



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Facebook, Instagram

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 20 :

Facebook and Instagram are the most common platforms for bullying young people, a poll conducted by some 9,500 National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from 24 universities and educational institutions in Assam has revealed. The poll facilitated by the UNICEF to support the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) also recorded that 95% of the youth in the State face mental health issues owing to corporal punishment.

OC sustains injuries

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 20 :

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mushalpur Police Station was injured in a firing incident in Assam's Baksa district on Saturday night. The incident occurred at Ujirbari in Mushalpur. According to reports, the OC identified as Ananda Rabha sustained bullet injuries when he had gone to arrest an accused. The accused has been identified as Robin Kalita. He has been charged with allegations of child marriage. OC Rabha was injured after a bullet from his service revolver struck his left leg. The incident occurred when a minor clash occurred between the OC and the accused.

Bangladeshi national

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 20 :

Two persons were taken into custody by local police in Assam's Mankachar on Sunday, one of whom is a Bangladeshi national. According to reports, one of the arrested individuals is a Bangladeshi national, while the other is an Indian. Meanwhile, the identities of the two persons are yet to be ascertained. The two were held based on specific inputs from the Mankachar Police Station in the South Salmara-Mankachar district of Assam. It may be noted that at least eight Bangladeshi nationals, who entered India without valid documents, were deported to Bangladesh from Assam's Karimganj district on October 29. The Bangladeshi nationals including a woman were deported through legal procedures via the international border point at Sutarkandi.

PM Modi to commemorate Ahom general on his 400th birth anniversary

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 20 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a valedictory event on November 25 to nationally commemorate the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan, a 17th-century Assamese general of the Ahom kingdom who defeated an invading Mughal army in a river battle near Guwahati, state chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday. A flagship event will be held at the national capital's Vigyan Bhawan on November 23-24, Sarma said. Barphukan is revered in Assam for leading the 1671 Battle of Saraighat on the Brahmaputra and thwarting a naval intrusion



by Mughal general Ram Singh I to take the Ahom kingdom of Assam. Sarma said, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will inaugurate

an exhibition on November 23 which will also be attended by Union home min-

ister Amit Shah as chief guest. Modi will attend the valedictory function on November 25. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Assam government's move to nationally commemorate the general's life and times, who is one of the state's greatest historical icons belonging to Ahom tribe, is part of the move to "spread national awareness" about local tribal leaders who resisted military invasions and preserve Assam's distinct identity and culture, the chief minister said. A biographical book on Lachit Barphukan will be released and a documentary on him

will also be screened at Vigyan Bhawan. The chief minister said that Union law minister Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate a cultural programme at Delhi's Sunder Park on November 23. Commemorating tribal and native leaders of various states, such as Birsa Munda, is part of the ruling BJP's larger approach to politics and governance, he said. The Assam CM said that he will urge the Chief of the Army Staff to hold a memorial lecture and institute an award after the great Ahom warrior. He also appealed the NCERT to include a chapter on the legendary general.

Satyendar Jain moves court seeking contempt action against ED

New Delhi, November 20 :

"Special court issues contempt of court notice to ED on Satyendar Jain's application for leaking Tihar CCTV footage to BJP & others. The court will hear on Monday how did BJP get the confidential footage and why it was circulated?" Satyendar Jain's lawyer Mohd Irshad tweeted. Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain's legal team on Saturday moved to a Special court

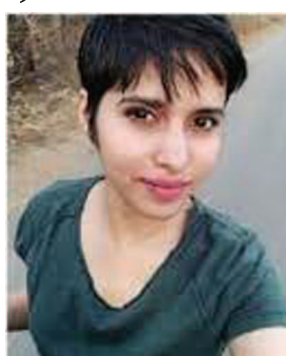
with an application seeking contempt action against Enforcement Directorate. Jain's legal team alleged that ED has leaked the CCTV video despite the undertaking given in the court. Special Judge Vikas Dhull issued a notice to the ED and fixed the matter for November 21, 2022, for hearing. "Special court issues contempt of court notice to ED on

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Delhi Murder: Cops Find Part Of Skull, Bones In Forest

New Delhi, November 20 :

Sources say investigations into the six-month-old murder hinge on forensic reports. New Delhi: In the grisly murder of 27-year-old Shradha Walkar by her live-in boyfriend Aftab Ameen Poonawala, Delhi police have recovered more human remains from the Mehrauli forest. The base of a skull, a decapitated jaw, and more bones were found today. They will be sent for



forensic examination to match with Shradha's father's DNA samples.

Aftab confessed to concealing all evidence related to Shradha. He destroyed three of Shradha's pictures that he found in the house after he murdered her. The police also recovered Shradha's bag from Aftab's Chattarpur flat, and found some of her clothes, and shoes. Aftab's 'narco', or narcoanalysis, test will be conducted after Forensic Science Laboratory team takes up Delhi Police's request. The police had initially recovered 8 to 10 bones, which were sent for forensic examination. The second important location in the investigation is Aftab Poonawala's Chhatarpur flat, where the couple was staying before the murder. The third key location in this investigation is Gurugram, near the

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Sanjay Raut's "Self-Respect" Jab At Eknath Shinde



Mumbai, November 20 :

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray's faction) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday demanded the removal of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari over an "old idol" remark on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He also demanded Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's resignation. Speaking to the media, Mr Raut asked Mr Shinde if he has the "self-respect" that he had cited while re-

bellling against Uddhav Thackeray. Mr Raut's remark came after Mr Koshyari triggered a controversy on Saturday by calling the Maratha ruler an "old idol". Slamming the Maharashtra government for keeping "silent" on the issue, Mr Raut said, "The Governor has insulted Shivaji Maharaj four times in one year. Still, the government is silent. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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The youth of Assam and North East have moved forward: Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 20 :

Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita appealed commander-in-chief of United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA) Paresh Baruah on Sunday to come into talk. He appealed while addressing the 'Purvottar Swabhimana Utsav' event organised by Indian Army in Guwahati. Lt. Gen. Rana Pratap Kalita said, "ULFA no longer

has influence at the ground level of Assam." "Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been lifted from several districts of the state except four as terrorism in Assam and North East has declined significantly in the last ten years," he said. He further said, "The youth of Assam and North East have moved forward." It may be mentioned that the Indian Army under the aegis of HQ Eastern Command organised a two-day con-

clave titled 'Purvottar Swabhimana Utsav' on the theme of 'Celebrating Contribution of India's North East Region (NER) in Nation Building'. The conclave will be conducted between November 20 and 21 in Guwahati as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The conclave is aimed at highlighting the contribution of NER towards nation-building, felicitating Veer Naris, and showcasing NE culture.



Union Minister Sonowal reviews developmental works on Barak river



Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 20 :

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush,

Sarbananda Sonowal, reviewed various projects under implementation around the North-east

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PM Modi slams Rahul Gandhi for walking with Medha Patkar

New Delhi, November 20 :

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress leader and his Bharat Jodo Yatra as he addressed a public meeting in Gujarat's Dhoraji ahead of the assembly election in the state. "A Congress leader was seen taking out a padyatra with a woman who stalled the Narmada dam project for three decades," PM Modi said. "Ask the Congress when it comes to demand your vote that you are taking out a padyatra by keeping

your hand on the shoulders of those who were against Narmada dam. What would have happened had Narmada dam not been built," PM Modi said. Medha Patkar joined Bharat Jodo Yatra on November 17 in Maharashtra and the photos of Rahul Gandhi speaking to the activist with his hand on Medha Patkar's shoulder was tweeted by the party, drawing flak from the BJP. Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel questioned Medha Patkar's presence at the yatra and

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India remains a bright spot among strong global headwinds



New Delhi, November 20 :

There are two ways to look at it. If one is determined to show a negative picture, the choice is obvious -

India's merchandise exports in October 2022 fell 16.6% at \$29.78 billion as compared to \$35.73 in October 2021. But, trade also comprises services, one of

the strengths of New India, which believes in its demographic dividend. And why to leave services when analysing trade performance? When both

goods and services are combined, India's total exports in October 2022 jumped over 4% at \$58.36 billion at a time when the entire world, including advanced economies, are facing major headwinds. Now, take the performance for the first seven months of the current financial year (2022-23). According to provisional official data, India's merchandise (goods) exports was \$263.35 billion in April-October 2022 compared to \$233.98 billion in April-October 2021, an over 12.55% jump. Services exports also estimated to surge more than 31.4% from \$138.01

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Rights group calls for Samuel Alito to be investigated after claims of leaked 2014 ruling



Washington, November 20 : A civil rights group issued a call Saturday for US supreme court justice Samuel Alito to be investigated over allegations that the judge leaked a 2014 landmark ruling involving contraception and religious rights at a private dinner with wealthy political donors. The claim was contained in a New York Times article in which minister Rob Schenck, an anti-abortion activist, said he was told of the decision weeks before it was announced and had used the information to prepare a public relations push. Senator Ted Kennedy in January 2006. Alito and Kennedy met the year previously regarding Alito's nomination by George W Bush. Schenck also claimed he tipped off Hobby Lobby, the craft store chain owned by Christian evangelicals that brought and won the case allowing privately-

held, for-profit businesses to be exempt from regulations to which its owners religiously object, in this case requiring employers to cover certain contraceptives for their female employees. "The Senate judiciary committee should immediately move to investigate the apparent leak by Justice Alito," said Brian Fallon, the executive director of Demand Justice. "This bombshell report is the latest proof that the Republican justices on the court are little more than politicians in robes. It's no wonder trust in the court has hit a record low. Structural reform of the court, including strict new ethics rules, is needed now more than ever." Fallon added that Schenck "should be called to testify about both the leak and the years-long lobbying effort he once led to cultivate Alito and other Republican justices". Claims of the judicial leak, potentially for

political purposes, comes six months after a draft opinion of the Dobbs decision overturning the nationwide abortion rights established by the 1972 case Roe v Wade was leaked ahead of its June publication. In a letter to supreme court chief justice John G Roberts Jr dated 7 June, Schenck wrote that he was reaching out to the judge "to inform you of a series of events that may impinge on the investigation you and your delegates are undertaking in connection with the leak of a draft opinion". He described a dinner at which an unnamed political donor invited to dine at the home of Alito and his wife, Martha-Ann, had offered to try to glean information about the pending decision in the Hobby Lobby case. The next day, the Times reported, the dining guest called Schenck and told him Alito had written the majority opinion in the case and that Hobby Lobby would

win. That exact decision was publicly announced less than a month later. Schenck concluded the letter to Roberts by saying he "thought this previous incident might bear some consideration by you and others involved in the process". How that directly reflects on the current investigation into the leak of the Dobbs decision is not clear, but it arrives at a time of concern for the court's legitimacy as it works under the sway of a conservative supermajority. Polls show that a majority of Americans are losing confidence in the supreme court. After the leak in May of the Dobbs decision draft, Alito called the unauthorized disclosure "a grave betrayal" and ordered an investigation by the supreme court's marshal. The Times noted that Schenck's account has "gaps". But the newspaper's examination of the claim uncovered emails and conversations that "strongly suggested" that Schenck knew of the decision before it was made public.

Man being processed at Manston detention centre in Kent dies

London, November 20 : A man who arrived in the UK on a small boat a week ago and was being processed at Manston has died, the Home Office said on Saturday. He became ill while at the Kent detention site and was taken to hospital, but later died. It is understood that he arrived on 12 November and was taken ill on Friday evening. "We can confirm a person staying at Manston has died this morning [Saturday] in hospital after becoming unwell," a Home Office spokesperson said. "We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to all those affected. Until a postmortem examination takes place, we cannot comment in detail, but there is no evidence at this stage to suggest that this tragic death was caused by an infectious disease." "We take the safety and welfare of those in our care extremely seriously and provide 24/7 health facilities with trained medical staff at Manston." "The case has been referred to the coroner and to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. A spokesperson for the IOPC confirmed they had received a referral from the Home Office after the man's death and will now assess it to determine whether any further action is required. The Guardian has received unconfirmed reports that he had contracted sepsis. Home Office sources said they are trying to make contact with the man's next of kin. The shadow home secretary, Yvette Cooper, said there would need to be a "full



investigation". "Deep condolences to the family & friends of the man who has died after staying at Manston," she tweeted. "There will of course need to be a full investigation into this tragic case." Inquest, the charity that provides expertise on state-related deaths, called for an independent inquiry. Deborah Coles, its director, said: "It feels as if it was only a matter of time before a death like this happened in this completely closed facility." Notwithstanding the concerns about conditions and the impact on the mental and physical health of people staying there, an independent investigation is needed to hold the different agencies involved to account. Maybe this death will shock people into doing something about the Manston facility. "This is thought to be the first death of someone processed at Manston. The facility provides basic temporary accommodation to small boat arrivals while they undergo processing and can hold 1,000 people, with a maximum of 1,600, but was described in October as being "catastrophically overcrowded". In recent days numbers on the Manston site are thought to have dropped to

Washington, November 20 : Donald Trump's Twitter account appeared to be back online after a slim majority of votes were cast, in a Twitter poll organised by Elon Musk, in favour of reinstating the former US president, who was banned from the social media service after the 6 January 2021 Capitol

riot. Slightly more than 15 million votes were counted in the poll with 51.8% votes in favour of reinstatement. "The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated," Musk tweeted. During the poll, Musk acknowledged the vote numbers were being affected by automated "bots", which are not people, and suggested there was a need to "clean up" Twitter polls from being influenced by "bot and trolls armies". Bot & troll armies might be running out of steam soon. Some interesting lessons to clean up future polls. Trump had appeared less than keen earlier in the day to return to Twitter. "I don't see any reason for it," the former president said via video when asked about it by a panel at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual leadership meeting. He said he would stick with his new platform Truth Social, the app developed by his Trump Media & Technology Group

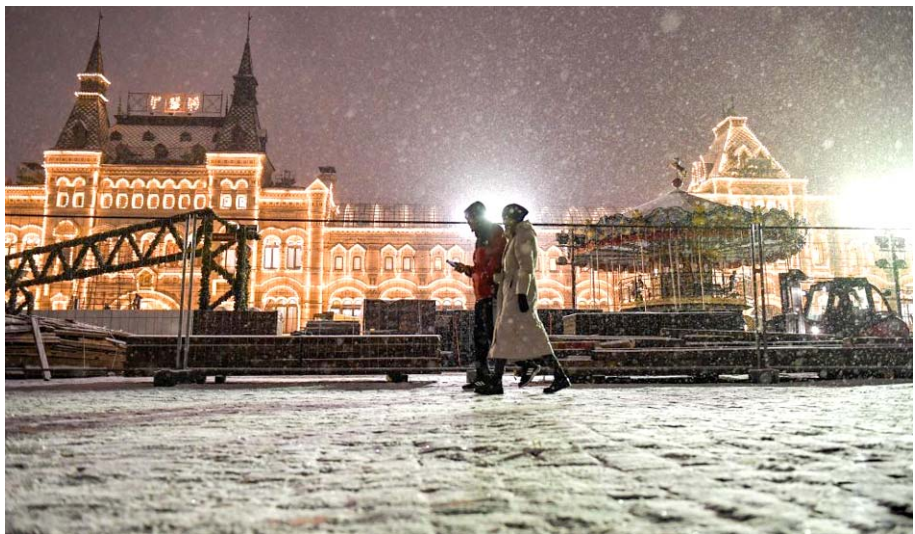
(TMTG) startup. Twitter took the extraordinary decision to ban Trump after the 6 January attack on the US Capitol, saying his posts were "highly likely to encourage and inspire people to replicate the criminal acts that took place at the US Capitol". Trump on Tuesday launched a bid to regain the White House in 2024, and praised Musk saying he had always liked him. But Trump also said Twitter suffered from bots, fake accounts and that the problems it faced were "incredible". Even as Musk was still completing his acquisition of Twitter, his self-avowed status as a "free speech absolutist" raised the possibility he would lift the ban on people whose Twitter accounts have been permanently suspended from the platform. Hate speech and misinformation experts have been bracing for the return of Trump, who in his time on the platform amassed more than 88 million followers. Musk first

said in May he planned to reverse the ban on Trump, and the timing of any return by Trump was also closely watched - and feared - by many of Twitter's advertisers. Musk sought to reassure users and advertisers that such a decision would be made with consideration by a content moderation council composed of people with "widely diverse viewpoints" and no account reinstatements would happen before the council convened. He also said Twitter would not reinstate any banned users until there was a "clear process for doing so". But this week, Musk suddenly reinstated comedian Kathy Griffin, who had been banned for changing her profile name to "Elon Musk" which violated his new rule against impersonation without indicating it was a parody account. There has been no new information about the moderation council or reinstatement process.

Beloved giant panda given to Taiwan by China dies aged 18 after seizures



Taipei, November 20 : A panda given to Taiwan by China 14 years ago as a symbol of what were then warmer ties died on Saturday, after suffering seizures, Taipei zoo said. Tuan Tuan and his breeding mate Yuan Yuan were given to Taiwan by Beijing in late 2008, at a time when relations between the two were more cordial. China views Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day bring the self-ruled democratic island into its fold, by force if necessary. "Our medical team has confirmed that Tuan Tuan's heart stopped beating at 13.48 (0548 GMT)," the zoo said in a short statement. The panda was put under deep anaesthesia for CT scans earlier on Saturday, and the team decided to "let Tuan Tuan continue to sleep" after the results indicated his condition was "irreversible" and that he could no longer "live a quality life", zoo officials said. "It would have been extremely painful and risky for Tuan Tuan to resuscitate him from the anaesthesia," said spokesperson Eric Tsao. Vets first noticed Tuan Tuan, 18, was ill in August, when he began suffering seizures and appeared increasingly unsteady and lethargic. Scans showed he had a brain lesion and he was placed on anti-seizure medication. The zoo suspected Tuan Tuan had a tumour and he was moved into palliative care last month. The seizures returned in the past few days, more frequent than before, and medicine could not ease the symptoms. Fans mourned Tuan Tuan's death on social media, while the Taipei mayor, Ko Wen-je, thanked the panda in an Instagram post for "bringing happiness to Taiwanese people and making Taipei zoo more wonderful". Taiwan's top China policymaking body, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), hailed the panda's role in improving ties with Beijing. Tuan Tuan "let everyone know more about giant pandas and help promote exchanges between the two sides ... MAC is saddened that he has passed away", it said. The panda couple - whose names combined mean "reunion" or "unity" - had become huge stars in Taiwan. Yuan Yuan has given birth to two female cubs. China has long deployed "panda diplomacy" and the donation of Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan was seen as endorsing the presidency of then Beijing-friendly leader Ma Ying-jeou. Beijing usually only loans pandas to foreign zoos, which must usually return any offspring within a few years of their birth to join the country's breeding programme.



People walk in snowfall on Red Square in Moscow, Russia

Human jaw remains, 3 bones found by Delhi cops investigating Shraddha Walker's murder

NEW DELHI, November 20 : In a breakthrough in the Shraddha Walker murder case, the Delhi police have found remains of a human jaw or the lower part of a human head in a forest in Delhi. They have also found three bones during their search according to reports. The human remains need to be identified and matched with the victim Shraddha Walker's DNA for confirmation if they really belong to her. Shraddha Walker was murdered by her live-in partner Aftab Poonawalla on May 18 and chopped into 35 pieces thereafter. The accused was arrested recently by the Delhi police and is set to undergo a Narco test on Monday (Nov 21). Aftab is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walker and chopping her body into 35 pieces. He was arrested on Saturday after Delhi police started probing into a missing complaint filed by Shraddha's father Vikas Walker. Officials sources associated with the technical investigation cell of the Delhi police claimed that the Delhi Police is trying to retrieve chats of Aftab with Shraddha and others during the period of crime.



Residents in U.S. West concerned over megadrought

Twitter lifts Donald Trump ban after Elon Musk's poll

riot. Slightly more than 15 million votes were counted in the poll with 51.8% votes in favour of reinstatement. "The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated," Musk tweeted. During the poll, Musk acknowledged the vote numbers were being affected by automated "bots", which are not people, and suggested there was a need to "clean up" Twitter polls from being influenced by "bot and trolls armies". Bot & troll armies might be running out of steam soon. Some interesting lessons to clean up future polls. Trump had appeared less than keen earlier in the day to return to Twitter. "I don't see any reason for it," the former president said via video when asked about it by a panel at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual leadership meeting. He said he would stick with his new platform Truth Social, the app developed by his Trump Media & Technology Group

(TMTG) startup. Twitter took the extraordinary decision to ban Trump after the 6 January attack on the US Capitol, saying his posts were "highly likely to encourage and inspire people to replicate the criminal acts that took place at the US Capitol". Trump on Tuesday launched a bid to regain the White House in 2024, and praised Musk saying he had always liked him. But Trump also said Twitter suffered from bots, fake accounts and that the problems it faced were "incredible". Even as Musk was still completing his acquisition of Twitter, his self-avowed status as a "free speech absolutist" raised the possibility he would lift the ban on people whose Twitter accounts have been permanently suspended from the platform. Hate speech and misinformation experts have been bracing for the return of Trump, who in his time on the platform amassed more than 88 million followers. Musk first

said in May he planned to reverse the ban on Trump, and the timing of any return by Trump was also closely watched - and feared - by many of Twitter's advertisers. Musk sought to reassure users and advertisers that such a decision would be made with consideration by a content moderation council composed of people with "widely diverse viewpoints" and no account reinstatements would happen before the council convened. He also said Twitter would not reinstate any banned users until there was a "clear process for doing so". But this week, Musk suddenly reinstated comedian Kathy Griffin, who had been banned for changing her profile name to "Elon Musk" which violated his new rule against impersonation without indicating it was a parody account. There has been no new information about the moderation council or reinstatement process.

Turkey bombs towns across northern Syria after Istanbul bombing, say reports

Paris, November 20 : Turkish airstrikes hit several towns across northern Syria, including the city of Kobane late on Saturday, Kurdish-led forces and a Britain-based monitoring group have said. The attacks come days after Ankara blamed the Kurdistan Workers' party (PKK) for last Sunday's deadly bombing in central Istanbul. "Kobane, the city that defeated Isis, is subjected to bombardment by the aircraft of the Turkish occupation," tweeted Farhad Shami, a spokesperson for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Turkey considers the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) -

the main component of the SDF - an extension of the outlawed PKK. Shami said there had also been airstrikes against two densely populated villages in the northern province of Aleppo and the north-eastern province of Hasakeh. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that the Turkish military had carried out more than 20 airstrikes across the two provinces. The group has an extensive network of contacts across Syria. Kobane, a Kurdish-majority town in northern



Syria near the Turkish border, was captured by the Islamic State group in late 2014, though Kurdish fighters drove them out early the following year. Both the PKK and the YPG have denied any involvement in the Istanbul attack, in which six people were killed. But the Turkish interior minister, Süleyman Soyulu, has said Ankara believes the order for the attack was given from Kobane.

NOTICE INVITE TENDER

The Chairman, Basugaon Municipal Board, BTC, Assam invite sealed tenders in the prescribed form eventually to be drawn in the PWD F-2 Form/Department Form for the following works given below with a validity period of 3 months, affixing court fee stamp of Rs.8.25(Rupees eight & paise twenty five only) from any government Register Contractors of class I(A) category only as applicable having post experience of executing works of similar nature and will be received by the undersigned at his office up to 2.00PM of 30.11.2022 and will be opened on the same date at 3.00PM in the presence of the intending tenderers or their authorized agents. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the tender, the tender will be received and opened at the same place and time on the next working day of the office. Earnest money at the rate of 2% of the value of work (1% for SC, ST, OBC and Unemployed Graduate Engineers) in the form of NSC/ KVP/ Bank draft will have to be deposited along with each tender duly pleased to the Chairman, Basugaon Municipal Board, BTC, Assam.

The detail tender papers may be obtained from office of the Chairman, Basugaon Municipal Board, BTC, Assam by the intending tenderers on payment of Rs.1000.00(Rupees one thousand) only for each tender which is non refundable during the office hours from 17/11/2022 to 29/11/2022. No tender will be issued after this time.

Sl No	Name of Work	Approximate value of work (Rs.)	Eligible class of contractor	Earnest money @2%(Rs.)	Time of completion
1	Group No-A Construction of RCC drain from existing drain to near residence of Sri Sukursing Basumatary, Basugaon under SOPD for the year 2022-23	Rs. 12,28,000.00	Class I	24,600.00	3month
2.	Group No-B Construction of RCC drain with cover slab from Basugaon main road to AKRASU office at ward No-3 under SOPD for the year 2022-23	Rs. 16,72,000.00	Class I	33,500.00	3month

Place of work : Basugaon Town, district Chirang within the state of Assam
GST, Income tax clearance certificate/PAN, up to date registration, up to date labour license & other particulars as stated in the tender documents are to be submitted along with tender without which no tender will be considered. Contractors having experience in similar nature of works is desirable.
Details of work, other terms and condition or any clarification may be obtained from the office of the Chairman, Basugaon Municipal Board, Basugaon, BTC, during office hours from 17/11/2022 to 29/11/2022
The bidders have to quote item wise rate corrected to two digits after decimal point and no tender on percentage based rate will be accepted. The rate to be inclusive of all taxes such as GST, labour cess, FR etc. All admissible taxes will be deducted at source at the time of payment as per prevailing norms. All other details may be seen in the tender document.
Payment is subject to release of fund from BTC. the undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Chairman,
Basugaon Municipal Board

Tihar Festival Held at Dipatola



The Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 20: A Tihar bidai festival convened by Dipatola Gorkha Samaj in collaboration with Dipatola chapter of Nepali Sanskriti Suraksha Parishad was held at Satgaon Playground, Dipatola today. The programme began with hoisting of the flag by Mohan Pradhan, president of the reception committee. Homnath Chetry lit up

Businessman commits suicide for betrayal of his own nephew at Nagaon

Assam Rising, NAGAON, Nov 19: Waheb Khan, a established businessman of Nagaon Marangial, has committed suicide by consuming poisonous substance for his own nephew. Sources claimed that Waheb Khan helped his nephew Yakub Khan by being a granter for a bank loan of Rs 20 lakhs from Bijoya bank and gave mortgage his house as well as land a couple of years ago. Meanwhile, Yakub Khan who is a

mandal level leader of minority cell of the ruling BJP party, started a hotel with the loan amount at Nagaon Borbazar area and did not pay a single installment of the loan since the day he took for which the concerned bank finally issued official notice a few days back to Waheb Khan, the granter of the loan amount for auction of the mortgage properties submitted against the loan. Receiving the notice, while Waheb Khan ap-

Hojai SP suspended SI for abusing scribe

Assam Rising, Hojai, November 20: Acting on a complaint received from a scribe namely Shiv Dayal Singh, Superintendent of Police of Hojai District Barun Purkayastha suspended a police officer of Hojai Police Station namely Bhaskar Bora. As per information, SI Bora allegedly abused

the journalist. According to sources, the officer suspended was sub-inspector of Hojai Police Station. The journalist Shivdayal Singh, accused that Bora ill-treated and abused him. He said he was brought to Police Station illegally and was tortured on Friday wee hours. Following the incident, a written complaint was lodged by the media persons along victim Shivdayal Singh on Saturday afternoon, based on which SP ordered for suspension of the accused SI. The immediate action of SP was appreciated by the media persons of Hojai District.

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earthen lamps in front of the portrait of Mahakabi Lakshmi Prasad Devkota while Jogendra Upadhyaya offered floral tributes. Retired teacher Mukunda Upadhyaya paid shradhanjali. The open session for Deusi, Bhaile and Sangini competition was inaugurated by Ganesh Karki, a retired teacher followed by a welcome address offered by Indra Kanta Kariki, working president of the reception committee. The open session was addressed by Anjan Baskota, recipient of Sahitya Akademi's Yuva Puraskar, Dambarudhar Nath, president of Satgaon Village Development Committee and Narad Upadhyaya, executive

member of Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha as invited guests. Eminent dramatist Purna Kumar Sarma, Dr. Tilak Sarma and Sabita Darjee graced the occasion as judges. The open session chaired by Ganga Upadhyaya was compared by Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Dambaru Chetry. A total of 9 Deusi teams, 14 Bhaile and 4 Sangini teams from far and wide participated in the competition. Rohit Khanal offered a vote of thanks at the end of the programme. Notably, Tihar is a mega festival of the Gorkhas celebrated for five days during Dipawali. Deusi and Bhaile are similar to the Bihu dance and Husari of Assamese culture.

Record revenue collection by DTO kamrup metro

Assam Rising, Palasbari, November 20: Assam Transport Department's office of the DTO (R&L), Kamrup District (Metro), based at Betkushi here, has been successful in collecting arrear motor vehicle tax with the of the Current financial year (2022-2022) last 7 Month. During Period From 1 April to 31 October. According to Gautam Das, Asst. Transport Commissioner and DTO (R&L), for the the DTO office facilitate the vehicle owners to pay their pending tax through online, digital option, RTGS and net banking. However, following this innovative drive, the DTO Kamrup Metro office was able to collect only Rs 201,96,58,540.00 crore revenue on Last 7 month's current financial year. Same Period last financial (2021-22) year revenue collection was Rs 140 crore. As directed by Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Transport Minister Parimol Suklabidya to step up revenue collection drive along with road safety awareness rally, the DTO Office conducted. In coming days the DTO office will start seizing the vehicles of the defaulters with imposition of penalty. Himangshu Kumar Das, DTO (Enforcement) and Rafiqul Islam, Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, led the team of MVIS, Enforcement Inspectors, Asst Enforcement Inspectors and the staff of DTO Kamrup Metro office in the revenue collection drive carried out in full swing from

Awareness programme on Rice Procurement held at Biswanath

Assam Rising, Bishwanath Chariali, November 20: An awareness meeting was held at the office of Gohpur Sub-Division Agriculture Officer in the presence of Deputy Commissioner of Biswanath Munindra Nath Nagatey today as part of the paddy procurement campaign under Food and Civil Supplies department and Food Corporation of India. The meeting was attended by District Agriculture Officer Deepak Barhoi, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Dibyajyoti Fukan, Senior Agriculture Development Officer Pradeep Talukdar, Gohpur Agriculture Development Officer Raktim Saikia and other officers and employees of the agriculture department. Addressing the gathering, the deputy commissioner urged the peasants to register their



names immediately to get the benefits of the project. He further explained that this was a golden opportunity to double their income

through the sale of paddy. The District Agriculture Officer in his

ONGC Conducts Medical Camp in Sofrai

Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 20: ONGC Assam Asset as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has organised a free medical camp at 945 No Rangapothar LP School in Sofrai on Saturday. M Ganeshan CGM-Head HR, inaugurating the medical camp underscored that ONGC is abundantly committed to the welfare of the stakeholders in the operational areas. Improving the health index of the people is one of the principal objectives of its CSR programmes, he reiterated. Over six hundred local people availed medical services in this Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative held till late in the evening. On the occasion, hundred (100) near vision spectacles and Forty (40) walking sticks for the elderly people were given. The team

comprising ONGC doctors and staff conducted free blood sugar, blood pressure tests and provided medicines to the patients. In view of the rising numbers of the Dengue cases in parts of the state, the doctors at the camp delivered a talk on the preventive measures, symptoms of the Dengue. Informative banners were also displayed at the venue of the camp. Earlier on 29th October, similar free medical camp was also organized by ONGC at Mazdoor Club, Athkel in association with Geleky branch of ATTSA. Besides free medical tests, walking sticks, spectacles and medicines were also distributed in the camp. The camp was attended by nearly 800 patients. The Medical Services of the company has flawlessly coordinated the camps. In



the recent past, ONGC supplemented medical logistics in Assam by adding nine Advanced Lifesupport Ambulances to the nine medical colleges in the state at a project cost of Rs 4.38

Crore. These Ambulances were flagged off by Hon'ble CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Hon'ble MoS, MoPNG and Labour and Employment Shri Rameswar Teli. The ONGC supported multi-speciality

300-bed hospital in Sivasagar being built at a project cost of Rs 483 Crore is in the final stages of completion. Since the inauguration of its first phase in March, 2019, it has treated about 64000 OPD patients.



Dr Jiten Gohain Memorial Green Award 22 Presented to Sankardev Higher Secondary School

The Assam Rising, NAGAON, Nov 19: Nagaon Kolongpar unit of Asom Vigyan Somitee in association with Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the historic Nowgong College (autonomous) presented noted physician 'Dr Jiten Gohain Memorial Green Award 2022' ceremonially to Sankardev Higher Secondary School, Ujaragaon, a leading educational institute of the district for maintaining greenery as well as clean atmosphere in and around the institution.

The award was presented to the institution head here at a function by Dr Nabakrishna Gohain, director of PK Gohain Memorial Nursing Home, Nagaon. The programme was chaired by Dr Sarat Borkatoki, principal of Nowgong College (autonomous) while Dr Bhuban Chandra Chetia, coordinator to internal quality assurance cell anchored the entire session. Dr Lakshya Jyoti Borthakur, assistant professor, department of chemistry elaborated a special

note on nature and environment livelihood in the programme. Janjaswar Rajkhuwa, secretary of Nagaon district high school teachers' association delivered the vote of thanks. Dr Parikshit Gogoi, professor and general secretary of Nagaon Kolongpar unit of Asom Vigyan Somitee, Dr Pallavi Goswami, associate professor and other hundred of participants were present during the award presentation programme, a release added.

Bangladeshi citizen arrested in Mankachar

Assam Rising, Dhubri, November 14: Last night, based on a confidential source in a joint operation by Mankachar police and Border Security Force (BSF) on a tip-off last night. Arrested Bangladeshi Person identified as Robin Mia, son of Abdul Hai Mandal, a resident of Haridhara village in Roumari Police Station of Kurigram district. The arrested Bangladeshi citizen had illegally entered Mankachar through a



bridge on the Bowalia Indo-Bangladesh border road in Mankachar, police said.

The citizen is currently being questioned for further information.

The mural of Mahabir Lachit Barphukan was inaugurated in Morigaon

Assam Rising, bhuragaon, 20 November: The 400th birth anniversary of Mahabir Lachit Barphukan was celebrated in Morigaon on November 20. The mural of Lachit Barphukan was inaugurated by the Chief Executive Officer of Morigaon Zila Parishad Kshitish Chandra Pegu. The officer lit a lantern at the portrait of Lachit Barphukan. The officer also inaugurated the drama competition by performing the solo character of Lachit Barphukan to be held today. The CEO of the Zila Parishad was accompanied by Jagiroad Development Authority Chairman Dibyajit Neog, Additional Commissioner of Morigaon

District Arundhati Narah Mipun and other officials and employees. There are many different types of jobs available in the country. There are many different types of jobs available in the country. There are many different types of jobs available in the country.



THE ASSAM RISING

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FIFA World Cup The football fever

With the world's second largest population, many feel India is under-represented in the world's most popular sport - the national team languishes in 106th spot in Fifa's rankings. Though India qualified in 1950, they have never actually made it to the World Cup. They refused to participate, partly because it would have meant their normally barefoot team having to wear football boots. But every time the World Cup is held, India's football fans do crazy things to express their love for the sport, and their favourite international team. They save up for months to travel to watch the games; hold mock-matches sporting their favourite team's jerseys; predict who will win the championship and take out colourful processions to celebrate their team's victories. Fans wave flags next to the giant cutouts of players from Brazil's Neymar (L), Portuguese Cristiano Ronaldo (C) and Argentine Lionel Messi, erected by football fans in river Cherupuzha at Kozhikode in India's Kerala state on November 7, 2022, ahead of the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup football tournament. Recently, fans erected a 30ft-tall cut-out of Lionel Messi in a river in Kozhikode. Not to be one-upped, fans of Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar soon erected cut-outs of their idols. These outlandish additions to the river invited a lot of media attention, and even Fifa tweeted about them. For many Keralites, Qatar is also like a second home, as thousands work or have set up businesses in the middle-eastern country. Several of them have worked for firms who have built stadia for the World Cup. "It's a dream come true to watch my favourite players in action," Mr Ali told the BBC as he was packing for his flight. Along with sundry items needed for the trip, his bags also contains gifts for his favourite footballers - miniature dhows, or sailing boats.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,
Guwahati, PIN 781003
E-mail Id : assamrising@gmail.com

Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Vande Bharat Express is changing Indian Railways. Now Indians need to do their bit



There are some preconceived notions about Indian Railways - the train stinks, the compartments are dirty, and the toilets are unusable. Vande Bharat Express challenges all of that. Last weekend, I was on board the latest Vande Bharat Express - en route to Amb Andaura in Himachal Pradesh. Though my journey was only till Chandigarh, the ride didn't feel like an ordinary Indian Railways journey. With first-class speed trains, we get first-world experiences. And with that, let's also learn values like privacy, public behaviour and passenger etiquette. Since it was my first journey on this train, I purchased the executive class ticket to have the best experience. It was worth Rs 1,500 spent on this short journey. What did I like the most? Almost everything! For starters, the executive class of Vande Bharat Express feels like a business

class compartment. I have travelled in the executive class of Shatabdi Express, but it doesn't differ much from its chair car class - same toilets, same interior and just a bit more legroom. There is nothing premium about the Shatabdi's executive class. That's not the case with Vande Bharat. I roamed around the chair car class just to see the difference and there were considerable ones. First, the executive class chairs are much bigger, and the interior is different and perhaps better. My favourite feature was the placement of the tables. In Shatabdi Express, the table is attached to the passenger's chair sitting in front of you, even in the executive class. But in Vande Bharat Express, the chair is foldable and resides inside the armrest. Since the catering table is attached to your armrest, other passengers' movements do not bother

Nikhil Rampal

you. And not to forget, the food (corn flakes, cutlet, omelette, mishti doi, tea, poha) is delicious. The other feature I liked was the family lounge-style seating. If you are a family of four and travelling on this train, then you can actually revolve the seats to make it a chair coupe. Besides this, on paper, the Vande Bharat Express is about 25 minutes faster than the fastest second option - the Shatabdi Express. But our train reached Chandigarh about 10 minutes earlier than its scheduled arrival, covering the 242-km journey in about two and a half hours. By road, it would take about 5-6 hours because of the never-ending construction on this route. The best thing about the Vande Bharat rake was that it isn't a bumpy one. The tea doesn't spill from the mugs, and the toilets do not scare. They were smelling like roses. In fact, as you enter the train, you are greeted by the staff with a rose. The Vande Bharat Express for sure feels like a train of a developing nation with the potential to meet global standards. There are certain things that may hamper your otherwise joyous ride. I booked the executive class, hoping that there would be a quieter crowd. Fewer people should mean less noise, but sadly,

there was a group of old people who were talking way too loudly. Thanks to the reduced cabin noise because of the new rake, their conversation could be heard till the end of the coach. Every person knew which floor they lived on and how many mice they encountered every day. In Japanese Shinkansen (bullet trains), it is considered inappropriate to talk even on the phone. People go out to the lobby to speak because they do not like to disturb the peace of others. Discussing private matters in public is not considered appropriate in Japan. But here, people think that they have bought a ticket, they have bought the train. Many lack civic sense and respect for fellow passengers. The manners and etiquette adopted abroad in public spaces should also become an Indian habit. Moreover, the Indian Railways may consider deploying a system in which only passengers travelling in the train are allowed to enter the platform. The Vande Bharat Express has a very tiny window for boarding/deboarding and relatives of passengers, who often crowd the train, would end up getting trapped till the next station when the train's doors automatically lock. Vande Bharat Express is doing its part to help change the image of Indian Railways. People's attitudes should complement this effort.

Delhi pollution making your skin sound the first alarm. But you can fix it



The people who campaign for cleaner cities on plastic signs talk about how Delhi is 'at least a little bit better than last time'. A sea of cups and plates swarm the streets and so does a pandemonium of plastic glasses, plates, and banners. Everyone loves Diwali. The oncoming of autumn, romanticised by the West, the sweet smell of 'raat ka raja' delicately surrounding our homes. If it wasn't for the onslaught of the inevitable - hazardous air quality - we could go back to loving this festival for what it was: Culture, togetherness, and felicitation of the year that has passed. Human skin has adapted to a first-hand defence for the body. If there is an ailment on the inside, the skin will always reflect it first. Pollution, in the form of particulate matter (PM), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), ultraviolet radiation (UV rays), volatile organic compounds (VOC), cigarette smoke, oxides, and ozone, is the cunning saboteur of the human body (although being an eventual internal fate for most human beings). As a dermatologist and citizen of India, I have witnessed many patients with dark circles who and suffering from acidity or a common cold. What do dark circles look like? Harmless melanin deposits under the eyes or internal annihilation? This is why fever, often arising due to an internal ailment, is usually followed by skin and follicular damage, often termed

Deepali Bhardwaj

as 'dullness' and 'poor texture'. Delhi is an opposing symphony: On the one hand, the frontrunner of sustainability, and on the other, the most polluted city in the world as of August 2022. Just this year, there was a warning of a 15 per cent jump in landfill garbage in Delhi right before Diwali. While our obligations would encourage us to do our 1 per cent - plant a tree, take care of our health - change is often driven from the outside; you can't help it when you are a part of a community that is just the same as you. Looking at the pollution levels in the city, and how damaging it can be to one's health, every individual must take agency and adopt home remedies to cure and abstain from potential ailments. A healthy stomach is the key to one's overall health. Eighty per cent of diseases in human beings start when the stomach gets affected. A good, balanced diet tackles substances harmful to the body. A healthy diet rich in Vitamin A and Vitamin C,

commonly found in apples and carrots, can help fight the pollutants that result in skin pigmentation. Jaggedy is also considered healthy for reducing pollutants in the system. These vitamins are very helpful in skin pigmentation and early skin ageing. Also, any food item which is red, yellow, or green,

is the easiest way to make the dish healthy. Essential lung exercises for improved breathing were taught to many recovering patients during Covid - and cardio was the saviour. With the rapid increase of pollutants in the air, it is advisable to test your respiratory system through regular exercise. Try small changes like sleeping on your stomach, which helps your lungs to intake maximum oxygen for better functioning. Avoid going for morning walks as that is when heavy air pollutants enter our atmospheric belt. Try taking

afternoon walks after lunch - you need Vitamin D! Reducing pollution levels needs individuals to contribute too. Plant a tree, segregate your waste, educate and gift plants this season to initiate an overall social change. Always wear a clean face mask when heading outdoors. N-95 or N-99 masks can be used for full protection against direct contact with pollutants. Cover yourself with breathable, full-sleeve cotton clothes to avoid inflammatory and allergic reactions to air pollutants, which can also result in skin cancer. Wash your face at least four times a day to keep your pores clean and dust-free. Avoid rubbing your eyes. Since the skin around our eyes is extremely thin, abrasion can lead to heavy dark circles. Burn camphor for five minutes in your room, ideally before bedtime, and keep tulsi, orchids, aloe vera, and areca plants indoors. They are easy to maintain and give out oxygen 24/7. If you don't want to invest in an air purifier, you can also keep a bowl of water near your open window. Good skincare is a must for everybody. Different skin types respond differently to pollution. Watch out for eczema and acne on your skin, which can be accompanied by an unnatural amount of dandruff and hair fall too. Use skin and hair care products that are rich in antioxidants. Aloe vera is the best way to heal dry and flaky skin; oils such as

walnut and olive oil can also be used to relieve burning sensations. A gentle scrub can also be used to tone down the pH of your skin, which often rises in the presence of pollutants in the air. Sunscreens are essential to protect your skin from harmful UV rays. Use a bandana on your hair for protection against potential damage. Drinking at least seven to eight glasses of water helps regenerate skin cells. In times like these, our skin is most susceptible to absorbing impurities that can end up blocking our pores and fastening the process of ageing or even infecting the skin. With skin burning outside, imagine what's happening inside your body. The respiratory system is the first one to be attacked. Pollution-induced lung and organ damage are common problems. Acidity is also possible due to air pollution. Pollutants cause body cells to undergo oxidative stress, which leads to consistent ageing of the whole body and early dysfunction of organs. Regular health check-ups can help you detect these issues early on. In such times, due to the swift rise in pollution, a lot of anticipatory measures have been taken by the Narendra Modi government over the past years. However, despite its efforts, the city has a long way to go in order to be habitable. The rapid rise in industrialisation is hastening deforestation, and the burning of agricultural waste is only aiding environmental deterioration. A citizen's role here is to be sensitive, kind, and empathetic to public health - both on the inside and outside.

Troublemaker Trump doesn't care about a second term - or America. What he craves is attention



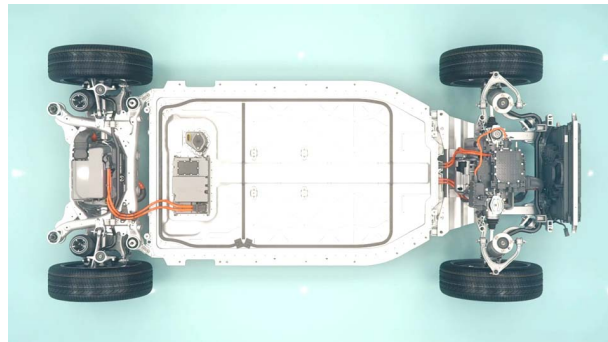
Simon Tisdall

idealism that will sustain him. It's not shop-worn clichés about America made "great and glorious again". The truth is more mundane. Trump, high-handed braggart-in-chief and low-life star of multiple criminal and civil investigations, just cannot bear to be ignored. He cannot stand the thought of someone else winning. And he badly wants to avoid jail. Last week's long-winded, fib-filled announcement of his 2024 candidacy was a reminder of Trump's ability to fascinate even as he appals. Half-a-dozen New York Times columnists immediately felt compelled to register their lack of interest, at considerable length. [Fox News's once slavish pundits, who have reportedly dropped him on Rupert Murdoch's orders, visibly struggled on air to break their Trump fixation-addiction. They watched his speech from his Mar-a-Lago swamp the way rats watch a snake. Analysts have been busy explaining why he will not win again: voters are tired of lies and crude insults; the country cannot afford four more years of chaos; the failure of many Trump-backed midterm election candidates shows his appeal is fading. Big campaign donors and former allies are distancing themselves as a motley troupe of wannabe rivals advances. Even his daughter, Ivanka, a former aide, has had enough. She plans to spend more time with her other children. It's already received wisdom on the left that the Republicans will self-destruct in a scrap for the party nomination. The most fancied king-slayer is Ron DeSantis. To channel Barack Obama, the rightwing Florida governor is the lipstick on the Trump pig. And yet, and yet ... bandwagon-loads of wishful thinking cloud these calculations. Trump retains the support, mostly, of his famed "base" - the Mega core. He continues to attract torrents of individual cash donations. The

politics of grievance have deep roots. DeSantis has not said he will run. And he is dusting off his election playbook, which confounded conventional wisdom in 2016. He will again cast himself as the underdog, the outsider, the only candidate who calls out corrupt Washington elites. Trump, after all, is an expert on corruption. Might this work? Yes, says commentator Kevin Williamson. Trump "is not as weak a candidate as many people might expect, or hope, him to be," he warned. Despite all the caveats, he remains the man to beat, in pole position. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me ... Could America really fall for this vaudeville charlatan all over again? Polls suggest most voters want neither Trump nor Joe Biden in 2024. Yet if there is a rematch, who can say what will happen. Even Jeb Bush, George W's dull-ish brother, mocked last week's speech as "low energy". But there's no denying Trump, in his dog days, retains the showman's ability to whip up a crowd, make waves and break news (fake or otherwise). He thrives on what Margaret Thatcher described as the "oxygen of publicity". The mere fact that he is back in the running may undercut US global leadership. Coupled with the Democrats' loss of the House of Representatives, it raises questions about Biden's continuing authority. Biden told the world: "America is back." Trump#2 would take it backwards. Vladimir Putin, for one, will be happy Trump is in the frame. The great appeaser

is notoriously sweet on Russia's war criminal boss. Putin and his fans, such as Hungary's leader Viktor Orbán, hope the Maga mob will force reductions in aid for Ukraine. Autocrats and authoritarians everywhere will be rooting for a Trump comeback. His comrade-in-arms, Benjamin Netanyahu, in office again in Israel, has no time for Biden. The Saudis, having invested so much, expect a return - in both senses. The odd man out in this welcoming committee of tyrants and strongmen will be China's president, Xi Jinping. Just the thought of a second Trump presidency is enough to wipe the smile off his face - if he ever smiled, that is. European leaders, the EU and Nato will pray it doesn't happen. And after his sexist, discriminatory behaviour towards Theresa May, how might Trump redux treat the UK's latest prime minister, Rishi Sunak? It hardly bears thinking about. Trump says he's in it to win it in 2024. But that's not the whole story. What the ultimate narcissist wants most of all is attention, preferably the uncritical, fawning variety. To stir up a storm, he will follow his tried and tested 3D formula. Some politicians offer blood, sweat and tears. Trump noisily offers disruption, distraction and division - in the service of his ego, not his country. The best, sensible course would be to ignore him. But that is not how the world works. Trump is still box office. He makes headlines. He sucks up energy. He is the nightmare on Pennsylvania Avenue, a Mary Shelley monster. It's hard to take your eyes off him, and dangerous to try. He's not over.

Jaguar Land Rover partners with Wolfspeed



Delhi, November 20 : Jaguar Land Rover and Wolfspeed, Inc. have today announced a strategic partnership to supply Silicon Carbide semiconductors for next generation electric vehicles, delivering increased powertrain efficiency and extended driving range. Under its Reimagine strategy, Jaguar Land Rover is transforming to an electric-first business, to become carbon net zero across its supply chain, products, services, and operations by 2039. Wolfspeed's advanced Silicon Carbide technology will be used specifically in the vehicles' inverter, managing the transfer of power from the battery to the electric motors. The first Range Rover vehicles with this ad-

vanced technology will be available from 2024, and the new all-electric Jaguar brand the following year. The partnership builds on Wolfspeed's existing relationship with the race-winning Jaguar TCS Racing team competing in the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship, where its advanced Silicon Carbide technology has been used to accelerate on-track efficiency and performance. The agreement is the latest in Jaguar Land Rover's program of establishing strategic partnerships with industry leaders for its future modern luxury vehicles: in February 2022, Jaguar Land Rover announced a partnership with NVIDIA focused on software-defined, ad-

vanced automated driving systems for next-generation vehicles starting in 2025. Wolfspeed's world leading technology is powering electric propulsion systems across the entire voltage spectrum - from 400V to 800V. The Silicon Carbide power device solutions will be produced at Wolfspeed's Mohawk Valley Fab in Marcy, New York, which opened in April 2022 as the world's largest 200mm Silicon Carbide fabrication facility. The fully automated facility dramatically expands capacity for Wolfspeed's Silicon Carbide technologies, which will supply the increasing demand for EV production and other advanced technology sectors around the world.

Infosys likely to reclaim No. 2 spot from Cognizant

Bengaluru, November 20 : Infosys is rapidly closing in on Cognizant, and next year could be the tipping point when the Indian IT services pecking order would see a shake-up with Infosys reclaiming its No. 2 spot. Cognizant's revenue had raced past Infosys's ten years ago. Infosys in the September quarter had revenue of \$4.6 billion, just \$300 million lower than Cognizant's \$4.9 billion. And there's a huge gulf between the two companies' growth rates. While Infosys grew at 18.8% year-on-year in constant currency in the quarter, Cognizant's growth was a mere 5.6%. And while

Infosys is guiding for a revenue growth of 15-16% in constant currency for financial year 2022-23, Cognizant is guiding for a 7% growth in constant currency for the calendar year 2022 (which is also the company's financial year). Cognizant saw searing rates of growth under the previous CEO, Francisco D'Souza, during which the company first crossed Wipro in revenue, in 2011, and then Infosys, in 2012. But the growth started slowing in his final years at the helm. Current CEO, Brian Humphries, a former Vodafone executive, replaced D'Souza in April 2019, and since then has under-



taken several drastic steps, but that does not appear to have had a salutary impact on revenue. The company's share price today is lower than when he took over, and there have been occasions during this period when even Wipro's market cap was higher than that of Cognizant's. This year, Cognizant has lowered its revenue guidance three times, and most recently said it was a reflection of macro-economic challenges, as well as people-related challenges that it is facing, in particular, high attrition levels in the US. Hansalyengar,

IT analyst in London-based advisory Omdia, said Cognizant is still struggling with delivery despite a valiant effort to turn the company's fortunes around. "Cognizant's large exposure to verticals that are usually harder hit in recessionary scenarios as well as greater reliance on the US market is a threat that will come into play in the coming year. Infosys, on the other hand, has done a good job of diversifying its portfolio across verticals and markets, which provides some insulation against headwinds. It would

be good to see some excitement in the sector in the next couple of quarters!" Kotak Institutional Securities said in a report that Cognizant has ceded wallet share in key verticals. "Loss of wallet share - it is spreading beyond financial services. Cognizant has been losing share to competitors in large banking accounts. The anaemic growth does indicate continuing loss of share. The healthcare vertical's growth has also slowed to 5.5%, while peers continue to grow at a higher rate, indicating a relative loss of wallet share," it said.

Twitter India lays off marketing, communication employees

Delhi, November 20 : Days after Elon Musk took over as the new owner of the social media giant, Twitter on Friday reportedly started sacking its employees in India. According to reports, the entire marketing team in India has been sacked. The departments affected by the lay out order includes the communications department as well. Several engineers have also been asked to go. As many as two departments have been disbanded with immediate effect, sources said. "Lay-off has started. Some of my colleagues have received email notification regarding this," a Twitter India employee told PTI on condition of anonymity. Another source said the lay-offs have affected a "significant chunk" of the India team. The full details of the job cuts were not immediately available. World's richest businessman Musk began his innings at Twitter last week by firing the CEO Parag Agrawal as well as the CFO and some other top executives. This was followed by an exodus of top management. Musk has now started a massive exercise to downsize the company's global workforce. The US-based social media platform, in an internal email to employees earlier, had said, "In an effort to place Twitter on a healthy path, we will go through the difficult process of reducing our global workforce on Friday."

Vi Redefines Postpaid Max plans

Delhi, November 20 : Vodafone Idea (Vi), India's leading telecom operator, today announced the launch of Vi Max - the Best in Value Postpaid plans in the country - offering More Data, More Control, More Convenience and Unmatched content offerings, to cater to the changing needs of mobile consumers in the digital era. True to its name, Vi Max offers more value for virtually the same price as the previous generation Postpaid plans. The new Vi Max plans will be available pan-India, effective 1st November, 2022 for all existing and new Vi Postpaid users.

Mukesh Ambani to enter Salon business

Mumbai, November 20 : Reliance Retail, a unit of Indian oil-to-chemicals conglomerate Reliance Industries, plans to enter the salon business and is in final stages to buy a roughly 49% stake in Naturals Salon & Spa, the Economic Times newspaper reported on Friday. However, Naturals' Chief Executive CK Kumaravel said "the talks are at a nascent stage," according to the report, which cited executives aware of the development. The existing promoters of Groom India Salons & Spa, which runs over 700 Naturals salons across the country, could continue running its operations and Reliance's funding would help extend its network, the ET report said. No potential deal value was mentioned. Naturals and Reliance did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters. Chennai-based Naturals, founded in the early 2000s, aims to run 3,000 salons by 2025, according to its website. Reliance's deal for Naturals would come just weeks after it launched its first in-house premium fashion and lifestyle store, while media reports have said Reliance is advanced talks for the India rights to LVMH-owned beauty chain Sephora. Salons were among the hardest hit businesses at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Naturals' CEO Kumaravel even sought the government's help in May 2020, to keep the chain afloat. However, the salon business is bouncing back as people are venturing out to social events and offices more.



Flipkart Axis bank super elite credit card launched



Bengaluru, November 20 : A new credit card from Flipkart and Axis Bank has been made available to the online retailer's Indian customers. The e-commerce behemoth has unveiled the Flipkart Axis Bank Super Elite credit card, which can be used for both on and off-Flipkart purchases. Customers can earn SuperCoins, which can be used for extra deals and discounts, after every transaction through Flipkart's rewards programme. Customers who choose the new Super Elite card from Flipkart and Axis Bank will receive a number of incentives. The new card can be activated and used to make several claims for incentives from the customer. Let's examine the list of benefits that were an-

nounced upon card activation in more detail. For every Rs 100 spent by customers on Flipkart, 12 additional SuperCoins will be given. Users of the Super Elite credit card will receive two SuperCoins for every Rs 100 spent on transactions made outside of Flipkart using the card. Over non-Plus members, Flipkart Plus members will receive additional benefits. If you are a Flipkart Plus member, you can earn up to 400 SuperCoins for any transaction that costs Rs 2,500 or more. A maximum of 200 SuperCoins can be earned by non-Plus members for transactions totalling Rs 2,500 or more. A 20% discount at specific restaurants is another benefit of the Super Elite credit card.

Additionally, the card provides a 1% waiver on the gasoline surcharge. These SuperCoins are rewards that customers can use across several platforms. These rewards can also be used at Myntra, Clear Trip, PhonePe, YouTube, Hotstar, SonyLIV, Zee5, Domino's, Zomato, Leaf, boAt, Noise, Airtel, MobiKwik, and Paytm in addition to Flipkart. Salary workers with a minimum monthly income of Rs 15,000 are eligible to apply for the card, according to Flipkart. The Super Elite card is also available to independent earners with a monthly salary of Rs 30,000 or more and self-employed business professionals. Visit the dedicated website and select "Apply now" to submit an application. Your registered cellphone number will get an SMS. There will be a link in the SMS that may be utilised to submit an application for the credit card. The membership cost for the Super Elite card is Rs 500, and it will be added to your first statement. If your total spending reaches Rs 2 lakh the next year, this fee is eliminated.

Telecom operators to accelerate pace of 5G network rollout



Delhi, November 20 : The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has reportedly received assurance from the telecom operators on the speedy rollout of 5G network. As per reports, from December, these operators are expected to add 8,000 towers per week to accelerate the launch of the 5G network. According to a report by Business Standard, due to the shortage in the availability of radio hardware with the manufacturers, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have been constructing roughly 2,500 towers every week. "The operators have assured us that they will roll out an addi-

tional 8,000 towers every week. Already, over 160 phone models have been enabled on 5G." Business Standard quoted a senior DoT official who confirmed the development, as saying. The action is also

being taken shortly after Airtel stated that it has approximately one million 5G users. The implementation of 5G is being monitored by Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. As per reports, he earlier also ex-

erted pressure on the operators to accelerate the process and install about 10,000 towers every week. "Now we are installing around 2,500 base transceiver stations or towers per week. That is a bit low. We need to be installing at least 10,000 BTS per week," Business Standard quoted Vaishnaw as saying. According to sources as reported by Business Standard, the companies will soon manage to escalate the number of towers up to 10,000 every week. So far, Gadget manufacturer has reportedly promised that by November 15, their phones will be enabled for use on both standalone and non-standalone 5G network. This is significantly earlier than their December deadline. Based on their plans with operators, vendors have predicted that by April or May, there will be approximately 60,000-70,000 5G-enabled towers.

TATA Motors' passenger vehicles to cost more

Mumbai, November 20 : Tata Motors on Saturday hiked prices of its cars under passenger vehicle segment with effect from November 7. The weighted average increase will be 0.9 per cent, de-

pending on the variant and model, reported PTI citing the auto major's statement. The company has been absorbing a significant portion of the increased costs but the steep rise in overall input costs has com-



pelled it to pass on some proportion through this minimal price hike, it added. The company sells a range of passenger vehicles like Tiago, Punch, Nexon, Harrier and Safari across the country.

IndiGo Q2 loss widens by 10%



Delhi, November 20 : InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, India's largest carrier, on Friday saw its standalone net loss widen by 10 per cent to Rs 1,585 crore for the three months ended September. The loss reported was higher than the Bloomberg estimate of Rs 1,284.5 crore. An increase in fuel expenses due to a weaker rupee and a surge in employee costs eroded margins. However, the total revenue from operations for the quarter jumped 123 per cent to Rs 12,479 crore following an 80 per cent increase in passenger numbers to 19.7 million.

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Union Minister Sonowal reviews

region by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) at a review meeting held in Silcha.He reviewed the progress made on the renovation of existing shore facilities at Badarpur Terminal and the renovation of existing shore facilities at Karimganj Terminal during his visit.Sonowal directed the officials to take all necessary measures including dredging in order to ensure smooth passage of cargo vessels on NW 2 (Brahmaputra) and NW 16 (Barak). The Minister was accompanied by the senior officials of IWAI, MoPSW and the Government of Assam.Speaking on the occasion, Sonowal said, "North-east India is rich and its richness must reach the world in order to make people aware about our rich heritage and resources. Inland Waterways comes as a wonderful avenue for us - the people of Northeast - to take our produce out into the global trade map in an efficient and economic way."Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are working towards unlocking this huge potential of the Northeast through enabling our river systems to act as a conduit of growth and development. As the engine of New India's growth story, the Northeast has a huge role to play in enabling this vision. Waterways plays a crucial role to reach out the interiors of our region and open the doors of opportunity in trade, service in the global market. We are working steadfastly towards this," Union Minister Sonowal added.IWAI is carrying out the work for the renovation of IWAI terminals at Badarpur along NW- 16 (river Barak) and Karimganj along the IBP route (river Kushiyara) in Karimganj District of Assam through CPWD on a deposit work basis. To maintain the Fairway on river Barak, dredging work is to be undertaken by Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) between Bhanga to Badarpur (10.50 kms) of NW16 for an estimated cost of Rs45 crores for a 3 year period."The hydrographic survey in No man's land of river Kushiyara between India and Bangladesh has been conducted by a joint team of IWAI and BIWTA, Government of Bangladesh in the last week of October 2022. The Barak River is the lifeline of this region. Keeping in mind the huge potential of economic growth in this region, Union Minister Sarbanand Sonowal took stock of the progress of various developmental projects going on in this region, especially in the Barak valley. This is in line with the 'Act East' Policy," read an official statement."The river from Bhanga to Lakhipur (121 km) has been declared a National Waterway16 (NW16). It connects Barak Valley with NW1 and rest of India through IBP route 3 & 4 and with NW2 (river Brahmaputra) through IBP route 7 & 8. IWAI terminals play a major role for trade in the Barak Valley and adjoining areas. Karimganj terminal is a notified Port of Call and Badarpur is an Extended Port of Call in NW16. The export through IWT has grown manifolds in the recent years and export in FY 2022-23 is already more than 3 times (total 53 vessels carrying 9987 MT) of that in FY 2021-22 (total 18 vessels carrying 2490 MT). With the renovation of the terminals will further easy and increase the export activities and commodities," the statement added.

PM Modi slams Rahul Gandhi

said, "Congress and Rahul Gandhi have time and again shown their animosity towards Gujarat and Gujaratis." Accusing Rahul Gandhi of standing against the interest of Gujarat, the chief minister said, "By giving Medha Patkar a central place in his yatra, Rahul Gandhi shows that he stands with those elements who denied water to Gujaratis for decades. Gujarat will not tolerate this.""Medha Patkar, who spearheaded the campaign against Gujarat's ambitious Sardar Sarovar Project, did everything to stall the progress of Narmada Yojana, including blocking funds, joins Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress has always been anti-Gujarat and it continues..." BJP's Amit Malviya said.Former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani too slammed the Congress and said Medha Patkar joining Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra shows that the Congress is against Gujarat's development.Now Modi raising the issue at an election campaign assumes significance as Modi not only targeted Rahul Gandhi but also highlighted how anti-Narmada activists held up the project. "These activists held protests just to make sure that water does not reach here," Modi said accusing Medha Patkar of defaming Gujarat to such an extent that the World Bank stopped funds for the project.

India remains a bright spot among

billion in April-October 2021 to \$181.39 billion in April-October 2022. (The latest official data also clarifies that for the services sector, it is an estimation for October 2022, which would be revised based on RBI's subsequent release.)The official data estimated overall exports (merchandise and services combined) in April-October 2022 at \$444.74 billion, a growth of 19.56% over the same period last year. This is not a small achievement vis-à-vis the global trade environment.US, the United Arab Emirates, China, Bangladesh, the UK, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong - contracted year-on-year by 26%, 18%, 47.5%, 52.5%, 22%, 20% and 23.6%, respectively in October as their economies are slowing down due to massive global headwinds. India is indeed a bright spot, as its imports are expanding on contrary to other major economies because of strong domestic demands, particularly for raw materials. According to the latest official data, India's overall imports in April-October 2022 are estimated to be \$543.26 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 33.8% over the same period last year.India is certainly above the global average in all counts. It is certainly a bright spot at a time when major global economies are slowing down. This has been acknowledged by global institutions. According to a World Trade Organisation's (WTO) projection, the global merchandise trade growth is expected to be 3.5% in 2022 and only 1% in 2023. Although India's share in global trade is very low, a global demand slump will hit India's exports.So far, India has performed well and going ahead, it will improve its performance because of two reasons - the top political leadership believes in converting challenges into opportunities and India's current policy matrix is agile, flexible and well calibrated. The government is responding to every emerging situation. When inflation became a key concern, the government on May 22 raised export duties on iron ore and steel products. As inflation softened a bit and came below 7% (CPI inflation in October was 6.77%), and merchandise exports fell, it took immediate corrective action. The Union finance ministry on Saturday withdrew export duties imposed six months ago on steel, iron ore and intermediaries. The government is exploring new markets to expand its exports. Major advanced economies, including the United States have expressed that they consider India to become their reliable partner to ensure undisturbed supplies of goods and services. They learnt the hard way after facing perils of relying on a non-democratic, unreliable and opportunistic partner at a time when first Covid, and later the Ukraine war, have disrupted the global supply chain making food and fuel unaffordable to many developed countries.That is why advanced economies want a trade deal with India. Free-trade agreements (FTAs) are under consideration with some major developed markets such as the UK, the European Union and Canada. Even as advanced economies are slowing down, strategy is to focus on regions with demand, such as North America, Latin America, West Asia and North Africa (WANA) countries.

Delhi Murder: Cops Find Part

call centre where Aftab was last working. The police have been searching the forest every day for the past three days. Today, they left Aftab's flat with two big black plastic bags. The next few days are crucial for the investigation, as Aftab's custody ends on Wednesday. Key evidence in the case is still missing. The police had yesterday recovered heavy and sharp cutting tools from Aftab's flat, which they suspect might have been used to chop off Shraddha Walkar's body. They also found a heavy black polythene bag at Aftab's Gurugram workplace the day before. Sources say investigations into the six-month-old murder hinge on forensic reports, call data, and circumstantial evidence as there are no witnesses.Shraddha and Aftab had moved to Delhi in May and four days later, following an argument over expenses and infidelity, he strangled her to death, later chopping up the body into 35 pieces that he kept in a fridge and disposed of in a jungle over 18 days, police have said.

Sanjay Raut's "Self-Respect" Jab At

and Home Minister Amit Shah consider Shivaji Maharaj an idol and their national spokesperson said that Shivaji Maharaj apologised to Aurangzeb five times. Is this the BJP's official stand? BJP should apologise to Maharashtra and remove the Governor right away."Accusing the BJP of "insulting" Shivaji Maharaj openly, Mr Raut asked Mr Shinde to step down as the Chief Minister."I am surprised that the Chief Minister, who gave the slogan of self-respect, broke Shiv Sena and formed the government with the BJP, where has your self-respect gone now? The BJP is openly insulting Shivaji Maharaj. You should resign. If you have any respect for Shivaji Maharaj, why are you in the government with them?" he said.On Saturday, Mr Raut took a jibe at the BJP and said that his party is protesting against Rahul Gandhi's remarks against Veer Savarkar, and they should now protest against the Raj Bhavan."His statement is an insult to Maharashtra and Shivaji Maharaj. BJP is carrying out protests against Rahul Gandhi's remarks against Veer Savarkar. They are hitting out with shoes. Now the shoes should go to the Raj Bhavan from where remarks are being made against Shivaji Maharaj. Then, you are the son of Maharashtra, otherwise, you are fake," Mr Raut said.Addressing a function at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad, the Maharashtra Governor had remarked that Shivaji Maharaj has become an "old idol" and the new ones could be found in Babasaheb Ambedkar to Nitin Gadkari."If someone asks who your idol is, you don't have to go out looking for one. You will find them right here in Maharashtra. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has become an old idol now, you can find new ones -- from Babasaheb Ambedkar to (Union Minister) Nitin Gadkari," he had said.The remark on the Maratha ruler did not go down well with political leaders. A spokesperson for the Uddhav Thackeray faction condemned the remark, saying the Governor is known for disrespecting great leaders."Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not only our deity but also our source of inspiration. He will always be the idol for all of us," Anand Dubey, a spokesman of the Uddhav Thackeray faction had said in a statement."Going by the Governor's statements, even Lord Ram and Lord Krishna have become old idols. Must we find new deities now to worship?" Mr Dubey asked, adding that the Governor's statement should be strongly condemned.

'Don't see any reason for it': Donald

problems it faced were "incredible".Musk first said in May he planned to reverse the ban on Trump, and the timing of any return by Trump was closely watched - and feared - by many of Twitter's advertisers. The billionaire has since sought to reassure users and advertisers that such a decision would be made with consideration by a content moderation council composed of people with "widely diverse viewpoints" and no account reinstatements would happen before the council convened.He also said Twitter would not reinstate any banned users until there was a "clear process for doing so." But this week, Musk reinstated comedian Kathy Griffin, who had been banned for changing her profile name to "Elon Musk" which violated his new rule against impersonation without indicating it was a parody account. There has been no new information about process or the moderation council.A no-show by Trump could reduce concerns among major advertisers, who are already rattled by Musk's drastic reshaping of Twitter.He has halved the workforce and severely cut the company's trust and safety team, which is responsible for preventing the spread of misinformation and harmful content. These actions and Musk's tweeting have pushed major companies to halt advertising on the site as they monitor how the platform handles hate speech.On Saturday, Bloomberg reported Twitter could fire more employees in its sales and partnership divisions, citing unnamed sources, just days after a mass resignation of engineers.If Trump returned to Twitter, the move would raise questions about his commitment to Truth Social, which launched on Apple's App Store in February and Google's Play Store in October. Trump has some 4.57 million followers on Truth Social.Truth Social has been Trump's main source of direct communication with his followers since he began posting on the app regularly in May. He has used Truth Social to promote his allies, criticize opponents and defend his reputation amid legal scrutiny from state, congressional and federal investigators.

Satyendar Jain moves court

Satyendar Jain's application for leaking Tihar CCTV footage to BJP & others. The court will hear on Monday how did BJP get the confidential footage and why it was circulated ?? Satyendar Jain's lawyer Mohd Irshad tweeted.A CCTV video of Delhi minister Satyendar Jain getting a full body massage in Tihar Jail emerged on social media on Saturday morning - two days after demands to shift the minister from the prison were raised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).The purported CCTV footage dated September 13 shows the minister lying on his bed and reading some papers while a man sitting next to him is seen massaging his foot.In another video, shared by BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on his official Twitter handle, a man is massaging the Delhi minister's legs and back before proceeding to give him a full head massage. The videos surfaced on social media on Saturday, around 10 days after the ED accused Delhi minister Jain, who was arrested in a money laundering case, of getting special treatment inside the Tihar jail."Unknown persons gave massages and foot massages to Jain, even beyond curfew hours. He was given special food," the ED had said in the court. Soon after this, the Superintendent of Delhi's Tihar jail, Ajit Kumar, was also suspended for the alleged VIP treatment of jailed Delhi minister.he minister, Jain, was arrested and has been in jail since June in connection with a money laundering case, and a Delhi court also denied his bail application on Thursday.

'Parvatmala' Ropeway Projects Approved by the Ministry of Road Transport

Guwahati, November 20 : An ambitious project of series of ropeways in Assam, with the longest one being 24 kilometers, have got the approval of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed promising a revolutionary way of transport.Named Parvatmala, the five ropeway projects that got initial approval were:Khanapara to Guwahati Airport, Guwahati (24km).NH-715 to Tukreswari Hill Top, Goalpara (0.30km).Agnigarh Pahar to BhairabiMandir, Tezpur(1.80 km).Ganganagar Part-VII to Bhuban Pahar Mahadev Temple, Cachar(1.80 km).Sontilla to Diham Razez, Haflong (3.00 km).The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and Public Works Building and NH Department, Government of Assam recently, for Development of Ropeways as Innovative Transport Solution in Assam, in presence of Mr Nitin Gadkari, Minister, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam, Gen (Dr.) V.K.Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd.), Minister of State, RT&H and Civil Aviation Government of India, Chanchal Kumar, MD NHIDCL, Prakash Gaur,CEO, NHLML, Raj Chakrabarty, Special Commissioner and Special Secretary, P.W. (Building &NH) Department, Government of Assam, Subimal Kuli, Chief Engineer PWD (NH Works), Assam and Prashant Jain, Asstt. VP, NHLML.Amongst all the projects which has got the approval the Agingarh Pahar-Bhairbai Mandir ropeway project of Tezpur will take off first while new technology is being studied for a viable and speedy ropeway project connecting the 28 km long distance between Airport to Khanapara.

Malaysia on verge of hung parliament for first time in history

London, November 20 : Malaysia was facing a hung parliament for the first time in its history as support for a conservative Islamic alliance prevented major coalitions from winning a simple majority in a general election. Without a clear winner, political uncertainty could persist as Malaysia faces slowing economic growth and rising inflation. It has had three prime ministers in as many years.Failure by any of the main parties to win a majority means a combination of them would have to build a majority alliance to form a government. Malaysia's constitutional monarch may also get involved, as he has the power to appoint as prime minister a lawmaker whom he believes can command a majority.Longtime opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's coalition won the most seats in Saturday's general election, results from the election commission showed. The biggest surprise came from former premier Muhyiddin Yassin, who led his Perikatan Nasional bloc to a strong showing, pulling support from the incumbent government's traditional strongholds.Muhyiddin's alliance includes a Malay-centric conservative party and an Islamist party that has touted shariah or Islamic law.



ANSS foundation Day

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 20 : The 49th Foundation Day of Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha (ANSS) will be held with a two-day programme on January 4 and 5 next year at Hojai, stated a press release issued by Durga Khatiwora, president of the literary body, Dr. Chinta Mani Sharma, working president and Madan Thapa, chief secretary of ANSS. In this regard a public meeting was convened by the Hojai district committee of the literary body at Satya Narayan Mandir premises with Ganga Nepal in the chair today. The meeting was attended by Dr. Chinta Mani Sharma, executive president of Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha, Tilak Sharma, vice president, Madan Thapa, the chief secretary, Khagendra Dahal, secretary of ANSS, Dilliram Gautam, central executive member beside others. In this connection, a reception committee was constituted with Bishnu Goutam as president, Bimal Pradhan as secretary along with 41 executive members. The meeting was also attended by many dignitaries of the area.

New Management Committee of Laharighat Junior College formed

President Zainal Abddin and Vice President Anwarul Islam elected



mittee of Laharighat Junior College elected for the next 5 years is as follows: President Zainal Abddin, Vice President Anwarul Islam, Member Miraj Ali (General) Dipali Das (SC), members from women's side are Hazera Begum and Bimala Khatun respectively. ST reservation member will be selected next time. The remaining posts will be filled as per the directives of the departmental authorities.

US declares lab-grown meat safe to eat in 'groundbreaking' move

New York, November 20 : The US government has cleared the way for Americans to be able to eat lab-grown meat, after authorities deemed a meat product derived from animal cells to be safe for human consumption.The US food and drug administration (FDA) will allow a California company called Upside Foods to take living cells from chickens and then grow them in a controlled laboratory environment to produce a meat product that doesn't involve the actual slaughter of any animals.The FDA said it is ready to approve the sale of other lab-grown meat, stating that it is "engaged in discussions with multiple firms" to do the same, including companies that want to grow seafood from the cells of marine life."The world is experiencing a food revolution and the US food and drug administration is committed to supporting innovation in the food supply," said Robert Califf, the FDA commissioner.With Singapore currently the only country in which lab-grown meat products are legally sold to consumers, the US approval could open the floodgates to a new food market that backers say is more efficient and environmentally-friendly than traditional livestock farming."We will see this as the day the food system really started changing," Costa Yiannoulis, managing partner at Synthesis Capital, a food technology venture capital fund, told the Washington Post. "The US is the first meaningful market that has approved this - this is seismic and groundbreaking."Upside Foods, which was formerly known as Memphis Meats, harvests cells from animal tissues and then grows edible flesh in bioreactors. The company said the flesh grown is identical to conventionally-raised meat.It will still take some months before lab-grown meat floods American supermarkets - each product will have to be approved by regulators and Upside Foods still has to get the acquiescence of the US department of agriculture for its venture.It's also uncertain how consumers will respond to the prospect of meat from a lab. The new generation of plant-based meat substitutes such as Impossible Burger, have been lauded by many but did not revolutionize the sector.But the lab-meat industry is keen to position itself as an environmentally-friendly alternative in an age of growing concern over the climate impact of meat production, as well as factory farming and animal welfare issues.There are more than 150 cultivated meat companies around the world, backed by several billion dollars of investments, according to the Good Food Institute.Making food more sustainable is a major focus of the Cop27 climate talks, shortly finishing in Egypt. The global production of food is responsible for a third of all planet-heating gases emitted by human activity, with raising animals for meat responsible for the majority of this share. Pasture and cropland occupy around 50% of the planet's habitable land and uses about 70% of fresh water supplies.

Animal Rebellion occupies Gordon Ramsay's three-star Michelin restaurant

London, November 20 : Climate crisis activists occupied Gordon Ramsay's three-star Michelin restaurant in London's Chelsea on Saturday evening to protest at the "perfect inequality" such high-end dining venues represent.Members of Animal Rebellion entered Restaurant Gordon Ramsay on Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea at about 6pm.They sat at tables reserved for guests and held mock menus outlining the environmental costs of items on the restaurant's menu, including steak and veal.In a statement, the group said that they are campaigning for a plant-based food system and the creation of a mass-rewilding programme.Lucia Alexander, a 39-year-old auxiliary nurse from the east of England who took part in the action, said: "This restaurant is the perfect example of the inequality we face in the UK right now."While Gordon Ramsay serves food costing a minimum of £155 per person, more than 2 million people are relying on food banks in this cost of living crisis."Instead of restaurants making colossal profits at the expense of animals, workers, and our climate, we need to feed everyone by supporting farmers and fishing communities in a transition to a plant-based food system."A plant-based food system requires 75% less farmland to grow food, allowing us to feed millions of additional people without the reliance on exploitative and inefficient animal farming industries.

Mark Allen comeback secures UK Championship final meeting with Ding



London, November 20 : Ding Junhui will face Mark Allen in the final of the UK Snooker Championship after the Northern Irishman produced a thrilling comeback to beat Jack Lisowski in a late-night decider. Three-time champion Ding is into his fourth final after a 6-3 victory over Tom Ford at the Barbican in York. Ding had dished out a 6-0 thrashing to Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals as the world No 1 suffered a first whitewash in a triple crown event in his 30-year career. He said: "I missed a great chance to win 6-0. I picked the wrong choices with the colour balls and he started playing more relaxed. I took my eye off a little bit and maybe lost a little concentration. He didn't miss anything in the last few frames. I like to play here, since the first time I beat Steve Davis in 2005, I love this venue. I always feel good in the Barbican." Ding is aiming to win the title he last won in 2019 and raced into a 5-0 lead and another whitewash looked on the cards. But world number 32 Ford, who beat Joe Perry 6-4

in his quarter final, hit back to bring the score to 5-3 with breaks of 77, 64 and 64. Another 64 break gave him the chance to make it 5-4 but Ding took the ninth frame 75-64 to reach the final. Ding will face Allen after the latter produced a stirring comeback to defeat Lisowski 6-5 in Saturday's late match. Allen, who shed four stone over the summer, is enjoying a renaissance and bidding for his second title of the season after successfully defending his Northern Ireland Open title in October. Before that he also reached the final of the British Open which he lost to Ryan Day. Lisowski had made four centuries in a row to defeat Shaun Murphy in the last round, and two half-century runs helped him open up a 2-0 lead. Allen edged the third frame before a break of 63 levelled the match heading into the mid-session interval. After exchanging frames following the restart, Lisowski capitalised when Allen missed a long pot chance of a red along the top cushion to move 4-3 ahead and then closed out the next frame to move within sight of

victory. Allen, though, fought back with a 115 clearance to take the ninth frame and 74 in the next after being let back to the table to force a decider. Both men spurned chances to close out the match, with Allen losing position after a break of 36, before Lisowski made 57. Allen then left the yellow over the middle, but Lisowski missed the green which proved costly as the Northern Irishman cleared up to complete another remarkable turnaround. "I have no idea [how I won], that was awful," Allen said. "I just got in there and stayed mentally really strong, but I didn't really have any part of my game tonight. It was just a struggle from the start and I don't know why I'm sitting here the winner. Jack was much the better player. Just maybe my experience told, but I will need to improve tomorrow."

Will Stuart stuns New Zealand to rescue remarkable draw for England

Twickenham, November 20 : Beneath a dark forbidding November sky came a finale to light up a previously All Black night. Three tries in the last eight minutes of a game that had seemed well out of England's reach altered the entire complexion of the evening and threw up one of the more unlikely game-saving heroes. The replacement prop Will Stuart will never top this rescue act, his late double rescuing an unlikely draw from the jaws of a heavy defeat. England had trailed 25-6 entering the final 10 minutes, seemingly down and out. At no stage did it seem that there would be anything other than a New Zealand win until Beauden Barrett was sent to the sin-bin with nine minutes left and the cavalry charge began. Stuart's close-range brace, sandwiched either side of a Freddie Steward score, yielded the first

Twickenham draw in this fixture for 25 years. The All Blacks will wonder how on earth they threw it away. They have not been sighted in south-west London for four years but for much of the game this felt just like old times. Direct carrying, heavy pressure on the England scrum-half Jack van Poortvliet, a clever mix of diagonal cross-kicks and smart running angles combined to give the visitors an advantage they would usually maximise. Fair play to England for keeping going and confounding the laws of rugby gravity. If they had played with as much dynamism and purpose for the first 70 minutes, though, it would have helped. Eddie Jones will be grateful to his "finishers" for saving the day but he will also know that New Zealand, for long periods, looked comfortably the better team. The late twist



was all the more unexpected because absolutely no one, home fans included, saw it coming. Until the last hectic moments, from England's perspective, this had largely been a black and white horror movie. Only three minutes had elapsed when Van Poortvliet's attempted pass to Owen Farrell following a lineout was picked off by a flying Dalton Papalii who raced 45 metres to complete the interception score. England's task was soon to become even more mountainous. Again New Zealand used the cross kick to good effect and went on to establish a good platform in their opponents' 22. Driven mauls are an increasing discussion point in the game but there could be no arguing about the expertise with which the All Blacks splintered the home pack to send their hooker, Codie Taylor, over. Jordie Barrett's second successful conversion made it 14-0 with barely nine minutes played. The scoreboard would have made even bleaker English reading had a potential third New Zealand try by Rieko Ioane not been chalked off because the centre had collared Farrell around the neck at a preceding ruck. Until their composure went pear-shaped, the All

Blacks looked a different team to the side humbled by Ireland in the summer. Their new forwards coach, Jason Ryan, has tightened up their set piece, in particular, and with the returning Brodie Retallick packing down behind their hefty tight head Tyrel Lomax there was a lot for England's front five to deal with. A Farrell penalty did put England on the board but as the pace of the game slowed slightly so did the opportunities for England to prosper off turnover ball. Increasingly the game began to be played in England's half and another Barrett penalty, awarded against Ellis Genge for offside at the ruck, made it 17-3 at the interval. Back in the day it would have been game over. Great All Black teams would have smiled wolfishly and ratcheted up the pain. And even this vintage, after a mixed old year, must have scented the sweet smell of redemption. England, though, were about to burst into life. Marcus Smith, taking over the goal kicking after Farrell tweaked an ankle, popped over a penalty and then neatly slipped a charging Manu Tuilagi through a hole to put the visitors under some sustained goal line pressure. A try looked certain, only for the referee,

Mathieu Raynal, to rule an English forward had flopped over the top at the crucial moment. Was that England's best chance gone? Almost immediately the ball was ripped from the charging Sam Simmonds' grasp by Retallick and another clever cross-kick left England exposed on the left. One slick offload from Caleb Clarke was all it took to release the lurking Ioane and the latter displayed the pace of the winger he used to be to race 65 metres for his side's third try. England tried rotating their bench but a steady stream of breakdown penalties interrupted any momentum they may have had. While Jonny May did break free once, nothing ultimately came of it and Beauden Barrett's drop goal appeared to have put the black cherry on the top. Cue Stuart, who chose the perfect moment to score his first tries for his country. For New Zealand it concludes a year that still looks much better than it did in July. And for England? Next up are South Africa, who never head to London with anything less than serious intent. If Jones's side can pick up where they left off here it should be another humdinger.

Max Verstappen takes pole at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix as Red Bulls dominate



London, November 20 : As if presenting the year in microcosm, qualifying for the Formula One season finale in Abu Dhabi reflected almost perfectly a pecking order that is as celebratory for some as it is painful for others. Max Verstappen and Red Bull were once more on top, claiming pole position, while Lewis Hamilton and George Russell languished in all too familiar fifth and sixth places for Mercedes. For Hamilton it was another trying afternoon in a season he admitted he could not wait to put behind him. "I'm looking forward to the end of Tuesday [after the final tyre test] which is the last time I have to drive this," he said. "I don't ever plan to drive this one again. This won't be one of the cars I request to have as part of my contract." Verstappen's pole lap was another demonstration of the precision execution he has repeatedly produced this year combined with the overwhelming pace of the

Red Bull. He was a full twentieths up on teammate Sergio Pérez, with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz occupying third and fourth place, unable to trouble the Red Bulls. Verstappen and Red Bull already have both drivers' and constructors' titles sewn up and the team now look to Pérez to secure their first one-two finish in the championship. Pérez is equal on points with Leclerc and finishing in front of the Monegasque driver will seal runners-up spot. After their altercation at the last round in Brazil over team orders to favour Pérez which Verstappen refused to obey, the two drivers appeared to be singing from the same sheet this time, with a one-two they both hope to maintain over Ferrari. "I am very happy both cars are on the front row," said Verstappen. "We want to win the race but we also want Sergio to finish second in the championship." For Hamilton, controversially

denied an eighth title in Abu Dhabi last year, the Mercedes performance was another painful reminder of a difficult season at a circuit already burdened with bad memories. He and Russell were six-tenths back from Verstappen, a country mile that was illustrative of just how wildly their car varies in form, after they took a one-two at the last round in Brazil. The car has been mercurial all season, a handful to drive and impossible to nail down. As a consequence Hamilton has now lost his record of having taken pole at least once in every season since his debut in 2007 and on Sunday he is likely to see his run of a grand prix win every year come to an end too. The race will draw a curtain on what has been a season the seven-time champion clearly wants to forget. "We thought this would be a difficult race for us but we weren't expecting to be so far behind them," he said. "I gave it everything but I'm looking forward to the end of tomorrow." Sebastian Vettel bowed out from his final F1 qualifying session with a vintage performance, a timely reminder of the talent that secured him four world championships. In his final race meeting before he retires, Vettel absolutely wrung the neck of his underperforming Aston Martin to take ninth.

Multiple World Cup sponsors concerned over contracts after Qatar's alcohol ban

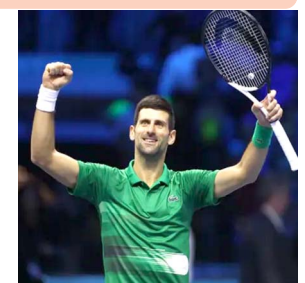


Doha, November 20 : Multiple sponsors have raised concerns or issues with Fifa about their contracts at the Qatar World Cup, the Guardian can reveal. It gives football's governing body another headache hours after it was forced to ban alcohol from stadiums by the Qatari authorities, a decision that complicated its \$75m (£63m) contract with the brewer of Budweiser, Anheuser-Busch InBev. One representative of another major sponsor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that many partners had felt "let down by Fifa in lots of ways". They also indicated there had been informal discussions about potential contractual breaches and reneging on deliverables. "Everyone has a gripe in some way or form," they added. "There is a lot of 'regrouping' going [on] to understand what the options are contractually speaking." Earlier Fifa confirmed in a terse statement that alcohol would not be sold inside or around the perimeter of World Cup stadiums. "Following discussions between host country authorities and Fifa, a decision has been made to focus the sale of alcoholic beverages on the Fifa Fan Festival, other fan destinations and licensed venues, removing sales points of beer from Qatar's World Cup 2022 stadium perimeters," it said. "There is no impact to the sale of Bud Zero, which will remain available at all Qatar's World Cup stadiums."

Novak Djokovic to face Casper Ruud in ATP Finals showpiece after semi wins

London, November 20 : Norwegian Casper Ruud is all that stands between Novak Djokovic and a record-equalling sixth ATP Finals title, after the Serbian former No 1 beat American Taylor Fritz 7-6(5) 7-6(6) in the Turin semi-final. The 21-times major champion overcame a barrage of aces from Fritz, outlasting the Indian Wells winner despite having a bad day in his own opinion, and produced fewer errors at the Pala Alpitour to move to within one win of matching Roger Federer's record at the season finale. "I had to fight to survive," the 35-year-old said. "I didn't feel very reactive today or very comfortable... I am very

pleased to have overcome this one as I don't think it was one of my best days with my tennis but I managed to hang in there." If Djokovic wins the final, he will claim the biggest prize in tennis history, cashing in \$4,740,300 for lifting the tournament trophy undefeated. But he will have to tame Ruud first, who confidently swatted aside an error-prone Andrey Rublev 6-2 6-4 in their semi-final. Rublev unravelled quickly, punching his bench in frustration after dropping his serve for the second time in the first set, and Ruud added to the pain when he broke the Russian again to open the second set. It appeared to be all but over as Ruud carried the next three games as well but



Rublev got a hold of his lethal forehand to break the twice major finalist in the eighth game Ruud quickly extinguished that momentum, however, holding his arms out wide after clinching the match with a backhand winner down the line. "It's tough sometimes because things are obviously going great, but sometimes they can go almost too well," Ruud said.






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FIFA World Cup 2022

Budweiser breaks silence on beer ban in Qatar



Qatar, November 20 : Qatar disappointed a humongous number of football fans who travelled and have planned to travel to the FIFA World Cup 2022 venue as the country announced that they have banned the sale of beer at the venue stadiums. It is a massive blow to the official sponsor Budweiser who have come out to speak about the decision stating "Beyond our control." The owner of American beer Budweiser on Friday said that the restrictions applied from Qatar are out of their hands. Qatar banned the sale of beer at World Cup stadiums on Friday, a sudden U-turn on the deal it made to secure the football tournament only two days before the opening game. When Qatar launched its bid to host the tournament, the country agreed to FIFA's requirements of selling alcohol in stadiums, but the details were only released in September, just 11 weeks before the first kickoff, a suggestion of how fraught the negotiations may have been. Friday's statement from FIFA said non-alcoholic beer will still be sold at the eight stadiums, while champagne, wine, whiskey

beverages on the FIFA Fan Festival, other fan destinations and licensed venues, removing sales points of beer from... Stadium perimeters," FIFA said in a statement. Budweiser's Twitter account tweeted: "Well, this is awkward...? without elaborating Friday. The tweet was later deleted. Ab InBev, the parent company of Budweiser, acknowledged in a statement that some of its plans cannot move forward due to circumstances beyond our control. The company pays tens of millions of dollars at each World Cup for exclusive rights to sell beer and has already shipped the majority of its stock from Britain to Qatar in expectation of selling its product to millions of fans. While the actual sales at the tournament might not be a significant percentage of the massive company's revenues, the World Cup nonetheless represents a major branding opportunity. The company's partnership with FIFA started at the 1986 tournament, and they are in negotiations for renewing their deal for the next World Cup in North America. Ronan Evain, the executive director of the fan group Foot-

and other alcohol will still be served in the luxury hospitality areas of the arenas. But the vast majority of ticket holders don't have access to those areas though they will be able to drink alcoholic beer in the evenings in what is known as the FIFA Fan Festival, a designated party area that also offers live music and activities. Outside of the tournament-run areas, Qatar puts strict limits on the purchase and consumption of alcohol, though its sale has been permitted in hotel bars for years. "Following discussions between host country authorities and FIFA, a decision has been made not to focus the sale of alcoholic

ball Supporters Europe, called the decision to ban beer sales at the stadiums in Qatar "extremely worrying." "For many fans, whether they don't drink alcohol or are used to dry stadium policies at home, this is a detail. It won't change their tournament," Evain wrote on Twitter. Qatar, which is governed by a hereditary emir who has absolute say over all governmental decisions, follows an ultraconservative form of Islam known as Wahhabism like neighboring Saudi Arabia. In recent years, Qatar has transformed into an ultra-modern hub following a natural gas boom in the 1990s, but it has faced pressure from within to stay true to its Islamic heritage and Bedouin roots. Islam forbids the consumption of alcohol. In the runup to the World Cup, rights groups have raised concerns about how the nation will host millions of foreign fans, some of whom might violate Islamic laws criminalizing public drunkenness, sex outside of marriage and homosexuality. Qatar's government and its Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy did not immediately respond to re-

quests for comment. Friday's was not Qatar's first backtrack but it was the most significant. Last weekend, AB InBev was left surprised by a new policy insisted on by Qatari organizers to move beer stalls to less visible locations within the stadium compounds. And Qatar also changed the date of the opening match only weeks before the World Cup began. At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the host country was forced to change a law to allow alcohol sales in stadiums but the same cultural issues were not at play. AB InBev's deal with FIFA was renewed in 2011 after Qatar was picked as host. However, the Belgium-based brewer has faced uncertainty in recent months on the exact details of where it can serve and sell beer in Qatar. And some have balked at the price, which was confirmed at \$14 for a beer. At the W Hotel in Doha, where the company will be based, workers continued putting together a Budweiser-themed bar planned at the site. Its familiar AB logo was plastered on columns and walls at the hotel, with one reading: The World Is Yours To Take.

Australia seal series as Starc and Zampa stall England run chase in second ODI



Melbourn, November 20 : Mitchell Starc knocked off the top and tail either side of Adam Zampa twirling through the middle, bowling out England 72 runs short of Australia's 280 for eight at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday night, as the hosts took an unsailable 2-0 lead in the one-day international series. James Vince and Sam Billings led a recovery from 34 for three and eventually got back in the hunt with an excellent partnership worth 122, needing a further 124 at less than a run a ball. But when Vince fell for 60 and Billings for 71, the chase fell away in a sequence of seven for 52. It was another good day for bowlers after a T20 World Cup that kept a competitive balance between bat and ball. The SCG surface offered plenty and with the regular captains, Jos Buttler and Pat Cummins, rested, the teams were led by the England all-rounder Moeen Ali and the Australia quick Josh Hazlewood. It was Starc, though, who enjoyed his outing most of all. During the recent T20 World Cup, Starc was moved from his long-held

role opening the bowling, with Australia's management talking him up as a middle-overs enforcer before dropping him for a match against Afghanistan that Australia needed to win by a mile. With the new ball restored to him in these ODIs, Starc has resumed taking wickets. Jason Roy was surprised by bounce at his hip, gloving behind to Alex Carey, before David Malan got the full swinging ball Roy had expected, it cannoning off his pads and into his stumps. Starc had a double-wicket maiden. Hazlewood backed him up, cutting the ball viciously in an engaging battle with Phil Salt, who carved 23 off 16 before backing away and losing his stumps. At three down in the sixth over, Vince responded with a gem of an innings, seeing off good balls while counterattacking with style, the highlight a lofted six over cover from Ashton Agar. Billings was patchy in comparison, surviving a close lbw review from Zampa, but grew in fluency, including successive sixes off Agar in the 22nd over. The batters reached 50 within six balls of one another. Hazlewood changed the course, the stand-in captain jaggling a ball back to hit Vince in front. His opposing captain took on Zampa, Ali smashing four and six from his first two balls of spin, but the leg-spinner was too good, zipping a faster delivery through Ali's back-foot defence. Zampa's next over showed his range, drifting and dipping beneath the bat of the advancing Billings, hitting the stumps again by dramatically different means. Four balls later, air time and a googly made Sam Curran slice his big hit to long-off. It was 169 for seven and all but over. Starc returned to hit the stumps of Chris Woakes and David Willey before Zampa trapped Liam Dawson, the bowlers finishing with four wickets each. Only Wasim Akram, Brett Lee, Muttiah Muralitharan and Wasim Akram have done that more often than Starc in one-day cricket and he has played fewer than half as many matches as any of

them. For Australia, a good day with the ball was matched with the bat. David Warner and Travis Head made another fast start, adding 33 from 32 balls, before both holed out for under 20, but Steve Smith and Marcus Labuschagne built a measured partnership of 101, gauging the difficulty of the pitch and the quality of the bowling as Woakes found reverse swing. Willey used variations, and Adil Rashid teased through the air. Rashid extracted both, but not before Labuschagne had reached 58 and Smith went on to 94, looking far more composed than in recent summers with his new stillness at the crease. Mitchell Marsh also found that hitting out on this Sydney surface was difficult, striking two sixes but mostly working the ball into gaps, adapting his game to build an even 50 from 59. Agar provided some late momentum, mostly through hard running rather than boundary striking, and 280 proved a very good score in the conditions. The result will probably draw a collective shrug from a changing England team: Ali, Curran, Woakes, and Rashid were the inclusions after the first match, with Buttler, Chris Jordan, Olly Stone and Luke Wood dropping out. For Australia, Warner, Smith and Carey all chipped in when it came to bowling changes and field placements. Still, if a trivia question in 20 years asks about Australia one-day captains, and Hazlewood is the surprise answer, at least he will know he came away from it with a win. "It was pretty exciting and a little bit nerve-racking," Hazlewood said. "I certainly enjoyed it." The stand-in skipper also praised the impact of Starc's swing. "It was probably unexpected," Hazlewood said. "There was no swing from really anyone else throughout the whole game. There were some beauties there." "You know exactly what he's [Starc] going to do, but reacting to it is something different," England's Vince said. "You need a bit of luck against a ball like that [to dismiss Malan]."

Twickenham faithful rise to salute a comeback for the ages



Twickenham, November 20 : It seemed to start raining in the final minutes at Twickenham, a shower of fat drops of beer from the clear night sky. They fell as the fans up in the gods leapt to their feet and threw their pints above them. Given what they charge for the stuff around these parts, it is probably not something you would do unless you had lost the run of yourself. But then it has been a long time since Twickenham has seen anything like those crazily helter-skelter final minutes, when England peeled off one, two, three tries in the space of seven minutes, and turned an infamous defeat into a fated draw. It was as if, Eddie Jones said later, someone had "thrown magic dust" over them. Could they have pressed on again and tried to win the thing? Marcus Smith decided to kick the ball dead and kill the game instead. Owen Farrell explained later it was a call they had taken together, because they did not think the team had enough forward momentum off the ruck. The bigger question is how the hell they ended up in a position where they even had to make the decision. You would have to watch the match back to begin to figure out exactly how they did it. It was undoubtedly a game of two halves, just that one of them was 70 minutes long! For years, it's been New Zealand who have hunted down leads, the idea they are in it until the very last minute is part of their brand. This time, though, it was England who did it. The All Blacks collapsed. They were a man down after Beauden Barrett had been sent to the sin-bin but it felt as though the long tour had caught up with the 14 men left on the pitch. They switched off, which is the mistake everyone else warns teams cannot afford when they play against them, and they happened to do it at the exact point

England switched on. Which meant the match ended up as one of the biggest rope-a dopes since Muhammad Ali came out swinging in the eighth. Good as England were in the finish, they sure took a hammering before it. The crowd at Twickenham had drowned out the haka with a swelling chorus of Swing Low, which eddied and flowed around the ground. Ten minutes later, they had been stunned into stony silence by the All Blacks' fast start. England were ripped apart in the first half, shredded by a team playing at a level of intensity levels above and beyond what they are ready for. New Zealand were 7-0 up before the pre-match firework smoke had even cleared from the stadium, after David Papalii picked off Jack van Poortvliet's pass to Owen Farrell, and 14-0 up five minutes later, after New Zealand drove over from a lineout. They damn near had a third 10 minutes later, when Savea scragged Van Poortvliet at the back of a ruck and Mark Telea sliced across the width of the pitch to the far corner, but it was disallowed by the TMO. They did get it 50 minutes in, with a brilliant bit of fizzle-dazzle when Brodie Retallick ripped the ball off of Sam Simmonds and Beauden Barrett chipped it across field to Caleb Clarke who switched the ball to Rieko Ioane. Ioane shot

away into the wide open spaces behind England's line, he and his team well beyond England's reach. England had blown their own opportunities. They had plenty of power, enough to push the All Blacks back into their own 22, but didn't have the precision needed to do anything telling once they had got them there. Their first attack ended when they were penalised as they tried to drive their way over from a lineout, their second when they lost the ball in a knock-on during the last charge for the line. And again, in the second half, a series of pick-and-go drives ended with a technical penalty as they tried to bully their way over New Zealand's tryline. In among it all, almost unnoticed, there was one thing they were doing well - and that was surviving. Before the game, Farrell, who was playing his 100th Test, spoke about his favourite moments from his career. The ones he settled on were all when they had faced the greatest adversity. He mentioned the World Cup semi-final in Yokohama, and how they closed out the match after the All Blacks had scored and started to claw their way back into it, and that famous game in Wales when Elliott Daly scored in the corner to win it in the final minutes. "It is probably the moments that test you that you remember

most." Well he must have loved this match. England were buried, 19 points down, with nine minutes to go, when they finally came alive. At that point the distance between where England are, and where they want to be, was starting to feel so wide that it was unbridgeable. And then all of a sudden, they snapped it back shut again, and started playing the way they always say they can and will. For a long time now Jones has been living off the promise of what his team will be capable of, one day, and here, spurred on by the desperation of the occasion, his team finally gave us a tantalising glimpse of what they can do.

Georgia create seismic rugby shock as Matkava's late penalty stuns Wales

Wales, November 20 : Wayne Pivac straight-batted questions about his future after a humiliating Autumn Nations Series home defeat against Georgia. Less than 10 months before the World Cup, Wales suffered one of their most embarrassing losses, going down 13-12. Georgia followed Italy earlier this year in claiming a famous Cardiff win, joining Wales's catalogue of capital horrors that also includes defeats against Romania (1988), Canada (1993) and Samoa (2012). Wales have won just three of their 11 games

this year and Pivac - who succeeded his fellow New Zealander Warren Gatland after the 2019 World Cup - will now inevitably feel the heat going into next weekend's clash with Australia. "You have seen a lot of results at the moment that are going against the form-book, and our result is one of those," Pivac said. "I will be here rolling the sleeves up from tomorrow morning, and we will formulate a plan for the week." We are here to do a job, we are focused on



building towards the World Cup. This is clearly a setback, and we are not proud of that result." Asked if he felt his position would now be under threat, Pivac added: "Again, that is a question for other people, I would guess. We've done it [turned things around] before. Unfortunately, we've had to do it one time too many from my point of view."

"Not Only Mental But...": R Ashwin Defends Rahul Dravid



New Delhi, November 20 : India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has defended head coach Rahul Dravid and other members of the coaching staff for taking a break from the ongoing New Zealand series. Ashwin's comments have come two days after former head coach Ravi Shastri said that he does not understand why the coaching staff need to take break when they get enough amount of rest during the Indian Premier League. Ashwin said that Dravid and co. put in extensive hard work during the T20 World Cup, where Team India managed to reach the semi-finals, but a loss against England knocked them out. "I will explain why Laxman has gone there with a completely different team because even that could be interpreted differently here. Rahul Dravid and his team put in extensive hard work ahead of the T20 World Cup, right from planning, since I saw this from close quarters, I'm saying this," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. "They had specific and in-depth plans for each venue and each opposition. So, they would have been under not only mental but also physical burnout and everyone needed a break. As soon as the New Zealand series ends, we have the Bangladesh tour. That's why we have a different coaching staff led by Laxman for this tour. This also shows we have a lot of talent lying here in India and they are getting their opportunities, not only from a playing front but also from a coaching front," he added. For India's ongoing white-ball series against New Zealand, head coach Rahul Dravid and his team of coaches including Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach) and T Dilip (fielding coach) have been given a break and in their places, National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman would be overseeing the proceedings. This is not the first time, that Dravid has taken a break, as he had also not toured Ireland as the Test series against England was around the corner. Former Team India head coach Ravi Shastri has said that he is not in favour of coaches being given breaks as the rest during two-three months of the IPL is enough. "Very good question, I do not believe in breaks because I want to understand my team. I want to understand my players and I want to be then in control of that team."