Meanwhile, the France squad have announced they have pledged to financially support non governmental organisations and charities which work towards the protection of human rights. The World Cup has been tainted by the appalling lack of protection for migrant workers who have endured exploitative, even deadly, conditions as Qatar prepared for the tournament while the country's stance on LGBTQ+ rights has also cast a long shadow over the event. "We are players, we have this way of expressing ourselves, but it's human that we expressed this through this letter," said Varane, France's vice-captain. "It's also a lot of light [shone] on us and we also want to express humanly what we feel."

Mick Schumacher to leave Haas at end of 2022 Formula One season

London, November 17: Mick Schumacher, son of Ferrari great and seven-times world champion Michael, will be without a full-time Formula One drive next season after the US-owned Haas team announced his departure on Thursday. The 23-year-old German is expected to be replaced by older compatriot

Nico Hulkenberg alongside Danish driver Kevin Magnussen. Schumacher made his debut with Haas last season after winning the 2020 Formula Two title but was out of contract after this weekend's final race at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina. A member of Ferrari's young driver

academy, Schumacher was involved in costly crashes early in the season but has also scored his first F1 points this year with a best finish of sixth. He is 16th in the overall standings with 12 points. Haas team boss Guenther Steiner thanked Schumacher and wished him well.

'In the zone'

Owen Farrell eager for action not words as 100th cap beckons

London, November 17: For all Owen Farrell's qualities, taking compliments is not one of them. He readily admits as much and as he prepares to win his 100th England cap against New Zealand this weekend, Farrell is that little bit more eager for Saturday to come than usual. For the fanfare to stop, the glare of the spotlight to dissipate and to get lost in the thick of the action. For Farrell is never happier than when he loses himself between the white lines. Across an international career spanning 10 years and 99 appearances for his country, Farrell has come to crave that feeling that a lot of elite sportspeople do. When his mind is clear, when everything seems to slow down around him, when he enters "the zone". Farrell talks as if it is almost addictive, he compares it to his wedding day in the way that it just goes by in a blur and with the All Blacks visitors to Twickenham on Saturday for only the third time since Farrell began his international career, the stage is set for him to lose himself all over again. "The best part

of the games is how engaging they are, when you're lost in it. When you're not thinking," says Farrell. "That's the best, that's where there's nothing else going on, where there's no worry, there's no anything. You're just in it. And that's what everyone talks about when they talk about big performances. That's what everyone talks about when they are in the zone, or the flow of the game. That's the engagement in that side of stuff, it's something that people end up chasing a lot. Sometimes if you chase it too hard it doesn't come, so it's being able to let go." It feels like everything is slower. It feels like there's a calmness to it but it's still aggressive. It's timeless. Everything is slow but time goes so quickly. I can only imagine it's because you're fully immersed in what's happening. It's like any big day. Say your wedding day or something like that where it goes so quickly. It's been brilliant but you don't know what's almost gone on at times. "As much as he'd like to ignore it, Farrell's milestone this week-



end is significant, becoming only the third England men's player to reach three figures. Just ask his mum, Colleen, who will be in the stands rather than heading to Dublin to watch Andy's Ireland take on Australia. On Friday night his teammates - most likely those from Saracens - will hold a presentation for Farrell, as is customary for most landmarks, but Eddie Jones hinted at how uncomfortable he can find the lime-light after last weekend's victory over Japan when saying, "Sometimes it can become a burden."






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XLII PSPB Inter Unit Football Tournament

Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 17: On Day-2 of the ongoing Inter Unit PSPB Football Tournament held at Nehru Stadium in Guwahati from November 16-17. Electrifying matches

were played by the hosts as well as the participating teams. Results of day 1 of the tournament are HPCL beats IOCL-AOD (1-0), BCPL beats CPCL (5-0), NRL-A beats NRL-B (1-0),

IOCL beats EIL (7-0). Similarly, results of the matches on Day 2 are IOCL-AOD beats NRL-B (2-0), IOCL beats CPCL (14-0), HPCL beats NRL-A (1-0), BCPL beats EIL (2-0).

Qatar 2022 is actually happening: a horrifying but irresistible prospect

London, November 17 : And now, finally, some football. For much of the 12 years since Sepp Blatter's fumbling fingers ripped open an envelope containing one word and a thousand questions, the 2022 World Cup has been able to exist in our minds as little more than a surreal abstraction. A computer-generated simulation. Some Philip K Dick-infused vision of a future that might never come to pass; that could even somehow be averted if we made the right choices. But the time for daydreaming and denial is over. This is happening. Matty Cash is going to Qatar, and to greater or lesser extents, we're all going with him. Why? How? Why here? Why now? And - frankly - what the hell? Just a few of the more intelligible responses to a project that from its grubby cynical inception has felt like a giant step into a sun-scorched unknown. This is not the first World Cup to be held in the shadow of totalitarianism. It is not the first to be awarded under questionable premises, nor the first



to be built at a ruinous expense to the public exchequer and the planet. But in most other respects it is like nothing this sport will ever have seen before. Of course, you didn't choose this. Nor did the players or coaches. A winter World Cup in a tiny desert state with no footballing heritage and a litany of human rights abuses to its name was instead imposed upon us by the 22 men of Fifa's executive committee, three of whom are now dead. There is, perhaps, a certain dark irony in the fact that the survival rate of the

people who awarded the World Cup was even lower than that of the people who built it. But the very existence of this tournament is a reminder of where the power has always resided in this sport. You are of course welcome to turn up, tune in and enjoy. But this spectacle is not yours, and never has been. So perhaps the first thing we can do is to shake ourselves free of the idea that anything that happens on the pitch over the next month can ever redeem or mitigate its colossal moral expense. Football loves to spin this self-

serving yarn about itself: the notion that whether through noble escapism or shared joy or athletic beauty, it serves in some small way to make the world a better place. But in this case of Qatar 2022, football has made the world measurably and noticeably worse. It has quite literally killed people. How you feel about that is totally up to you. But the very least we owe the victims of this World Cup is our present remembrance and future vigilance.

Graham Henry : 'What I like about the Black Ferns is they're so passionate about the game'

London, November 17: At 76, Sir Graham Henry says the final whistle has now sounded. One of the most decorated coaches in rugby history has hung up his tracksuit and is heading into the retirement sunset on the idyllic Waiheke Island. His last hurrah was last Saturday's women's World Cup final across the bay in Auckland where, as a consultant with the Black Ferns, he duly signed off with another momentous victory. If it feels like the end of an era that is exactly what it is. Henry coached the All Blacks to 88 wins in 103 Tests - his record against England read played nine, won nine - and guided them to the 2011 World Cup title. He was World Coach of the Year five times and also coached Wales and the British & Irish Lions. If anyone is qualified to discuss the health - or otherwise - of modern rugby union he is very much the man. Which is why everyone should sit up and listen when he suggests the game has an increasing problem. "I think the roll-

ing maul has got out of hand, personally," he says, taking a contemplative sip of his mocha. "It's becoming such a significant part of the game that teams are working to get penalties just so they can drive a five metre lineout and score. That's probably not a very appealing part of the game for the spectator." Henry has been involved in top-level coaching for 30 years - having coached in schools for two decades before that - and needs no reminding that rugby is a contact sport that can be approached in myriad ways. His issue is that some sides are starting to do little else and are causing neutrals to lose interest. "Perhaps in England the number of spectators looks after itself because of the size of the population but in this part of the world it doesn't." They're struggling to get people along to watch the games. I think the rolling maul is a negative part of the game from a viewing point of view. It's very hard for the defensive side to stop it. I think it's a part of the game we could look at and say, 'Can we make this a greater contest?' It is also his belief



that encouraging players to tackle slightly lower is crucial to the game's future popularity, not least at community level. "I would drop the tackle height below the sternum. It will free up the ball and there'll be a lot more offloads, which will make it a better game to watch. I think the focus on tackle height has already been a real positive." Henry's perspective has been sharpened by his time with the Black Ferns, who beat England 34-31 to retain the world title at Eden Park. "People have enjoyed the women's game because it's a bit slower and they can appreciate more what people are trying to achieve. The

men's game today is brutal, isn't it? It's so bloody quick, you've got so many big, strong athletes and the field hasn't got any bigger. People have actually said to me, 'I've really enjoyed the women's games because I can see what's going on.'" It has also made him wonder if the men are taking themselves too seriously. "What I like about the Black Ferns is that they're so passionate about the game. Women's rugby is about enjoyment. The result is important but it's not the be-all and end-all. It's important we maintain that and don't make it like the men where it becomes a job." His recent insights into gender psychology - "the girls need to

feel good to play and the boys need to win to feel good" - has also confirmed his view that he made a few misjudgments early in his Test coaching career, not least in delivering earnest team talks that his players did not need. Footage of the septuagenarian dancing with the Black Ferns at training - "No, it hasn't improved my dancing... mine has to be wind assisted" - is conclusive proof that good coaches can still learn new tricks. "Women are very self-critical. They knock themselves a lot and they want to get it right. As a coach it became more of a job of building their confidence and being really positive. Perhaps I should have learned that when I was coaching the men." From now on, though, the departing guru will follow big games such as Saturday's Test at Twickenham mostly from afar. "I watched Wales play the All Blacks in Cardiff. I've got so many fond memories of that place. It's my second home and I really loved my time there."



confident I presented a balanced feature on her. She is quoted accurately as every answer in each interview I do is transcribed in full. My questions are just summarised but in this case, in print, I should have used the exact words I said on the recording. Instead, in the original version I wondered whether "this anomaly suggests there might be a residual issue of racial prejudice in the development of English women's football." I had sent the online article to an Arsenal representative, who sat in on the interview, and he asked me to change that sentence. I immediately did so and the amended interview said: "Is there a specific reason for this anomaly or is it just coincidental?" Mead has had an extraordinary year and she has been rightly lauded for her achievements. The same is true of her England team. After decades of prejudice against female footballers, Mead and her teammates burst into mainstream sport this summer. It was thrilling but it still seemed strange that the overwhelming majority of their European championship-winning squad was white when football is loved and played successfully by all races in this country. Brushing aside an obvious discrepancy, blaming the media or insisting that there are no such problems in the highest echelons of the game does not make the issue disap-

pear for all those who rightly champion women's football. Meanwhile, two white people becoming embroiled in an "incident" relating to just one question about diversity distracts attention from the systemic racism that should be our primary focus. Wright and Aluko, speaking with measured clarity, reminded us of this truth. "I called Beth and spoke to her," Wright told ITV as he reflected on our interview. "We had a great chat. I'm very fond of Beth and yes, it was a bit disappointing seeing that. What was said will obviously stay between us but I think it was a massive moment of reflection and learning for her." For Aluko the paucity of diversity in women's football is "a problem for me that is about recruitment and recruitment practices. It's about making sure we are widening the pool of players for Sarina Wiegman [England's manager] to choose from, for the younger age groups to choose from, for the academies to choose from". She said "the talent is absolutely there" but "the inclusion is not". Wright added that "it's not a new conversation either. It always feels like we're starting from scratch". But his urgency was striking: "There're still lots of resources and energy that go into [combating] racism in the men's game. What you want is the same energy and resources in the women's game."

Australia In India

Delhi Likely To Host Test After Five years



New Delhi, November 17 : Delhi will be hosting a Test match after more than five years when Pat Cummins' Australia travel to India for the high-profile Border-Gavaskar four-match series in February-March next year. Other centres which are strongly tipped to host the remaining Tests are Ahmedabad, Dharamsala and one among Nagpur or Chennai. The series will be very important as it will be the last four games for India in the second edition of the World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. In fact, in order to

qualify for the summit clash, India might have to beat Australia 4-0, which could be a Herculean task for Rohit Sharma's men. The series is traditionally a four-Test affair, but will be contested across five matches during the next ICC Future Tours & Programme (FTP), starting 2024. As per the BCCI's rotation formula, Delhi, which has missed out during the two years of COVID-19 pandemic, is all set to get one of the Test matches. The city last hosted a Test against Sri Lanka in December, 2017. "Delhi is likely to host the second of the four Test matches as of now. The dates will be out as and when the Tours and Fixtures committee hold its meeting. Dharamsala, which hosted its first and only Test almost six years back, against Australia in March, 2017, will probably host the third Test," a senior BCCI official told PTI on the con-

dition of anonymity. It is understood that Australia, in all likelihood, will start the series in either among Nagpur, Chennai or Hyderabad, as Bengaluru had hosted a Test match against Sri Lanka earlier this year. That was a day/night Test. Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium is yet to be taken on which of the four Tests will be a day/night affair. The BCCI has so far hosted three pink-ball Tests -- the inaugural one in the country against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens, one against England at Motera and the last one was against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru. Post the COVID-19-induced break, the BCCI has hosted eight Test matches with four against England in 2021 (Chennai and Ahmedabad), two against New Zealand (Kanpur and Mumbai) and two against Sri Lanka (Chandigarh and Bengaluru).