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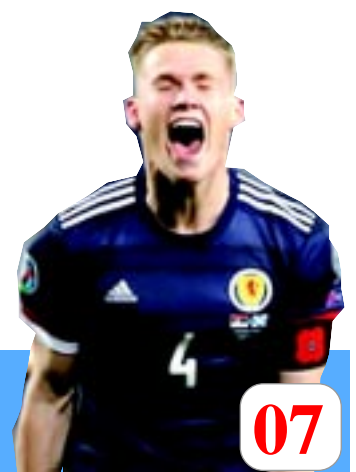
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Amit Shah to discuss Naga issue with stakeholders ...

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Marshall save ends Scotland's long wait as they pip Serbia to Euro 2020 finals



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Historic Technical Recession

Guwahati, November 13: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its first-ever published 'Nowcast', an estimate based on high-frequency data said that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted 8.6 percent in the quarter ended September. The economy had slumped about 24 percent from April to June. The data revealed that India's economy probably shrank for a second straight quarter, according to a team of economists including Michael Patra, the central bank's governor in-charge of monetary policy saying that it has pushed the country into an unprecedented recession. "India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history," the authors wrote.

Earthquake Jolts Assam

Guwahati, November 13: An earthquake measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale jolted Assam in the wee hours of Friday. According to the National Centre for Seismology, the tremors were felt at 3:23 am today. The tremor was recorded at a shallow depth of 11 km on 61 kilometer North of Dimapur, Nagaland. There were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property due to the earthquake. Taking to Twitter, National Centre for Seismology said, "Earthquake of Magnitude: 3.7. Occurred on 13-11-2020, 03:23:49 IST, Lat: 26.45 & Long: 93.61, Depth: 11 Km, Location: 61km N of Dimapur, Nagaland, India."

Sports Shop Gutted

Guwahati, November 13: A major fire broke out at a sports shop in Guwahati's Ulubari area. The shop named 'Sports India' at Dr.B. Baruah Road was gutted due to a short circuit. Damages of worth lakh rupees have been reported. Teams of SDRF and fire brigade along with police officials are present at the incident site.

CM buys earthen lamps to promote pottery industry

Guwahati, November 13: In a bid to promote the pottery industry, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal bought earthen lamps on the occasion of Diwali at Kamakhya Gate area in the city today. The Chief Minister also inter-



acted with the vendors there. Later talking to media persons, Chief Minister Sonowal said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given us a call to be vocal for local in a bid to make the country economically self-reliant. We

CM lays foundation stone for six new projects at Bongaigaon

State government committed for equal development of all areas of the State: CM



Guwahati, November 13: In fulfilling State government's commitments to bring about equal development of all districts across the state, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone for six new projects under City Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF) in Bongaigaon today. The projects that Sonowal laid the foundation are development of Eco Park and

adjacent water bodies, a museum for the preservation and promotion of art and culture of Koch Rajbongshis, beautification of immersion ghat at Bongaigaon and construction of bus terminal and site development, construction of clock tower among others. Chief Minister Sonowal also distributed tractors and power tillers to the beneficiaries under "Chief Minister

Sammagra Grammya Unnayan Yojana". The Chief Minister also distributed kits under "PM CARES" to the persons who came back to the state during Covid 19 induced lock down. Sonowal also released a report of "Project Milijuli", a comprehensive Covid 19 community management initiative of the district administration and unveiled a logo of "Mission Sampurna", a district

administration initiative to make Bongaigaon free from malnutrition at the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal reiterating the commitment of the BJP led State government for equal development of all areas of the State said that the State government under CIDF laid the foundation stone of six projects to enable Bongaigaon district to catch

Gauhati HC tells govts to ensure smooth movement of trucks, trains entering Mizoram from Assam

Guwahati, November 13: The Gauhati High Court Thursday asked the governments of Assam and Mizoram, as well as the Centre to take necessary steps for smooth movement of



goods vehicles and trains entering Mizoram so supply of essential items was not disrupted in the southern-

most state of the Northeast. A bench led by Chief Justice (acting) N. Kotiwar Singh and also including Justice Manish Choudhury was hearing a PIL filed by the Mizoram Bar Association

necessary direction to the Assam government and the Centre to ensure there was no further disruption of supply lines. Highways leading into Mizoram from Assam's three southern districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj have been blocked since 28 October following a boundary dispute between the two states. The border conflict is a result of an unresolved territorial dispute that dates back at least five decades. The districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj in Assam share a border with Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts of Mizoram. While Assam accepts a boundary defined by a 1933 notification, Mizoram has been sticking to an earlier demarcation drawn up in 1875. The issue resurfaced on 17 October when clashes erupted in the border areas.

Several houses and shops were set on fire. The road blockade was lifted after a meeting was held between Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and the chief secretaries of Mizoram and Assam - Lalnunmawia Chuaungo and Jishnu Baruah - Monday. It was also decided that central paramilitary personnel would be deployed in the disputed border areas in both states. But the blockade had largely continued until Wednesday evening except for a few vehicles that were stranded for over a week, entering Mizoram. Court asks governments to ensure smooth movement of trains. The MBA had initially filed a PIL before the Aizawl bench of the Gauhati High Court Monday. The association submitted that despite the

(MBA). A.R. Malhotra, on behalf of the MBA, submitted that movement of trucks carrying essential items had resumed Wednesday night - after a 13-day blockade of roads leading into Mizoram from Assam. The petitioner, however, asked the court for

issue being *Contd...Page 6*

BTC does not belong to Hagrama Mohilary, Himanta says

Kokrajhar, November 13: Launching a blistering attack on former BTC Chief and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) supremo Hagrama Mohilary, Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma questioned the former's terming of himself as a "Chief" despite the end of his term. "While the Prime Minister says that he is a sewak (servant) of the masses, we have Hagrama here who calls himself a Chief. The Prime Minister is a servant while you call yourself a Chief? This time, there won't be any Chief. The masses will be foremost and the elected representatives will have to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the masses," Sarma said during a rally in Fakiragram. Sarma also stated that the



formation of a BJP-led Government in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) would foster peace and equality among all the communities residing in the region. Sarma said that Hagrama feigns concern about the myriad communities dwelling in the BTR region only in the lead up to elections. "However, once the elections are over, he completely forgets about the people and bribery and cor-

ruption is rampant," Sarma said. Responding to Hagrama Mohilary's recent comments that Biswa Sarma should not visit the BTR region, the Minister said, "BTC does not belong to Hagrama Mohilary. I will come here, the BJP will form the government, and also hail Bharat Maata (mother India)." The Minister also promised that before the Science *Contd...Page 6*

NDA To Elect Next Bihar CM On Nov 15: Nitish

Patna, November 13: Janata Dal United (JDU) leader Nitish Kumar on Friday said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will be having a meeting on Nov 15 (Sunday) and decide who will be the next Chief Minister of Bihar. "The legislature party meeting will happen on Sunday, November 15 at 12.30 PM. Things will be discussed in detail and all decisions will be taken at that time. What is decided will be informed to you all after that meeting," Mr Kumar said. Nitish Kumar's JDU managed to win only 43 seats,

conceding the senior partner status in favour of the BJP, which won 74. The NDA combined won 125 seats, which is three more than the majority mark in the 243-strong Bihar assembly. The NDA had announced Nitish Kumar as its chief ministerial candidate before the assembly election. On Thursday, Kumar said that the decision on who will be the next CM of Bihar will be taken by the alliance, which indicates that the matter is still to be discussed despite assurances from BJP that he would retain the post.

MLA Emmanuel Mosahary resigns from BPF, to join BJP

Guwahati, November 13: Following Rajya Sabha MP Biswajit Daimary's footsteps, Tamulpur MLA Emmanuel Mosahary has resigned from Bodoland

Tamulpur MLA reportedly took the decision for his growing differences with the party leadership. Mosahary and Rajya Sabha MP Biswajit Daimary will for-



People's Front (BPF) on Thursday. Mosahary will join Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on November 20. The

resignation of both the senior leaders has *Contd...Page 6*

Assam stopping villagers along border: M'laya Cong MLA



Shillong, November 13: Meghalaya Congress legislator, George B. Lyngdoh on Thursday said that authorities from Assam have stopped villagers residing along the inter-state border

areas from carrying out their livelihood activities like plantation and cultivation. "They are being harassed. The audacity of Assam to harass the citizens (of the state) is an outcome of the government of Meghalaya not to augment the budget for Inter State Border Area Development Minister,

Lahkmen Rymbui earlier informed that there has been no allocation of funds for the department for the last two financial years (2019-20 - 2020-2021). "Though in the budget provision it is there, sanctioning depends on the availability of funds," Rymbui said during the Question Hour and assured that the government would sanction an amount for this year. Responding to this, Lyngdoh pointed out that if the budget is passed it is a commitment *Contd...Page 6*

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A damning parliamentary report on racism makes it clear: the system isn't working

'Black children are four times more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts.' A Black Lives Matter protester makes a point about stop and search, London, June 2020. Photograph: Isabel Infantes/EMPICS Entertainment There is a tendency to think racism in our societies will lessen over time, and that attitudes and outcomes will inevitably improve. This belief endures despite frequent and sobering evidence of deeply entrenched racial inequalities in Britain. One of the key points found in Black People, Racism and Human Rights, a new report from the House of Commons and House of Lords joint committee on human rights, is not only that racial progress is far from advancing, but that some things are getting worse. Take the finding that "in the last decade, the extent to which black children and young people are disproportionately targeted by the youth justice system has increased". This claim is easily demonstrated by consulting youth justice statistics for 2018/2019 in England and Wales, which show that black children (who make up about 4% of the entire population aged between 10-17 years) are four times more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts, and nearly three times more likely to receive a caution or custodial sentence. Today the percentage of black children in custody has significantly increased to 28% of the entire population held in youth custody (compared with 15% a decade ago). This is one among very many racially disproportionate outcomes that have worsened in real time despite at least eight other parliamentary publications since 2009, each of which made good recommendations for addressing racial inequalities in Britain. Add to these a litany of other inquiries in recent years, including the Windrush Lessons Learned review (2020), the race disparity audit

(2017, spanning nearly all public sectors), the Lammy report (2017, looking specifically at criminal justice), the McGregor-Smith review (2017, focusing on labour markets) and the Angiolini review (2017, investigating deaths in police custody). What each of these reports makes plain is that in order to deny that racism is a key feature of disparities in these sectors, institutions and organisations must



actively try to ignore it. Perhaps this is why

Nasar Meer

report, that while the rate of deaths of women in childbirth have fallen for white women (to 7 in 100,000), it has increased for black women (to 38 in 100,000). The obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Christine Ekechi, sums up the description of possible unwitting reasons, when she says that, "People think of racism in an overt, aggressive way. But that's not always what it is. It's about biased assumptions - and we doctors have the same biases as anyone else." This might include prejudiced attitudes among healthcare workers about black patients having higher pain thresholds, being too demanding, or not understanding their treatment - all of which manifests in not being listened to. As the racial disproportionality highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic makes plain, and as documented in the joint committee report too, though racial

had implications across the public sector and society more broadly. Yet while legislating against discrimination is key, two other things matter just as much. The first is social convention, to the extent that legislating against individual motives and objectives does not explain how racial inequalities sustain and proliferate. Take the well-established but still shocking fact, highlighted in the joint committee

inequalities in health are driven by social and economic factors, harmful (and flawed) assumptions about "culture" are pervasive, and deflect responsibility on to the victims of structural discrimination. The second issue is enforcement. It is notable that the joint committee specifically states that "the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has been unable to adequately provide leadership and gain trust in tackling racial inequality in the protection and promotion of human rights". It is an observation that confirms a widely held view among community groups. That an amalgamated equality body risked both diluting and de-prioritising race equality was a frequently aired concern when the EHRC was first created in 2007, by bringing all the other equality "grounds" together (race, gender, disability) before assuming responsibility for newer ones (age, sexual orientation, and religion or belief) in anticipation of the Equality Act 2010. That these precise concerns have come to pass surprises nobody outside of an organisation that few race-equality stakeholders feel connected to, something typified by its nearly all-white board of commissioners. That it has not one black commissioner is a disgrace, and itself evidence of a profound institutional failure on race equality. The truth is that we do not need any more reports to tell us that racial equality in Britain is in a pitiful state. What we do need is action to drive policy, implementing the myriad of good recommendations that we already have. We also need to recognise that success in race equality is going to be about more than public policy, because to tackle what is "unwitting" requires us to reflect on the character of society: asking who and what we think we are, and want to be. Achieving that task, I fear, is a long way off.

Lee Cain's departure is only the beginning in the battle for control of No 10

With England in lockdown, the UK's coronavirus death toll passing 50,000 and Brexit talks close to deadline, one could be forgiven for asking why the resignation of Lee Cain matters. At a difficult time, the departure of a No 10 aide few people had heard of has topped the news agenda. It is tempting to dismiss Cain's exit as a Westminster-bubble story, but it's much more important than that. It's about the future direction of Boris Johnson's government - whom he listens to, and what he does. It is, fundamentally, about who governs Britain. Should Johnson's government be a Vote Leave one that is focused on its new "red wall" voters, or should he change tack and usher in a new era of cuddly Conservatism? Since Johnson entered Downing Street in July last year, he has been surrounded by former colleagues from the Vote Leave campaign. Cain is a longtime supporter of Johnson's, having worked with him on the EU referendum campaign, in the Foreign Office, on his leadership campaign and from the day he entered Downing Street. Perhaps most importantly, Cain was with Johnson during his 10

months in the wilderness after he resigned as foreign secretary, a time when many Tory MPs were writing Johnson off. The pair sat together in the small office the whips had sent Johnson to, forging a close bond. They were seen as an odd pairing: a down-to-earth, state-school northerner and an Old Etonian classicist. While many of Johnson's supporters had expected his premiership to resemble a court with various factions competing for the prime minister's ear, when he did finally make it into Downing Street a

Katy Balls

begin. Most notably, Dominic Cummings was brought in - but so were several others from the campaign. It has largely been Cummings and Cain holding the power in No 10. However, in recent months there has been a shift. A global pandemic has put strain on the whole operation, a lot of goodwill has gone, and the mood has become much worse. "It's like a Mexican firing squad in there," one government adviser said. Added to this are tensions between Johnson's partner, Carrie Symonds, and his senior Vote Leave aides. Those close to her

suggest she has different views on how the government should be communicating its message. Last month's appointment of Allegra Stratton as the Downing Street spokesperson - she is thought to favour a less combative media strategy - was viewed by some aides as a victory for Symonds over Cain, who had preferred other candidates. Tensions between the various factions came to a head when news broke yesterday that Cain had been offered the No 10 chief of staff role. After a day of negative briefings against him, he stepped down. Former ministers hope Cain's departure marks the beginning of something much bigger - a reset of Johnson's premiership. The argument goes that, after the transition period of the UK leaving the EU ends and the worst of the pandemic is out of the way, there will be a chance for Johnson to change the tone of his premiership. Rather than leading an aggressive government that picks fights - whether with the parliamentary press pack, the EU or the BBC - Johnson could pivot to a broader, One Nation approach. Supporters of such a plan point to his City Hall days as London mayor, when he had a reshuffle of staff early on.

We cannot know about very rare adverse effects until millions of people have been vaccinated

The news this week that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine protected more than 90% of recipients is of huge importance. The vaccine efficacy is higher than we had hoped for. There appear to be no safety concerns, although the final safety data along with other data on manufacturing and the full efficacy results will need to be submitted to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to review whether it's safe enough to grant temporary authorisation. This would allow the vaccine to be rolled out before a full product licence is issued. RNA vaccines, never produced before, appear to work, and may be developed against other

infectious diseases. We cannot know about very rare adverse effects until millions of people have been vaccinated, and post-marketing surveillance for safety will be essential; and we don't know for how long vaccine-induced immunity will last. Does the availability of the first vaccine mean that we can give up present restrictions and go back to life

David Salisbury

before Covid? I fear the answer is no. We can only do that if the coronavirus disappears or turns into something like a cold, or we vaccinate so many people that we achieve population "herd" immunity. Until we achieve that latter state, the future is going to be "vaccine plus". Now that high efficacy has been demonstrated, the duration of immunity and the overall proportion of the population vaccinated are critical. If immunity is not long-lasting, the concept of regular

annual revaccination of everybody is daunting with huge impacts on other services. Annual boosting vaccinations just for those in risk groups would be easy, if given alongside seasonal flu vaccination, but would also mean those not in risk groups taking their chances with Covid-19 or continuing with social distancing and other measures. If the virus continues to circulate among young people, those at risk who were not vaccinated or for whom the vaccine didn't work are still vulnerable. This is almost exactly the situation that we currently face with seasonal flu vaccination. We vaccinate those at risk and leave the rest to take their chances. The difference is that with seasonal flu we also vaccinate children because they do get flu, sometimes badly, and are "super-spreaders". Any vaccine campaign will be driven by the pace of product supply. In an ideal world, there are sufficient stockpiles held in advance. With a new vaccine, advance stockpiles are rarely available, and for now we need to have as much information as possible about the reported manufacturing that has gone on "at risk". Talk of 1 million doses a week for the UK sounds impressive.



The Covid vaccine will benefit humanity - we should all own the patent

Hooray for Pfizer! As news of a vaccine potentially offering 90% protection against Covid-19 offers a life raft for lockdown-weary humanity, perhaps those home-drawn posters on people's windows thanking the NHS will soon be applauding big pharma instead. The hope of a successful vaccine to liberate us from protracted economic misery should be embraced - but we should be sparing with the bunting for the pharmaceutical industry. If you want a particularly egregious case study of "socialism for the rich", or of private businesses dependent on public sector research and innovation to make colossal profits, look no further than big pharma. Pfizer and its German biotech partner, BioNTech, stand to make an astonishing £9.8bn next year from a coronavirus vaccine.



Suggestions that pharmaceutical companies should not profit from the world's most severe crisis since the second world war were dismissed in July as "radical" by Pfizer's CEO; and, perhaps, many will overlook such profiteering amidst the wave of gratitude. But Pfizer's claim to "have never taken any money from the US government, or from anyone" does not stand up to scrutiny: big pharma is reliant on public-sector munificence. The Pfizer/BioNTech experimental vaccine itself uses a spike protein technology reportedly developed by the US government: without the state, this vaccine would probably not have been developed so speedily. While nearly 10,000 human lives are lost across the world each day to the pandemic, Pfizer's CEO cashing in on the vaccine news by selling \$5.6m in shares should cause more than discomfort. (A spokesperson told Axios that "the sale was part of a predetermined plan created in August".) Essentially, pharmaceutical companies are global monopolies, which are given the right to charge whatever the market is willing to tolerate for the new medicines they produce," says Nick Dearden of Global Justice Now, which is calling for patents on the Pfizer vaccine to be suspended. Patents award them exclusive rights to make and sell their drugs for 20 years, preventing the supply of cheaper, generic versions. Here is a sector not driven by curing illness but rather by shareholder profits: for example, recent research found that revenue from soaring insulin prices has been splashed on shareholders rather than research and development. When startup companies spring up developing innovative new drugs, big pharma buys them up and even shuts down the development of such novel treatments in order to stifle competition. Take two particularly horrifying examples of this broken pharmaceutical industry. While millions of Africans were dying in the HIV/AIDS pandemic, big pharma attempted to block cash-strapped governments importing cheaper versions of life-saving drugs. Here's another: the rise of infections resistant to antibiotics is an emergency perhaps even comparable to the climate crisis. Yet pharmaceutical companies have failed to invest in developing new drugs - shockingly, there has been no new class of antibiotic developed for nearly four decades - because it simply isn't profitable. This colossal failure led the government's former "superbug tsar" Jim O'Neill to

suggest nationalised drug companies might be the only answer. "We need to respond to Covid with cooperation, solidarity, and equity," Diarmaid McDonald of Just Treatment, which is campaigning against secret deals between government and big pharma on any vaccines, tells me. "But the big-pharma model is the antithesis of this: it's about closed business models, which are focused on competitive efforts done in isolation not to provide the best outcomes to all, but the highest possible profits to the company." In response to the early-2000s pandemic caused by Sars - also a coronavirus - governments committed to increasing investment in research, helping to develop promising vaccine candidates, which could have been used against Covid-19. But pharmaceutical companies abandoned the research. Why? Because it was unlikely to be immediately profitable. It gets worse: major pharmaceutical companies blocked an EU proposal in 2017 to fast-track vaccines for pathogens such as coronavirus. Here's some basic common sense. Last month, the Indian and South African governments asked the World Trade Organization to give countries the power to neither grant nor enforce patents linked to Covid-19 drugs and vaccines until global immunity is achieved. This week, they were backed up by leading UN human rights experts who called on governments to ensure universal access to a vaccine. But such proposals are being blocked, while a small number of rich countries have struck deals for more than a billion doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, leaving less than a quarter of what is planned to be produced for the rest of the world. Rather than being a PR triumph for big pharma, coronavirus should serve as a reminder of the disastrous consequences of leaving a life-saving industry in the hands of a profiteering monopoly. Britain has it better than most countries: the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has considerable leverage over pharmaceutical companies by being able to judge whether their drugs are value for money for the NHS. But, while the US pays on average nearly four times more for drugs than other countries, everybody is being ripped off. With a successful vaccine, herd immunity could be possible without resulting in millions more dead. This is a global catastrophe, after all: up to 150 million more people will be driven into extreme poverty by next year as a consequence of the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands have died, from New Delhi to Rio de Janeiro, while entire economies have been ravaged. But a pharmaceutical industry that has long made exorbitant profits by free-riding on public-sector research has been granted its most lucrative money-spinner yet. So yes, rejoice that a vaccine may well be coming, but don't give kudos to a pharmaceutical industry that is as dysfunctional as it is morally bankrupt.

Owen Jones

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020						(Rs. in Lakhs)	
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Six Months ending		Year ending
		30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	
1	Revenue from Operations	6071.40	3495.88	4491.99	9567.28	11210.00	20619.90
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,005.82	837.01	(1,760.67)	1,842.83	(2,062.87)	(5,170.85)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,005.82	837.01	(1,760.67)	1,842.83	(2,062.87)	(5,170.85)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	603.55	475.23	(1,736.63)	1,078.78	(2,037.17)	(3,646.30)
5	Total comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2,313.21	358.81	(1,600.81)	2,672.02	(2,026.24)	(4,408.98)
6	Equity Share Capital	265.00	265.00	265.00	265.00	265.00	265.00
7	Other Equity (excluding revaluation reserve) as per Balance Sheet for the previous accounting year						
8	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (Not Annualised)						
	1. Basic :	22.78	17.93	(65.53)	40.71	(76.87)	(137.60)
	2. Diluted :	22.78	17.93	(65.53)	40.71	(76.87)	(137.60)

Notes :
 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites, www.cse-india.com and on the Company's website www.indiacarbonltd.com.
 2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on 13th November, 2020.
 3. Figures have been regrouped or rearranged wherever necessary.

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Rakesh Himatsingka
 Managing Director
 DIN: 00632156

Place : Kolkata
 Date : 13th November, 2020

Amit Shah to discuss Naga issue with stakeholders in Manipur



IMPHAL, November 13 : Announcing Union Home Minister Amit Shah's plan to visit Manipur later this month to discuss Naga political issue, the chief minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, Thursday reiterated that state's territorial integrity would not be sacrificed at any cost. Addressing a press conference at the chief minister's secretariat here, Singh informed that the Union minister had a plan to visit the state within the current November month. Singh said he learnt that Shah desired to discuss the issue with all the MLAs of the state and other stakeholders during his proposed visit in the state. Singh, however, said that the date of Shah's arrival has not been confirmed yet. The chief minister has, however, reaf-

firmed the state's decision not to compromise the interest of Manipur in any way whether the Centre discussed the issue with the stakeholders of the state in Imphal, Delhi or anywhere. "Our stand is very clear. We have repeatedly and categorically conveyed to the concern that we will never compromise Manipur's interest at any cost," he said. He said that ethnic communities like Meitei, Naga, Kuki, Meitei Pangal (Manipuri Muslims) have been living harmoniously for centuries in this small state and would continue to live together. The chief minister reminded an assurance given by the Union home minister that all stakeholders would be consulted before finalising the proposed Naga peace talks. Singh opined that the union home minister might have planned to come to the state as a part of the assurance he had given earlier. "Union home minister wanted to meet all the MLAs, civil society representatives and other stakeholders before making any final shape of the Naga peace talks," Singh said. It may be mentioned that Manipur chief minister Biren Singh was invited to Delhi to discuss various issues before any agreement is reached between the Centre, NSCN (I-M) and the Working Committee of the NNPGs, an umbrella body of seven Naga groups.

Knowledge sharing programme held at Hojai

A correspondent : NAGAON, Nov 13 : A faculty knowledge sharing programme was jointly organized under special initiatives as well as efforts of Pranjal Pratim Sarma, Assistant Manager, IBS by Women's Cell, Hojai-Dima Hasao Karbi Anglong Zone, ACTA and ICFAI Business school recently on 360 degree academicians: prospect and challenges. Prof Biswajit Bhuyan, president of Assam College Teachers' Association (ACTA) inaugurated the

programme while Binita Bhuyan, convener, Women's Cell Hojai-Dima Hasao Karbi Anglong Zone delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks by Dr Anuradha Choudhary. Dr Ajay Pathak, director, IBS, Kolkata and prof Sarbari Saha, faculty of IBS, Kolkata graced the occasion as guests. A good number of participants from across the country were highly motivated and enriched by the wonderful deliberation of the resource persons.

Officials blamed for delay in MMJ road project

RUKSIN, November 13 : The delay of several years in restoring the Mirem-Mikong-Jonai (MMJ) PWD road linking Ruksin headquarters with greater Mirem-Bilat area in East Siang and parts of Lower Siang district has drawn flak from the local people and public leaders. The dilapidated condition of the 15-km long road from Ruksin town to Mirem Charali has caused concern for the commuters. The large potholes on the road in Ruksin, Ngorlung, Niglok, Mikong and Mirem areas are causing immense trouble to local traders and office-goers. Expressing concern over the lackadaisical attitude of the state PWD officials, the people of Pasighat West area (Ruksin), including local leaders, said: "The department even after receiving adequate fund against MMJ road is playing delay tactics in this regard, which is causing concern of the local villagers." It may be mentioned that I appeal to our Chief Minister Pema Khandu to

intervene into MMJ road project issue and pass necessary order to expedite the project," said Ering in Ruksin on Wednesday. The MLA said he fears that the fund meant for restructuring the MMJ PWD road "may return for not utilizing it within the stipulated period." He said the officials would be responsible for it. "The funding authority is releasing fund to carry out road construction works, but the PWD engineers are delaying it under the reason best known to them only," he said. The DoNER ministry under its North East Road Sector Development Scheme has sanctioned Rs Rs 42.27 crore for complete restructuring of the 15-km long MMJ road, out of which Rs 15 crore has been released as first installment. Pasighat PWD division EE T Taki said his office has already opened the technical bid tender against the MMJ road project, "which is under consideration of the higher-ups of the department."

Seeds of pulses, vegetables distributed among the flood hit farmers in Hojai district

A correspondent : NAGAON, Nov 13 : District Agriculture Department of Hojai district distributed various seeds of pulses, mustard oil and vegetables among the flood victim farmers in the district. Besides, submitted a list of 10020 flood victim farmers of the district to the office of the director of state agriculture department for compensation. It may be mentioned that during the session of 2020, the flood water of Kapili river ravaged a total of 6472 hectares of crop land in 81 villages under three revenue circles in Hojai district. In a press release signed by District Agriculture Officer Tarun Hazarika stated that during the session more than 10020 farmers were

completely ruined and their families are currently to lead a very miserable life. Hence the district agriculture office has left no stone unturned to get back their respective losses and submitted a list of those flood - ravaged farmers to the state director of agriculture department to provide their losses valued around of Rs 6,29,00,000.00. It is however stated in the press release that the distribution of seeds among the flood - hit farmers are being done in presence of village headmen, gram panchayat representatives and other village level extension workers by Agriculture Development Officers Beauty Gogoi and Abinash Kalita.

DC Hears Grievances of GBs of Darka Village



Aalo, Nov 13 : The West Siang Deputy Commissioner Shri Moki Loyi heard in length on appointments of two vacant HGBs of the biggest village in West Siang in presence of the all 15 GBs of the village at Conference Hall of DC office today. Shri Loyi exhorted the institution of GB to continue its role in settling local disputes in a fair and free manner as the lowest unit of administration and maintain neutrality during any election as the administrative agent of the govt. He assured to look into the two vacant posts of HGBs of the village basing on the popular demand of all GBs of the village stating that institution today needs few GBs who can read and write to make it

more vibrant. He disclosed that he will go through records for appointment of three HGBs for a village, whether appointment were made on the basis of segments like Darka-I, Darka-II and Darka-III and process of appointment may take time due to declaration of Panchayat Election in the state. But he will tie up with the govt. for appointment as it is an existing case not as new one. The 13 HGBs and GBs from three segments of Darka village who spoke on the occasion said that they are signatories for appointment of two Young GBs, Shri Medam Ete and Kenba Ete to help them in all official works relating to local Kebas in the village.

Exclusive ethnic identity in the region was not viable and emphasised on inclusiveness to achieve

DIMAPUR, November 13 : Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) has urged NNPG leaders to take the opportunity of Naga peace talks for creating a foundation and new hope for the future generations of both Manipuris, Nagas and other ethnic communities and neighbouring States who all had been and would be living together forever. This was conveyed by a six-member delegation of the committee, which held over three hours of consultative meet with Working Committee (WC) of NNPGs led by its convener N Kitovi Zhimomi and six co-conveners, along with three other members of the committee, here on Tuesday. COCOMI media coordinator Jeetendra Ningomba in a press release said the delegation stressed that this was not the time to think and work only for one community only as the population of ethnic communities in "our region" is so small that the impact from ever-increasing influx of migrant population could be the most challenging issue in near future. COCOMI said everyone should realise the eco-

nomic constraints they are facing, which could lead to compromising of all "our rights and privileges". COCOMI acknowledged the prowess of WC leaders in bringing the

Naga political agreement and wished WC, NNPG leadership and the Nagas "a great path ahead to lead a new future of inclusive socio-economic and political identity of

ences, the WC convener said exclusive ethnic identity in the region was not viable and emphasised on inclusiveness to achieve "what we strive for". Considering the anxiety and discontentment over the undisclosed content of 23 years of peace process, COCOMI said Zhimomi admitted that during the past few decades, tranquility and mutual respect among the Meiteis and Nagas faced "rough weather owing to impractical ideology and discomforting political stance of a few, and we have to realise that before it's too late and try to rebuild the trust between the communities for the sake of future generations to live and grow together". Besides other issues discussed at the meeting, both sides also agreed that more interaction and people-to-people dialogue was necessary to forge a strong indigenous ethnic community platform to meet the ever-threatening demographic invasion of the North-eastern region. They also agreed that Naga-Meitei brotherhood could not be dictated by haphazard and preposterous sentiments.



government to negotiating table and for the progress achieved through the political negotiations. The committee expressed solidarity with WC, NNPGs and expressed the hope that negotiations between Nagas and government of India would conclude without delay. It pointed out that all neighbouring States were anxiously expecting a positive Indo-

the region where the future generations of ours shall have a common platform to address it together". On the other hand, COCOMI said that the WC delegation assured them that the impending Indo-Naga political solution would be in the interests of both Nagas and Meiteis and other communities. Stressing on inclusiveness and recalling his past experi-

Commissioner & Secretary reviews welfare schemes in Hailakandi

Hailakandi, Nov.13 : Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Mukesh Sahu reviewed the status of social welfare schemes in the district here on Wednesday. At a review meeting held with Deputy Commissioner, Megh Nidhi Dahal, District Social Welfare Officer and other officials of the department at DC's conference hall, Commissioner and Secretary, Sahu called for implementation of the welfare oriented schemes meant for different sections of people in a time bound manner. The CDPOs along with the supporting staff, Block Coordinators, DCO, MAMTA, DPC, PMMVY, WWO-MSK, DCO-POSHAN presented before the Commissioner and Secretary up to date status of different welfare schemes in the meeting. Later, Sahu, who is also the Barak Valley Commissioner visited the border areas along the Assam-Mizoram inter state border under Ramnathpur Police Station. Sahu inspected the border areas and interacted with the local people. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Dahal and Superintendent of Police, Pabindra Kumar Nath.

BJP worker Chandra Kalita dies

SIPAJHAR, Nov 13 : Chandra kalita, active worker of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and president of khatar Booth committee of Bharatiya Janata Party passed away. He was suffering from various ailments and diagnosed with cancer. He was one of the prominent devotee of historic Khatar Satra in Darrang district and closely associated with the various activities of the Satra. He had successfully served as the secretary of the food sub committee of the celebration of 450th anniversary of the Khatar Satra. Retired army personnel Kalita's sudden demise was widely mourned in the locality. He was 59 and survived by his wife, one son, one daughter and many other relatives. Khatar Satra Management samitee, khatar Satra Kristi Sangha, MLA, Sipajhar LAC, Binanda Kumar Saikia, Patharughat Mandal committee of Bharatiya Janata Party, Patharughat and Barampur branch of Assam Sahitya saba, Nandanik Sahitya Chora, Bahinman Gosthi Khatar branch of Undivided Darrang District kalita Janagosthi Samilan, Dipila Traders Association and many others expressed their deep sorrow over the demise of kalita and conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family members.



Woman rescued from illegal confinement

ITANAGAR, November 13 : A 20-year-old woman, who had been kept in illegal confinement in Longding district on 11 November, has been rescued by the police. The woman was reportedly taken to the house of the chief of Konnu village against her will, but she managed to reach out to the Arunachal Pradesh Women's Welfare Society (APWWS) through social media, seeking intervention for her safe release. The APWWS' central branch alerted Longding DSPB Tangiang and DGPRP Upadhyaya, who then sent a police team to the village. The woman was rescued from the house of Aching Wangham, the chief of Konnu village. The woman, who is currently housed at a one-stop centre, was produced before the JMFC on Thursday.

Women folk artist Amiti Barua passed away

SIPAJHAR, Nov 14 : Death occurred of Prominent women folk artist of Hazarikapara area in Darrang district. She was 70. As one of the follower of the religious ideals of Sri Manta Sankardeva she was closely associated with the Sri Manta Sankardeva Sangha. She was suffering from various ailments. She was also one of active member of Assam Gana Parishad (AGP). Rodali Namati Troup,

Hazarikapara regional committee of Assam Gana Parishad, Hazarikapara regional and Primary unit of Sri Manta Sankardeva Sangha, Dhoptal Sankarjyoti Sangha, Hazarikapara Seva Bahini of Sri Manta Sankardeva Sangha and Dakhin Mangaldai Nagarik Sabha expressed their deep sorrow over the demise and conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family members.

ACPL ASSAM CARBON PRODUCTS LIMITED							
EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020							
(Rs. in Lacs)							
Sl. No.	Particulars	3 Months ended 30.09.2020	3 Months ended 30.06.2020	3 Months ended 30.09.2019	6 Months ended 30.09.2020	6 Months ended 30.09.2019	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1,052	760	1,291	1,812	2,816	4,953
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	206	41	315	247	627	1,080
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	206	41	315	247	627	1,080
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	136	25	251	161	499	785
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	136	25	251	161	499	810
6.	Equity Share Capital	276	276	276	276	276	276
7.	Earning per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)						
	Basic	4.93	0.91	9.08	5.84	18.12	28.48
	Diluted	4.93	0.91	9.08	5.84	18.12	28.48

Notes :

- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 12th November, 2020.
- The above is an extract of detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of the Company at www.assamcarbon.in and on the website of The Calcutta Stock Exchange Ltd at www.cse-india.com.
- Figures have been regrouped or rearranged wherever necessary. Further, the figures has been rounded off to the nearest Lacs rupees.
- These financials results have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act 2013.

For Assam Carbon Products Limited
Sd/-
K. K. Bhattacharya
Managing Director
DIN : 07011241
Kolkata
12th November, 2020

Warren Tea Limited						
Registered Office: Deohall Tea Estate P.O. Hoogrijan, Dist. Tinsukia, Assam 786 601						
Tel : +91 95310 45098, CIN: L01132AS1977PLC001706, Email : corporate@warrentea.com, Website : www.warrentea.com						
EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020						
(Figures in ₹ lakhs)						
PARTICULARS	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED		
	Quarter Ended on 30.09.2020	Year to Date Ended on 30.09.2020	Quarter Ended on 30.09.2019	Quarter Ended on 30.09.2020	Year to Date Ended on 30.09.2020	Quarter Ended on 30.09.2019
Total Income from Operations	5358	6814	4894	5358	6814	4894
Net Profit for the period before Tax	1981	1566	1583	1981	1566	1583
Net Profit for the period after Tax	1981	1566	1583	1923	1443	1580
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2103	1810	1651	2046	1687	1649
Equity Share Capital	1195	1195	1195	1195	1195	1195
Earnings per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) - Basic and Diluted Earnings (In Rupees)	16.58	13.10	13.25	16.09	12.08	13.22

Note :

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.cse-india.com) and on the Company's website.

Warren Tea Limited
Vinay K. Goenka
Executive Chairman
Kolkata
12th November, 2020

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. V, ISSUE NO. 279, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020

The policy of moscow towards China

Moscow decided to suspend the supply of the S-400s to China. The S-400 is a modern surface-to-air missile defence system capable of intercepting and destroying enemy missiles and aircraft up to a range of 400 km. In 2018, despite the US' threat of sanctions, India correctly chose Russia's S-400 over the American Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC-3) and THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missiles. A predictably outrageous outburst from President Donald Trump against India's decision followed. This year, however, under a slew of arms deals, was buried a piece of news that raised a few eyebrows. The S-400s promised by Russia to China did not arrive. Rumours thrived that Covid-19 may have been the reason for delay. But it looks like Moscow took a deliberate stand. In February 2020, Valery Mitko, one of Russia's leading Arctic scientists, was arrested on charges of allegedly passing secrets on submarine-detecting technology to China. Later, in June, after investigations, a court in Russia extended his house arrest. Russian scientists have been under a cloud because of links to China in the last couple of years and the Mitko incident aggravated a growing suspicion that hangs over a collaboration of convenience between China and Russia. A month after the court's decision on Mitko, Russia chose to suspend the supply of missiles to China. In Asia, China finds itself in an unfriendly neighbourhood of littoral states on the South China Sea, made worse with the US entering the Indo-Pacific with its allies. The talk of revival of Quad involving the US, Japan, India and Australia is an example. Given its isolated status, a stable relationship with Russia has assumed critical importance for China. A suspicious China, however, senses that its dependence on Russian weapons technology makes it vulnerable. Which might have led to espionage on Russia and probably the Mitko case. Moscow, on the other hand, needs Chinese investments to develop ports and infrastructure in the Arctic region and yet fears that Beijing might cut into its influence in the defence industry and Central Asia. In the early 1990s, the collapse of the Soviet Union coincided with the rise of China. As the US consolidated its sole superpower status, Beijing and Moscow came together to challenge the American hegemony. Russian interests, though, were restricted to Central Asia and the Middle East - given that the nature of military posturing in the region suited the typically intrusive Russian playbook. Their interests in East Asia, dominated by China, remained mostly marginal. However, deteriorating relations in the neighbourhood around South China Sea and South Asia might see an interested Russian arms industry tiptoeing in. As a lurking rivalry lines its collaboration with China, Russia has quietly increased its stakes of negotiation in East Asia. Instead of its archetypal politico-military outreach that could upset China, Russia has used a soft-power route of trade to strengthen its rapport with Japan and South Korea. In 2017, Japan and South Korea comprised 7 per cent per cent of Russian exports (versus 11 per cent to China). According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Russia has substantially increased its supply of arms to Southeast Asia in this decade. Former PM Dmitry Medvedev used multilateral platforms like ASEAN to meet leaders from Laos, Thailand and Cambodia last year. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte called Vladimir Putin "my favourite hero". And to authoritarian regimes such as Cambodia, Russia is a less demanding presence than the West. An ambitious China, under Xi Jinping, has asserted itself in geographies outside East Asia. Any such push towards Central Asia and the Middle East worries Russia, which would like to retain a stronger East Asian card. That explains Russia's relations with countries in East Asia, where China has new enemies. That also explains why Russia is likely to keep India on its side. On the US front, Joe Biden's new government could reopen past differences with Russia, including on Ukraine and Belarus. Moscow's silence on Biden's election win is a pointer, just as Beijing's silence indicates the anticipation of a steady, hard-nosed American line. Russia and China have come a long way in their historical relationship and, today, share what Parag Khanna refers to as "an axis of convenience than a real alliance". Fifty years ago, Chinese patrols deceived a Soviet outpost at an island off the River Ussuri. The Soviets retaliated, obliterating an entire Chinese military brigade. The beneficiaries then were the Americans, who believed that an enemy's enemy was their friend, and sided with the Chinese. Half a century later, while the Russians are suspicious that a now powerful China might deceive them again, the latter needs them against America and its allies. Vasily Kashin of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Far Eastern Studies says, "China can ill-afford to alienate a neighbour that's an important military and resource power in its own right". Announcing itself as an active mediator between India and China is not quite Russia's style, but it has never shied away from hosting peace summits (Tashkent in 1965 was an example).

In manner, Faulkner was always modest, fair, serious and unflashy

In a delicately weighted coda at the end of Middlemarch, George Eliot quietly celebrates the unheroic but life-enhancing example of the novel's central character. Dorothea Brooke's spirit may have "spent itself in channels which have no great name on the earth," Eliot writes. "But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive, for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts." The effect of the Home Office civil servant David Faulkner, who died last week aged 86, was incalculably diffusive too. I didn't know him terribly well, but I am definitely one of

Martin Kettle

many journalists, researchers, academics and practitioners whom he influenced. In manner, Faulkner was always modest, fair, serious and unflashy. When I have mentioned him to others in the last few days, the first thing that people say is always - and rightly - how nice he was. But Faulkner was also a tough thinker. He honed his policymaking talents in the 1980s, a turbulent time for British government. As a result, he always looked round political corners before charging on. He liked to say his job was to speak truth to power, but in a voice to which power would listen. In this way, unlike Dorothea Brooke, he managed to notch up some notably historic acts too. These included the setting up of the still invaluable independent prisons inspectorate. He also oversaw a long period in the 1980s in which government policy towards criminal justice, penal issues, polic-

First stumbled upon Trumpland in 2012



Perhaps one day Donald Trump will be dragged out of the Oval Office, his tiny fingernails still dug deep into that fat oak desk. But Trumpland, the country that ignored the politicians and the pollsters and the pundits and gave him the White House in 2016, will outlast him; just as it emerged before he even thought of becoming a candidate. And for as long as it is here it will warp politics and destabilise the US. I first stumbled upon Trumpland in 2012, a time when it bore no such name and appeared on no maps. I was reporting in Pittsburgh that autumn, as Barack Obama crushed Mitt Romney while cruising to a second term as president. The big US broadsheets wrote up the Republicans as if they were an endangered species, while thirtysomethings in DC gazed deep into their spreadsheets or West Wing boxsets and foretold permanent Democratic majorities, gaily handed to them by a rainbow coalition of black, Latino and

granola-chewing graduate voters. Except I kept meeting people who lived in an alternative country. People like Mike Stout and his family. He'd worked for decades in the local steel mills and had been a fiery union leader. Now he spent every spare hour as a reincarnation of Woody Guthrie, carrying a guitar along with memories of standing in 2009 on Washington's Mall to watch Obama's inauguration, his breath freezing in the January air as the first black president was sworn in. "It was like a new world had opened up, just for an afternoon," said his wife, Steffi. But it was their far more subdued daughter, Maura, who troubled me. The steelworks of her dad's day was long gone, so she'd gone to university and then spent two years hunting for a job. Now the 23-year-old was doing the accounts for a hotel, a non-graduate position paying \$14 an hour, which Mike recalled as the same rate he'd earned at the

steelworks in 1978 - without, of course, three decades of inflation. Among Maura's year of about 500 graduates, she counted as one of the lucky ones. "I don't think I'm ever going to earn as much as my parents," she said. "I don't think my husband and I will ever have the same life as they did." We were in Pennsylvania, often painted as a land of blue-collar aristocracy and true-blue Democrats. But the political economy that had underpinned those ballot-box majorities was as rusted as an abandoned factory. Instead, Maura saw a political system that had failed her and her generation, in which every new day was worse than yesterday. And while the Stouts were leftwing, they had little in common with the party they supported. In their eyes, their home had been gutted of manufacturing and bilked by foreign trade deals, and appeared nowhere on the Clinton/Obama ideological map. Trumpland is not the same as the old Republican heartlands, even if they overlap. What the dealmaker saw more clearly than the Bushes, the Romneys and the McCains was that there was a new electoral coalition to be forged out of down-wardly mobile white voters. "The people that have been ignored, neglected and abandoned," he called them in Ohio in 2016. "I am your voice." And so he completed the great inversion of American politics: he turned the Republicans into a party whose future is tied to Trumpland. Even Trump's rivals accept that. This summer, Texas senator Ted Cruz said: "The big lie in politics is that Republicans are the party of the rich and Democrats are the party of the poor. That just ain't true. Today's Republican party are Ohio steelworkers, today's Republican party are single mums waiting tables..." Whatever promises Trump made on the threshold of the White House, once inside he spent four years giving billions in tax cuts to rich people and trying to deprive millions of low-paid Americans of decent healthcare. For the poor whites who put him in power, Trump had nothing to offer apart from racism. However grossly used by its leader, Trumpland is more than

an imagined community. It has its own society and economics and politics - and they barely resemble the rest of the US. The 477 large and densely populated counties won by Biden account for 70% of America's economy, according to new calculations by the Brookings Institute; Trump's base of 2,497 counties amount to just 29% (a further 1% is still to be counted). Brookings describes Trumpland as "whiter, less-educated and... situated in the nation's struggling small towns and rural areas. Prosperity there remains out of reach for many." These people haven't been left behind so much as cut loose from the US. Between 2010 and 2019, the US created nearly 16m new jobs but only 55,000 of them were suitable for those who left school at 16. Inequality this deep is not just economic, it is social and psychological. It is also lethal. Two economists, Anne Case and Angus Deaton, have found that working-age white men and women without degrees are dying of drug overdoses, alcohol-related liver disease and suicide at unprecedented rates. In 2017 alone, they calculated that there were 158,000 of these "deaths of despair" - equal to "three fully loaded Boeing 737s falling out of the sky every day for a year". As Case and Deaton point out, African Americans have still harder lives. They die younger, and are less likely to go to college or get a job. Yet over decades their prospects are improving. For poor white Americans, on the other hand, the trends point straight down. The result, according to a new study by Andrew Oswald and former Bank of England rate-setter David Blanchflower, is that middle-aged, white American school leavers are now suffering an epidemic of "extreme mental distress". When you live in a zero-sum economy, in which you always lose while the other guy wins, then you too might subscribe to zero-sum politics - in which the Democrats aren't just opponents but enemies, and democratic norms are there to be broken. "These people are hurting," says Blanchflower. "And when you're hurting you'll buy what looks like medicine, even if it's from a snake-oil merchant."

Buy Local this Diwali: Mantra for spreading joy and prosperity

"Nowadays you can see, 'Vocal for Local' and the mantra of 'Local for Diwali' too is echoing everywhere. I also tell the countrymen to promote 'Local for Diwali' campaign as much as possible. Then these things will go far and wide if the people know how wonderful they are and what our identity is! This will not only strengthen the local identity, but Diwali will also brighten the lives of the people who make these goods. That is why before Diwali, I am urging the people of the country again and again to be vigilant for the 'local products'.... Celebrate Diwali with local, not just lamps. Some people think that local means diyas or lamps. No, it means everything, every other product." - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (9 Nov, 2020) Ministry of Textile launched a campaign "Local for Diwali" earlier this week. The campaign is in total sync with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's idea of making the nation Atmanirbhar or self-reliant. It is also in tune with two other significant themes - the crying need to regain the cultural, economic and artistic glory of the nation and to economically support the artisans, traders and small

entrepreneurs in the times of economic hardship. While launching the campaign, Minister of Textiles said, "Inspired by the clarion call given by the Prime Minister on 9th of November, let's come together to show our support for local textile and handicraft business. Be it the humble earthen Diya, the desi drape, home furnishings like bed sheets, curtains or handcrafted goods that you gift your near and dear ones; this Diwali make every purchase count."

Handicrafts of the North East

The North Eastern states are especially well known for their rich variety of handicraft articles and traditions. There are products that not only serve the basic needs of man, but are also appropriate for special occasions and festivities. Rich in colours and designs, the handicrafts of North East are aesthetically beautiful, environmentally friendly and highly affordable for the common man. Broadly speaking we can classify the handicrafts into textiles, cane and bamboo products, wood carving, metal works, candle and soap making, jewellery and terracotta. There are other significant smaller groups also, but the above group forms the bulk of the handicraft products that are consumed locally and sold all over the country. Handicraft sector not only gives employment to a significant proportion of North East population, but is also an important source of revenue and commerce. These handicrafts beautify our homes and lives all over India, and also fill us with pride as a nation for being a part of such a diverse, rich, intricate and sensitive culture. The making of these products does not destroy the environment or cause health hazard to the makers and the users - in fact many products are directly linked to health care and wellness. There are special areas within each of the North East states that have for centuries honed their craft and are dedicated to producing specialized, world class products. Thus, to name a few, we can recall that Sualkuchi village of Assam is the biggest silk production centre in the region. Sualkuchi's weavers have been creating exquisite handwoven silks such as muga, paat (mulberry) and eri, for generations. Sonidan in Meghalaya is an important centre of endi silk weaving. The silk saris of Manipur and Assam are especially famous but these fabrics are put to use in numerous other ways also. Most tribes have a unique weave and the patterns vary not only within clans of the same tribe, but also from one village to



Abhishek Dayal

another and within members of the same clan depending on their social status. Birds, flowers and human figures are some of the popular motifs that are embroidered on these handloom products. The tribes of Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal have a rich and diverse tradition of textiles. As the Prime Minister has repeatedly pointed out, Bamboo and cane products of the region are exceptionally beautiful and useful. For instance, he highlighted the bamboo tiffin boxes of Manipur in one of his Mann ki Baat broadcast. Working with bamboo and cane are integral to the culture of the region. The forests of the Northeast are abundant in bamboo and the plant is used to make all kinds of items - from houses, furniture, cradles, haversacks, containers and mats to hats, jewellery, musical instruments and animal traps. The Konyak, Phom, Khanti, Wancho, Nocte, Tanga and Monpa tribes are renowned for their skill in wood carving. The Monpas are famous for their utensils, bowls, cups and ceremonial masks. The Aos make drums sculpted from wood, sometimes using just a single log from a tree trunk. The Khamtis of Arunachal Pradesh are known for their exquisite wooden images of Lord Buddha. The Lepchas and Bhutias of Sikkim make bagschok (centre table), partition screens and chairs out of carved wood. The tribesmen of the region are proven blacksmiths and their metallurgical skills can be seen in the exquisite weapons, tools, musical instruments and jewellery that they produce. The Angami and Rengma tribes of Nagaland are considered to be amongst the best blacksmiths in the region. Brass is an important cottage industry in the district of Kamrup in Assam, while the Barpeta District has the bell metal trade. Artisans of Arunachal are skilled in the technique of using wax moulds to make brass and

gold jewellery. The Nagas use glass shards and cowrie shells to design necklaces and elephant tusks to make bangles. In Jorhat we see fine enamelling work known as minakari. As one expert points out, "Enamelling is a back-breaking process, which requires superior skill but the end products are striking gold and silver rings, bracelets and necklaces. The colours used in minakari range from the traditional dark blue and green and white to the more uncommon red and yellow." Masks of various kinds are crafted in Assam, Manipur and Sikkim. The masks, widely used in regional and folk theatres, are fashioned from terracotta, pith (Indian cork), metal, bamboo, papier-mâché and wood. The Dafla women of Arunachal, the Kumar and Hira communities of Assam and the Tangkhul, Poumai and Chakpa tribes of Manipur are renowned potters. Some of these communities make earthenware without a potter's wheel, using only their hands to fashion the clay. Terracotta craftsmen from Assarikandi in Assam have carved a niche for themselves with their one-of-a-kind style, which led to Assarikandi being branded an ethnic art in India. Sikkim is famous for its thangka (religious scrolls depicting Buddhist mythology) paintings, carpets and blankets woven with sheep wool. In Manipur, a reed known as kauna is used to make double-weave mats. With the above panoramic view of the crafts of NE, we may not have touched even half the products that are produced here and valued across the country. It is indeed our responsibility to be aware of the existence of such wonders that made India the golden bird in the past. We can begin our effort in national rejuvenation by celebrating this Diwali with these products. With these purchases, not only will it spread cheer in the hardworking and poor families of artisans and small traders, it will also immensely enrich our own lives.

Not fair to cut defence pay, pensions and inject funds in airlines, banks



New Delhi, November 13: This logical fallacy, derisively labelled as the politician's syllogism, accurately explains the recent attempts to contain defence expenditure in the wake of Covid-19. Striking a balance between development and defence priorities is a tough act even in the best of times. But the unprecedented economic aftermath of Covid-19 has meant that a range of solutions - symbolic, radical, and ill-advised - are all now on the table. First came the Tour of Duty (ToD) proposal in May, which would allow entry of young persons in the armed forces for short tenures, following which they will be released without any post-retirement benefits. In October, news reports suggested that measures like doing away with Army Day parades and Canteen Stores Department (CSD) for units in peace stations were being considered. Recently, another trial balloon went up - apparently, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) wants to increase the retirement age of military personnel, along with a simultaneous reduction in pensions for those seeking premature retirement. As expected, all these solutions have come under heavy fire from the armed forces community, and mostly for good reasons. This tug-of-war between the civilian and military stakeholders masks the fact that India's defence expenditure problem cannot be solved by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) alone; it requires a whole-of-government approach in which both civil and military stakeholders need to eschew their stubbornness. Creating enough fiscal space for the defence of a developing country is an unenviable task. Judging by the government's expenditure preferences over the last two decades, two things seem clear. One, despite growing geopolitical challenges, defence ranks low on the priority list. We say this because defence expenditure, as a proportion of both Union government expenditure and GDP, has decreased in the last 10 years. In 2009-10, defence expenditure was 2.8 per cent of the GDP and 17.6 per cent of the Union government expenditure, which has decreased to 2 per cent and 15.5 per cent respectively, in 2019-20. Two, the defence expenditure has been skewed towards personnel

2 more Indians from Kerala suspected to be among ISIS terrorists who attacked Jalalabad jail

New Delhi, November 13: Three Indians - not one, as earlier believed - are suspected to have been involved in the Jalalabad prison attack in Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province that killed 29 people in August. ThePrint has learnt. Sources in the security establishment said a group photo of the 11 Islamic State (IS, also abbreviated as ISIS) attackers, released by the terror outfit on social media soon after the attack, eventually led to this revelation. The attack, claimed by the ISIS, took place on 2 August, when car bombs were detonated at the prison's entrance by gunmen. Eight of the attackers were killed in a battle lasting almost 20 hours. There were 1,793 prisoners in the Jalalabad prison when the attack took place, most of them Taliban and ISIS fighters. While more than 1,000 prisoners managed to flee, they were re-arrested. Sources said the three men were from Kerala and go by the pseudonyms Abu Rayyan Al Hindi (the leader of the group), Abu Rawaha Al Hindi and Abu Noah Al Hindi. These names, the sources said, were disclosed in pro-ISIS publications. India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) is already investigating the alleged involvement of Indians from Kerala in this case. Initially, only Abu Rayyan alias Dr Ijas's involvement had come to the fore. Ijas, a resident of Padanna in Kasargod district of Kerala, had left to join the ISIS in Afghanistan in 2016 along with a group that included his wife, younger brother Shihab and some friends. "Ijas had left for Khorasan Province in Afghanistan from Hyderabad along with his family and 14 others between May and July 2016 via Muscat, and has been working with the Islamic State since then. But now, the involvement of two more people from India has come to the fore," a source in the security establishment told. A second person has been identified as Bexon alias Isa, a friend of Ijas, who goes by the name Abu Rawaha Al Hindi. Isa is a resident of Palakkad, who had left India in 2016 to join ISIS in Afghanistan with his wife, younger brother Bestin alias Yahya, and other friends. A lot of information about Isa was provided by the pro-ISIS publication The Voice of Hind. "Isa was earlier identified from the group photo published immediately after the attack by pro-ISIS media," the source said, adding that the latest edition of this publication also discloses his details.



A Palestinian girl views an artwork at a COVID-19 awareness exhibition in Gaza

rather than modernisation. The capital outlay as a percentage of defence expenditure has declined over the last 10 years from 32 per cent in FY11 to 24 per cent in FY21 (Budget Estimates). The main reason is the Narendra Modi government's decision to implement the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme. In 2015-16, before the OROP was introduced, defence pension expenditure was at Rs 54,000 crore. By FY21, it had more than doubled to Rs 1,33,825 crore, rising at a nominal CAGR, or compound annual growth rate of ~22 per cent, much higher than Indian economy (13 per cent) and the MoD's own expenditure (12 per cent). On the other side of the aisle, the armed forces community refused to grasp the consequences of a slowing economy. OROP was made into an emotive issue and all economic arguments were dismissed. The idea behind OROP - that veterans retiring in the same rank with the same length of service should get the same pension irrespective of when they retire - committed the government to a perpetually growing liability regardless of its earnings. Moreover, this came at the direct expense of an equivalent drop in expenditure on modernisation and stores. Economists Renuka Sane and Ajay Shah estimate that the implicit pension debt (expressed in terms of Net Present Value of all future pension disbursements) may be nearly 50 per cent of the GDP. Despite its apparent unsustainability, the OROP issue has become a matter of faith. The long-term solution of moving all incoming armed forces personnel to the National Pension System (NPS) is not even on the table.

Not just in Bihar, Congress has 'pulled down' allies in these other states too

New Delhi, November 13: The Congress' poor strike rate in the 2020 Bihar assembly election - with the party winning only 19 of the 70 seats it contested - is being blamed for dragging down the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan's overall tally as its allies registered a good performance. While the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) won 75 of the 144 seats it contested, with a strike rate of 52 per cent, the three Left parties won 16 of 29, at a strike rate of 55 per cent. The result was that the election was won by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), even though the RJD emerged as the single-largest party in the House of 243. Bihar, however, isn't an aberration. The Congress' value to its alliance partners in different states - including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh - appears to have deteriorated over the past few years. In Maharashtra, for example, the Congress' strike rate was 48 per cent in the 2009 assembly elections, when it contested with years-old ally Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of Sharad Pawar. In 2014, when the Congress went solo, its strike rate came down to 14 per cent. In 2019, as it forged an alliance with the NCP again, its strike rate rose to 30 per cent, with the party winning 44 of the 147 seats it contested. Even the strike rate of 30 per cent was due to Pawar's doughty campaign as former Congress president Rahul Gandhi addressed just two rallies, and prominent state party leaders remained confined to their own constituencies. The NCP's strike rate in 2019 was 45 per cent as the party won 54 of the 121 seats where it fielded candidates. Analysts say the



People purchase goods at booths during a shopping festival in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province

Congress has been piggybacking on the NCP in Maharashtra - a state where it once enjoyed significant stronghold in many regions and was in office for 15 years from 1999-2014. "The reason why the Congress could come to power in Maharashtra in 2019 was because of the NCP. But the party



party in the election - with 105 seats in a House of 288 - but the Sena-NCP-Congress alliance has a numerical advantage. The Congress contested the 2017 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls in alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP). The last Congress leader to have served as chief minister of the state was the late N.D. Tiwari, whose term ended in 1989. In the 2017 elections, the Congress contested 114 of the state's 403 seats, and won just seven of them, or 6 per cent. The SP, meanwhile, won 47 of the 311 seats contested, with a strike rate of 15 per cent. The election was subsequently won by the BJP with a landslide of 312 seats. In the 2012 UP elections, the Congress had a strike rate of 7 per cent, as opposed to its then ally Rashtriya Lok Dal's 19.5 per cent. A similar trend has been witnessed in Tamil Nadu, where the party is in alliance with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). M. Bhaktavatsalam's term as chief minister from 1963 to 1967 was the last time the party led the state. In the 2016 Tamil Nadu assembly elections, the Congress won eight of the 41 seats it contested - a strike

rate of 19.5 per cent - while the DMK won 88 of 180 seats, or 49 per cent of the constituencies it contested. The election was won by the AIADMK under the late J. Jayalalitha, with the win marking the first time since 1984 that an incumbent government was retained in the state. The AIADMK won 136 seats in a House of 234. The Congress' strike rate in the 2011 election was 8 per cent, down from 70 per cent in 2006. The party contested both the elections in alliance with the DMK. Among other states, the Congress has been gradually pushed to the margins in Odisha since the Biju Janata Dal came to power in 2000. Since 2014, the BJP has replaced the Congress as the principal opposition party in the state. In former stronghold Andhra Pradesh, the Congress has seen its fortunes dip since the 2014 bifurcation, with the party also failing to gain much ground in Telangana. The Congress has not had a chief minister in Jharkhand since the state was formed in 2000, and has been piggybacking on regional players - the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) or the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM). In 2019, when the JMM-Congress alliance came to power, it was largely credited to JMM chief Hemant Soren's leadership as the Congress largely remained a passive player during the campaign. However, its strike rate appears to have increased over the years. The Congress had a strike rate of 51 per cent in the election, against the JMM's 60 per cent. In 2014, the Congress had a strike rate of 9 per cent, and 22 per cent in 2009. In Bihar, the party performed relatively better in the 2015 assembly elections, winning 27 of the 41 seats it contested - a strike rate of 65 per cent. This was a significant improvement from its 2010 performance in the state, where it contested all 243 seats solo and won just four, or 1.6 per cent. Asked about the party's performance this time, Bihar Congress leaders said they were given tougher seats to contest. "On 26 of the 70 seats where Congress contested, it is always the NDA that has won. The RJD couldn't have won those seats either. So, the problem was in the nature of seats to begin with," a senior Bihar Congress leader said. Analysts agreed, but added that the party also lacks the organisational rigour needed to win a state like Bihar. "The last time the Congress was in power (in the state) was in 1990. The Congress' best performance in recent times was in 2015, where it won 27 seats, which isn't much," said Rahul Verma, a fellow at the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research. "So, to give a party 70 seats in the immediate next election wasn't right, and then to expect them to win on such a high number of seats wasn't fair either." In 2015, the Congress had contested the Bihar election with the RJD and the Janata Dal (United), which was then in the midst of a brief separation from longtime ally BJP. The Congress-RJD-JD(U) coalition won the election, but the alliance collapsed in 2017 as the JD(U) returned to the BJP. The last time the Congress was in power on its own in Bihar was between 1985 and 1990. According to Verma, the alliance partners of the Congress - in this election, the RJD and the Left - may also have failed to transfer their votes to the party because the candidate fielded by the Congress in various seats may have failed to impress voters. "While partly the reason is that they were contesting tougher seats, it is also that they aren't as strong organisationally in the state. Tejashwi Yadav did 50-odd rallies, while Rahul Gandhi did a handful. This would obviously make a difference," Verma added.

India Slams Pak Over Missing 26/11 Attack Conspirators From Terror List

New Delhi, November 13: India on Thursday rejected Pakistan's latest list of terrorists involved in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, saying it "glaringly omits" the mastermind and key conspirators of the terror strike. In a strongly-worded reaction on the issue, the spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs, Anurag Srivastava, said India has repeatedly called on Pakistan to give up its "obfuscation and dilatory tactics" in discharging its international obligations in the trial of Mumbai terror attacks. "We have seen media reports in Pakistan about Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) releasing an updated 'book on most wanted/high profile terrorists' listing several Pakistani nationals involved in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks," he said. "While the list includes a select few members of the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, a UN designated terror entity based in Pakistan, including the crew members of the boats used to execute the 26/11 attack, it glaringly omits the mastermind and key conspirators of the heinous terror attack." Mr Srivastava said. According to reports, a total of 19 terrorists were named as those involved in the attack. "It is a fact that the 26/11 terror attack was planned, executed and

launched from Pakistan's territory. The list makes it clear that Pakistan possesses all the necessary information and evidence on the conspirators and facilitators of the Mumbai terror attack based in Pakistan," Mr Srivastava said. On November 26, 2008, a group of Pakistani terrorists sneaked into Mumbai through the sea, arriving by boat from Karachi, and went on rampage, carrying out coordinated attacks on the main Chhatrapati Shivaji railway terminus, the Taj Mahal hotel, the Trident hotel, and a Jewish centre. A total of 166 people including 28 foreigners were killed in the nearly 60-hour assault. "The government of India has repeatedly called on the government of Pakistan to give up its obfuscation and dilatory tactics in discharging its international obligations in the Mumbai terror attacks trial," he said.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. GLP/Tender/Amenities/

Sealed tender affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) in prescribed form are hereby invited from the bonafide registered contractors for the following works which will be received up to 3.00 PM on 27.11.2020 and will be opened at 3.30 PM in the same place and date by the undersigned or officers authorized to open in presence of intending tenderer or their authorized agent who wish to be present. In the event of closure of office on the date due to some reason, the next working day of the office will be the date and place of receiving and opening the tender.

Schedule of works (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of works	Location	No.	Estimated costs	Time of completion from the issue of work order	Earnest Money
1	Construction of two wheeler stand	D.F.O., S.F. Division Office, Goalpara	1	1,12,000/-	15 days	2% for general 1% for SC/ST/OBC
2	Repairing of Toilet	Agia S.F. Range Head Quarter	1	60,000/-	15 days	2% for general 1% for SC/ST/OBC

Detailed tender form can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days till 30.11.2020 on payment of Rs. 300/- (Three Hundred only) up to 3:00 PM on 30.11.2020. Tender paper must be filled up addressing to all points/terms specified with the tender form otherwise tender will be treated cancelled.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Goalpara S.F. Division
Janasanyog/C/6923/20

Contd. From Page 1

CM lays foundation stone

have been living peacefully, Sonowal said that in future also Bongaigaon has to live accordingly to set an example of its harmonious coexistence. Giving a snapshot of all the development initiatives that the BJP led State government has taken over the last four and a half years, Sonowal said that in the educational front for the utilization of its verdant resources, State government has set up eight new medical colleges, nine new engineering colleges, 32 polytechnic institutes and a number of universities as well as AIIMS and IARI at Gogamukh. He also said that very shortly government would lay the foundation stone of Skill University at Mongaiaidai. He also called upon the people as well as the journalist fraternity to keep a watch on the performance of the government and extend all cooperation so that the rate of development in the State can be expedited. On the occasion, Food &amp; Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Phani Bhusan Choudhury, Minister of State for Urban Development Department with independent charge Pijush Hazarika also delivered speech. Chairman of Bongaigaon Zila Parishad Bijay Singha, Mission Director of ASRLM Partha Pratim Majumder, DC Dr. MS LakshmiPriya, SPSC Sonowal, former MLA Bhupen Rai, social worker Himani Adhikari and other dignitaries were present in the meeting.

MLA Emmanuel Mosahary

emerged as a serious blow to Hagrama Mohilary-led BPF ahead of BTC elections. Meanwhile, Assam BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass on Thursday said that many other BPF leaders will join the BJP which will help the saffron party to achieve majority in the BTC. Meanwhile Senior BJP leader and Assam cabinet minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday addressed two mega public rallies at Salakati and Fakiragram in Kokrajhar district. In both the meetings which witnessed huge turnouts, Dr. Sarma highlighted various developmental works and welfare schemes the BJP government has undertaken for the people of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). He was accompanied by Assam state BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass. On his arrival, the minister was accorded a grand welcome by the local residents. Later, he addressed another public gathering in the Fakiragram area. In his speech, minister Sarma said, "When we will form the BTC government, the welfare of the people will be our top priority." "BJP's door is open for leaders who wish to switch from the BPF", Ranjit Kumar Dass, president of the Assam state BJP said today. He also informed that the BPF MLA Emmanuel Mosahary shall be joining the BJP on 20th November next. Emmanuel Mosahary will be the second prominent BPF leader to join the BJP this month. Dass' comments came a day after Rajya Sabha MP and BPF stalwart Biswajit Daimary announced his plans to join the saffron party. Dass is camping in Kokrajhar for three days to campaign for party candidates from Wednesday onwards. He stated that several leaders and members from the BPF party are coming forward to join the BJP party in the lead up to the crucial polls. "BJP shall be contesting the BTC elections alone. We are going forward with our own strategies in participating in the council elections", Dass said. On Thursday, Dass attended a special executive meeting of the Kokrajhar unit of the BJP held at Gossagaon. The party discussed the strategy for building up its party affairs ahead of the ensuing BTC elections with their own party candidates. Dass today urged party leaders and workers to devote themselves wholeheartedly for scripting wins for party candidates across the Council. Dass informed that the saffron party is "fully prepared" and necessary strategies have been initiated in support of party candidates. He said that the BJP party is contesting in 26 seats and extending support to an independent candidate — from Srirampur in Kokrajhar district. Dass today said he believes the BJP will form an "absolute majority."

Assam stopping villagers along

to the people of the State. "For two years, this programme has been suspended due to non-release of funds. They (border residents) feel orphaned and exploited," the Congress legislator said. The Border Areas Development Minister informed the House that since the inception of the State, an amount of Rs 39, 58, 80, 000 had been sanctioned for various schemes through this department. Stating that providing development in the border areas is a multi-pronged approach, Rymbui said, "But more funds have been sanctioned through other line departments." The minister informed that the amount sanctioned for the development of Inter-State Border villages under Inter-State Border Area Development Programme during the year 2018-19 was Rs. 100 lakh. The district-wise allocation for the year 2018/19 was - Ri-Bhoi - Rs 38.5800 lakh, South West Garo Hills - Rs. 2.8400 lakh, West Garo Hills - Rs 9.8400 lakh, West Jaintia Hills - Rs. 8.1600 lakh, East Jaintia Hills - Rs. 11.0700 lakh, West Khasi Hills - Rs. 6.1700 lakh, North Garo Hills - Rs. 11.3400. Rymbui also informed that the total number of villages in Ri-Bhoi district enlisted under ISBADP is 117 and in Nongpoh constituency there are 13 such villages.

Gauhati HC tells govts to ensure

a boundary dispute, "the road and railway blockade has been done with the full knowledge of the Assam government". It also alleged that no attempt was being made by the Assam government to ensure movement of people and essential supplies into Mizoram. But the division bench of Justice Michael Zothankhuma and Justice Nelson Sailo decided that since the Assam government did not have a standing counsel in Mizoram, the court's registry refer the case to the registrar general, so that the matter, if the chief justice saw fit, may be taken up by the principal seat. Hearing the PIL Thursday, the Gauhati High Court in its order said, "We hope and expect that the Government of Assam, Government of Mizoram and the Union of India would take all the necessary steps required for smooth movement of traffic and essential items on the National Highway No 306 as well as the Inter-State Highway connecting Karimganj District, Assam with Manit District, Mizoram at Medili, where according to the petitioner, the disturbances and obstructions had been taking place in the past." The court also asked the railway authorities, along with the state and central governments, to take necessary steps for ensuring smooth movement of trains from Assam's Silchar to Bairabi in Mizoram. "Before we pass appropriate comprehensive order in this regard, we would like all the stakeholders to submit their affidavits, more particularly, the State of Assam as well as the Union of India so that no inconvenience is caused to the public in either of the States especially in the light of the forthcoming festive seasons," the high court further observed. The matter was listed for hearing on 4 December.

BTC does not belong to

College before the Assembly elections in Assam. "Before the elections are held, I myself will come and inaugurate a Science College in Fakiragram." "For 15 years — ever since the signing of the BTC treaty — the people of the region kept Hagrama Mohilary in power. As much as Rs. 1,000 crore was sanctioned to the BTC from the power corridors of New Delhi. Although PM Modi has promised houses for the poor, nobody has gotten houses in the region without bribing the VCDC. Even the old people's pensions have not been handed out," Biswa Sarma. Lambasting the former BTC administration for lack of transparency, Sarma said that even though the governments in Delhi and Dispur properly explain where the budgetary allocations will be spent, there is no such arrangement in the BTC. Sarma also pointed to allegations that the buying and selling of land is not allowed in the BTC. "However, if the BJP comes to power, we will ensure that a mechanism is implemented that allows the buying and selling of land of poverty." Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP's point man in the Northeast Indian region, has joined the saffron party's campaign in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) ahead of the impending polls.

Sainik School To Open Doors For Girls

Guwahati, Nov 13 : Sainik School, Goalpara will enroll girl students for the first time from the 2021-22 academic sessions. Girls will be enrolled from the sixth standard, said a defence statement. The statement said that this will provide talented girls from the state a golden opportunity to prepare themselves to serve the nation by joining the country's defence services. "The school authorities will arrange for the necessary infrastructure, education and training facilities in the school campus to promote the all-round development of the girls of the region," the statement said. Since its inception in 1964, 300 students from the Sainik School have joined the defence forces as officers. A good number of its alumni have also joined different administrative services. Interested students can access the details regarding the admission process by logging into the web site : <https://aissee.nta.nic.in>. The last date for submission of the application forms is November 19.

ASDC opposed the introduction of Panchayati Raj in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao Districts

DIPHU, November 13: The Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) has strongly opposed the introduction of Panchayati Raj in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao Districts as it is against the spirit of the sixth schedule and would further weaken the sixth schedule. The party had opposed in the past also and would be opposing now also. The introduction of Panchayati Raj is a direct attack on the sixth schedule autonomous council as Panchayati Raj is meant for administrative development in the fifth schedule areas. If at all the government wanted to bring democratic developmental machinery down to the grassroots then it can do so by constituting village councils under item number a of sub-paragraph 4 of paragraph 4 of the sixth schedule to the constitution of India. It is constitutionally and legally wrong to equate sixth schedule areas with other general area. Under the present circumstance the attempt of the BJP government in introducing Panchayati Raj is nothing but an attempt to take away power of the councils conferred earlier through constitutional amendment gained through the sweat and toil of the down trodden people of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao. Meanwhile, the Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) has also demanded the immediate deployment of central security forces to stop illegal encroachment by Nagaland on the border with Karbi Anglong bordering Dimapur town in Doldoli Reserve Forest. If the government can deploy central security forces in the border problem with Mizoram the government must also deployed central forces in the context of the inter-state boundary with Nagaland. If the government thinks that Karbi Anglong is still in Assam, it is also the constitutional duty of the state government to protect the Karbi Anglong Land from encroachment by Nagaland government, as stated by Sunil Tokbi, Member Publicity Cell, ASDC.

Ban on sale and use of fire crackers at Biswanath

A Correspondent : Biswanath Chariali, Nov 13: The Biswanath district Magistrate cum deputy commissioner Pranab Kumar Sharma bans the use and sale of fire crackers at Biswanath district with effect from November 13 as per order no U/S 144 Cr. P.C dated November 13. The order came into effect as per directives received from the National Green Tribunal application No. 249/2020 dated November 9. Further bursting of firecrackers releases copious amounts of harmful chemicals, which have severe impact on the respiratory health of vulnerable groups and such pollution can further aggravate health conditions of COVID 19 positive persons staying in home isolation. Further various types of high sound producing fire-crackers will increase noise pollution in the district. That's why the district administration has taken steps to ban on sale and use of any sort of fire crackers in the district. Violating of which will lead to legal action as per provision of sections 51 of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and 188 IPC.

CID To Probe Death Of Journalist Parag Bhuyan



Guwahati, Nov 13 : Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday evening ordered a CID probe into the death of Pratinid Time's journalist Parag Bhuyan. Bhuyan, a senior reporter from Kakopthar, was hit by a vehicle on Wednesday night nearby to his home and succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Dibrugarh. It was suspected that he was attacked by miscreants as he had brought many corruptions of political leaders to light. Parag Bhuyan was Assam Jatiya Parishad's Coordinator Jagadish Bhuyan's younger brother. Jagadish Bhuyan also served as MLA from Sadiya Legislative Assembly, Tinsukia district for two terms and also served as Minister of Tourism during the Prafulla Kumar Mahanta-led government in 1998-2001. Earlier today, the Tinsukia police seized the vehicle bearing registration number AS 23BC7881 and apprehended the driver James Murah and handyman/helper Baba Bordoloi. The vehicle is owned by one Ape Ete of Samuguri village under Namsai PS.

SECY. RD&PR takes Stock of schemes Implemented under MGNREGA, PMKSY, CMAGY and PMAYG

Aalo, Nov 13 : The Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Ral Shri Amarnath Talwade accompanied by Shri Kompu Dolo, Joint Director RD made whirlwind visits to West Siang to take stock of all schemes implemented under MGNREGA, PMKSY, CMAGY and PMAYG in West Siang District on 12th and 13th Nov. The Secretary and his team accompanied by Shri Jiken Bomjen, PD DRDA and BDOs visited Kugi, Takpu Bagra, Angu and Biru villages where all people-oriented schemes have been carried out by the department of Rural Development through respective BDOs. Interacting with the Beneficiaries and implementing agencies, Shri Talwade said that the schemes under DRDA are meant for the needy people and every drop of benefit must go to them. Awareness on the programme and benefits must percolate down to the needy people so that it gives minimum sustenance to the rural folks. The Secretary also interacted with beneficiaries, GBs and Ex. Panchayat leaders on job cards and implementation of all schemes in their villages and exhorted the executing agencies to work in a more committed and cohesive way to fulfill the mission of the govt. Earlier, on his arrival at Aalo, West Siang Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman, DRDA Shri Moki Loyi also briefed on various schemes being taken up under DRDA West Siang.

Hailakandi administration puts certain restrictions during Kali Puja, Diwali festivals amid COVID-19

Hailakandi, Nov.13: The Hailakandi district administration has put in force certain restrictions during Kali Puja and Diwali festivals on Saturday and Sunday in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. In an order issued to this effect here on Thursday, Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman, DDMA, Megh Nidhi Dahal stated that only 20 persons would be allowed at a time inside puja premises maintaining social distancing, wearing mask and other COVID-19 protocols. The order stated that the puja committees would observe only religious rituals with no extravagant decorations and lighting of pandals. It asked all the committee members and volunteers, including priests to undergo swab test for COVID-19. It also prohibited mela, cultural events, competitions, procession and temporary stalls in the vicinity of puja pandals. The order asked the puja committees to arrange for proper sanitisation of the premises and thermal screening of the devotees at the entrance of the puja pandal. It also stated that not more than five persons per committee would be allowed to carry the idol to the immersion ghat. The order prohibits the bursting of high sounding crackers in public places and imposes restriction on sale and purchase of such fireworks. Moreover, use of loudspeakers beyond the permitted decibel level is strictly prohibited. The order warned that anyone found violating the instructions would be dealt with severely under the relevant sections of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Indian Penal Code. The order comes into force with immediate effect.

IJA launched protest against the murder of Parag Bhuyan

Barpeta, 13 November: Today, the Barpeta District Committee of the Indian Journalists Association (IJA) has launched a protest against the murder of Parag Bhuyan, a prominent, honest and fearless journalist in the Tinsukia district, demanding exemplary punishment. The program, co-sponsored by the people of Barpeta's Kayakuchi who strongly condemns the killing of Parag Bhuyan. The committee also extends its condolences to the bereaved family. Abdul Jalil, president of the district committee of IJA, has said that a vicious circle is trying to curtail the freedom of speech of journalists by killing a fearless and outspoken journalist like journalist Parag Bhuyan. He said the Indian Journalists' Association would launch a nationwide agitation if the killer of the Parag Bhuyan is not identified and punished. Manjit Das, general secretary of the district committee, demands to identify the killer of Parag Bhuyan and demands exemplary punishment. He called on the government to enact legislation to ensure the safety of journalists. Azizul Haque, Acting president of the district committee, said it is the government's responsibility to ensure that there was no vacancy in the name of the CID investigation into the incident. Journalist and Acting President Azizul Haque has termed the killer of journalist Parag Bhuyan as the killer of democracy. He also demanded at least Rs 3 million in compensation from the Assam government for Parag Bhuyan's family members. Rahul Amin, an adviser to the district committee and a journalist, opined that the killing of journalist Parag Bhuyan was an indication of the killing of democracy. Prof. Abdus Chhattar Chowdhury, who was present at the meeting, wished for a proper investigation into the murder of Parag Bhuyan. Pradeep Das, vice-president of the association, said that if the killer of Parag Bhuyan was not identified and punished, the enemy would be encouraged as an enemy of democracy. The meeting was attended by members of the Barpeta District Committee, journalists from other parts of the district, as well as some prominent people from the Kayakuchi area, who strongly condemned the incident.

BAP yuva Marcha, Darrang distributed earthen lamp

SIPAJHAR, Nov 13 : Keeping the objective to keep balance of environment and control the pollution during Diwali festival the yuva Marcha, Darrang of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has undertake a massive programme. Under the programme the activists of the yuva Marcha has distributed earthen lamp among the people covering the 8 Mandal committee areas of the district. The Mandal areas are Bechimari, Sialmari, Kharupatia town, East Mangaldai, West Mangaldai, Mangaldai town, Patharighat and Sipajhar. Participating in the programme Dibya jyoti Sarma, President, Darrang district committee of Yuva Marcha, Bharatiya Janata Party and Ripunjoy Saikia, Convenor of University, college relations cell of state committee of Yuva Marcha, Bharatiya Janata Party while expressed Diwali's best wishes to the people of the state called upon the people to celebrate the festival in the true sense by spreading the motto of victory of lights over darkness and hoped that the light of hope always lead the people of the state forward to a bright tomorrow.

Emphasis given on safety measures by NFR Led to zero accident during last two years

Guwahati, November 13 : In view of the importance being given for ensuring safety of train movement, there has been no consequential train accident during the year 2020-21. It can be mentioned here that last year was also an accident free year for NFR. This has been possible due to overall emphasis given to maintain the health of all train operations related infrastructure in good condition and regular monitoring the same throughout the jurisdiction of NFR. Track is the most important aspect for safe movement of trains. As a result of train movement, wear and tear of track is bound to occur and renewal/ replacement of track components are indispensable. During the current year (upto October, 2020) 73.68 CTR units of Track renewal i.e. changing of rails and sleepers have been done against 64.85 CTR units done upto October, 2019. That is an increase of 13.62%. To detect un-seen fracture of railway track which might lead to accident "Ultrasound" testing is done by machine. This is known as USFD testing of track. USFD testing of 1,762.31 Km has been done during the month of October 2020 against 1368.54 Km done during October 2019. That is an increase of about 28.77%. Deep Screening i.e. cleaning of ballast that lies beneath the railway track was done for 46 turnouts during the month of October 2020 against 12 turnouts done during October 2019. 10 nos. bridges have been rehabilitated during the month of October 2020 making a cumulative progress of 48 no during the current year. Packing of ballast beneath 354 Points and Crossings have been done by UNIMAT machines during the month of October 2020 making a cumulative progress of 3012 points upto the month against proportionate target of 1867 points during this year. N.F. Railway has also completed 2,746 nos. of Flash Butt welding of rail joints during the month of October 2020 making a cumulative progress of 13053 nos. of Flash Butt welds upto the month to make the rail joints in track more secure. The increased emphasis given on safety measures as evident from above has also led to increased speed of trains including goods carrying trains within NFR.

Maguire and Sancho set England up for friendly win over Republic of Ireland



London, November 13: It was a night when England's superiority was so pronounced it felt a little strange to think they had not beaten the Republic of Ireland for 35 years. The run was sparked by the Ray Houghton-inspired defeat at Euro 88, with six draws after that, many of them turgid, but here there was only expression as Gareth Southgate enjoyed doing what he is paid to do - win football matches. The manager has more closely resembled a politician for much of the season and he could reference a "turbulent week" for the Football Association before kick-off, one scarred by the demise of the organisation's now former chairman, Greg Clarke. There was plenty for Southgate to savour on the field in this friendly, principally 61 minutes of driving excellence from Jack Grealish, who further fired the clamour for his inclusion in competitive matches. Surely, Southgate cannot overlook him for Sunday's Nations League showdown with Belgium in Brussels? There was a fine performance from Bukayo Saka at left wing-back, heavy on pace and incision, and morale-boosting goals for Harry Maguire and Jadon Sancho, which gave England a first-half platform. Maguire's travails this season have been well-documented but Sancho has also struggled at Borussia Dortmund. This was better from him, although Ireland would prove to be powder-puff opponents. Like Grealish, Sancho embraced the freedom to wander away from his flank to create danger. "The two players in those roles - Jadon and Jack - they've got the freedom to go either side of the pitch and try and create overloads," Southgate said. "I thought at times both of them did that really well. As soon as they are turned and running at people they are a real problem for the opponent." Stephen Kenny's search for an Ireland win goes on. It is now six games without one for the manager and, even worse, his team - who were missing key players - have scored only one goal. They rarely looked like breaching England and, despite looking comfortable on the ball for the first 15 minutes, the performance lacked quality and fight. England coasted through the second half, with Dominic Calvert-Lewin scoring the third from the penalty spot, and Southgate was even able to get Jude Bellingham on in the 73rd minute for his first cap. The 17-year-old Dortmund midfielder became England's third youngest international behind Theo Walcott and Wayne Rooney. Maguire wore the captain's armband, with Harry Kane an unused substitute, and he put England in charge on 18 minutes with a header that showcased his power and determination. Mason Mount's corner was cleared but only to the industrious Harry Winks on the edge of the area and when he sent a cross back in over the top it invited Maguire to rush in on Shane Duffy's blindside. The header was not completely clean but it had enough on it to beat Darren Randolph into the bottom corner. Ireland had worked a few decent crossing positions and Reece James needed to react smartly to snuff out one from Daryl Horgan that was intended for Callum O'Dowda. But once behind, they wilted. Tyrone Mings and Saka had gone close in the early running and England grew after Maguire's goal. So much went through Grealish, who demanded the ball at every turn and looked supremely at ease on it. Although he started on the left, he found spaces across the final third, frightening defenders when he ran at them, always scanning for the killer pass. Grealish was involved in the second goal, drawing the Ireland defence after accepting a pass from Winks before popping it on to Sancho. With Jeff Hendrick nowhere near tight enough, Sancho curled low into the far corner. From an Ireland point of view, it was too easy. This looked dangerous with every forward thrust. At 1-0, James crossed towards Calvert-Lewin after a Grealish pass only for Duffy to leap into a block while from the corner, whipped in by Mount, Maguire again beat Duffy to send a header towards the roof of the net. Randolph tipped over. Sancho might have got another goal on 38 minutes only for Christie to block while Grealish sliced into the left-side of the penalty area, threatening the shot but then pulling back for Mount.

Southgate looks forward to Euro 2020 clash with Scotland after friendly win



London, November 13: Gareth Southgate says he is looking forward to a "super occasion" after Scotland qualified for Euro 2020 to set up a group stage showdown between the countries at next summer's tournament. "Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Steve Clarke, he's a super guy and I'm really pleased for him," said the England manager after hearing of Scotland's play-off victory in Serbia. "For Scotland it's been a long time. They've got some very good young players coming through and are a team that are improving really quickly. Let's hope we've got full crowds back in the stadium. That will give everybody something to look forward to in what is a difficult time for everyone." Southgate got a reminder of those difficulties just before Thursday's 3-0 friendly win over the Republic of Ireland, as defender Conor Coady was forced to pull out of the England squad after being notified that someone with whom he came into contact had tested positive for Covid-19. "Coady has been forced to self-isolate having discovered he had inadvertently come into contact with somebody prior to camp who has tested positive for Covid-19 via an NHS Test and Trace alert," explained the FA. "The Wolves defender had returned two negative tests as part of the FA and Uefa's protocol but, in line with UK government guidelines, has to adhere to a period of self-isolation." "He is bitterly disappointed," said Southgate, who must also plan without Marcus Rashford for the next two matches after the player returned to Manchester United after failing to shake off an injury suffered in his last club game.

The pass was awry - a rare error. Mings fired wide as the first half drew to a close and, at that point, Ireland looked in for a hammering. Southgate introduced Dean Henderson for his England debut at half-time and Nick Pope, on the occasion of his fourth cap, could depart having still not been beaten at this level. The reality was that he had precious little to do. Henderson was only marginally busier, having to make regulation saves to deny Alan Browne and the substitute Ronan Curtis. There was a fluidity about England's movement and interplay, a pleasing control and it was epitomised by Grealish, with James and Saka also prominent. The 3-4-3 system allows the wing-backs to get forward and, with this particular pair, covers up their lack of high-level defensive nous. Saka had dragged off-target after a Grealish burst and Mings's lovely flick and the Arsenal player was too quick for Christie when he won the penalty. Calvert-Lewin showed off his confidence by picking out the top corner. Southgate sent on Tammy Abraham for Calvert-Lewin and he almost bundled home after an explosive burst by Sancho and a shot from Michael Keane. Southgate could be happy with three.

Marshall save ends Scotland's long wait as they pip Serbia to Euro 2020 finals

London, November 13: They did it the hard way but Scotland held their nerve in a penalty shootout to reach their first major men's finals since the 1998 World Cup in France. David Marshall, the Derby goalkeeper, proved the hero, saving Aleksandar Mitrovic's penalty to send Steve Clarke's side to next summer's delayed Euro 2020 finals. Scotland had dominated normal time, leading through Ryan Christie's brilliant goal before conceding a 90th minute equaliser, when Serbia's £50m Real Madrid striker Luka Jovic, headed a leveler his side barely deserved. As torrential rain cascaded down on Belgrade, Scotland looked instantly at home, initially dominating possession to such an extent that Serbia had reason for relief their 50,000 capacity stadium was virtually empty. Reactive rather than remotely proactive, the hosts looked sluggish and strangely off the pace. Yet although their cause was not helped by the stray arm thrust into the face of John McGinn which earned Nikola Milenkovic a booking and ensured the left sided component of Serbia's back three needed to watch his step, Aleksandar Mitrovic looked capable of ruffling the visiting assurance. The Fulham centre-forward's aerial prowess was already causing problems when Mitrovic held the ball up superbly before cueing up Sasa Lukic for a low drive which flew fractionally wide of David Marshall's left hand post. It swiftly became apparent that Motherwell's Declan Gallagher, deployed at the heart of Clarke's own back three, was destined to prove a key figure in one of the night's principal sub-plots, namely his duel with Mitrovic. Clarke cannot have been overly delighted when, with half time beckoning and Gallagher standing impressively firm, the defender collected the softest of bookings. Another potentially match defining sphere was the left side of Serbia's defence where Filip Kostic appeared so dedicated to marauding forward on the counterattack that Lyndon



Dykes and Christie were offered plenty of highly inviting space to explore. Clarke's only disappointment was that, much as they and McGinn succeeded in fazing their markers, they had limited success in properly exploiting the resultant defensive gaps. Indeed Predrag Rajkovic was rarely over-exerted, the home goalkeeper saving comfortably when Christie directed a potentially dangerous free-kick far to close to him and, then again, when McGinn aimed a shot straight at his throat. How Scotland could have done with the injured Newcastle United winger, Ryan Fraser, in that front three. More positively, they were at least keeping Serbia's habitual danger man, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, uncommonly quiet. The Lazio creator struggled to sprinkle his custom-

ary stardust on proceedings as he drifted, frequently fairly aimlessly, between the lines. Clarke must have been reassured that, flanking Gallagher, Manchester United's Scott McTominay and Arsenal's Kieran Tierney, afforded his side considerable defensive stability as the stutter in Serbia's creative step perhaps explained why they had

not have been overly delighted when, with half time beckoning and Gallagher standing impressively firm, the defender collected the softest of bookings. Another potentially match defining sphere was the left side of Serbia's defence where Filip Kostic appeared so dedicated to marauding forward on the counterattack that Lyndon Dykes and Christie were offered plenty of highly inviting space to explore. Clarke's only disappointment was that, much as they and McGinn succeeded in fazing their markers, they had limited success in properly exploiting the resultant defensive gaps. Indeed Predrag Rajkovic was rarely over-exerted, the home goalkeeper saving comfortably when Christie directed a potentially dangerous free-kick far to close to him and, then again, when McGinn aimed a shot straight at his throat. How Scotland could have done with the injured Newcastle United winger, Ryan Fraser, in that front three. More positively, they were at least keeping Serbia's habitual danger man, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, uncommonly quiet. The Lazio creator struggled to sprinkle his custom-

ing defenders, the ball flew goalwards, brushing the inside of a post on its journey across the line. Now Serbia needed to raise the home tone - not to mention their strangely under-powered tempo. Yet try as they might, Clarke's players kept on throwing obstacles in their way. Granted Milinkovic-Savic unleashed a header which flew far too close to the target for comfort but Gallagher contributed an important, possibly goal preventing, block on Mitrovic as the striker shaped to shoot. In between such scares - and Serbia did start to win a few corners - a tiring Scotland even threatened to extend their lead. McTominay headed inches wide following a corner. McGregor went close from 25 yards and the industrious, and influential, McGinn created a decent opening Christie could not quite make the most of. When Jovic proved similarly unable to polish off Mladenovic's clever late home cross it felt as if Scotland were set fair to end 23 years of hurt. But Jovic was not quite done and in the 90th minute the substitute connected with another fine delivery from the same creator and, this time, dodged McTominay before dispatched a classic downward header which evaded Marshall's grasp and condemned Scotland fans to the agony of extra time. Suddenly Clarke's players were alarmingly leggy and seriously up against it. Mitrovic saw a shot deflected wide and only a sublime save on Marshall's part prevented Nemanja Gudelj from shooting Serbia ahead. The Derby goalkeeper performed acrobatic wonders to tip that high velocity effort round a post but it turned out he was simply warming up for the main event - saving Mitrovic's penalty.

Paul Casey and Tiger Woods among old guard leading the way at the Masters



London, November 13: Father Time was perhaps riled by the domination of pre-Masters discussion with suggestions of what athleticism and equipment - or, to be precise, Bryson DeChambeau - may do to Augusta National. Sixteen years have passed since Paul Casey tied sixth on his Masters debut. Tiger Woods first competed at Augusta National two and a half decades ago. As DeChambeau battled swing demons - not entirely unsuccessfully it must be said - Casey strode to the top of the leaderboard, with Woods in close pursuit. Casey's 65 included five birdies and an eagle. It represented a 16-stroke improvement from the first Masters round of 2019. In truth, the latter performance is an anomaly in context of his strong Augusta record. A more pertinent reference point appears the Englishman's second place in this summer's US PGA Championship; but Georgia was always on his mind. "This is something I've looked forward to," Casey explained. "I was vocal earlier in the year about not enjoying golf in a pandemic. I'm acutely aware that I'm in a very fortunate position. I still get to be a professional golfer and play championship golf, but I didn't know how the fan-less experience would be. So far, I've not enjoyed it and I felt the lack of energy. I've had nothing or very little to draw from, being out playing tournament golf." The Masters, though ... this week, it still has a buzz to it. There's an energy and a little bit of a vibe. Yes, it's clearly a lot less than what we are used to but there's something about this place. I felt excited to be here. I've never been so happy to pass a Covid test, just to get in. "With the history of

this championship, this tournament. So many people like myself are just excited to play this. This is a treat. It always has been and always will be a real treat." At 43, Casey is seeking the maiden major win that would haul his career into fresh territory. At 44, Woods is now in hot pursuit of a sixth Green Jacket. The defending champion's chances heading into this event were seen as remote; how Woods silenced the naysayers with a wonderfully composed 68. Incredibly, this marked just his second sub-70 opening Masters round. By Woods's own calm assessment: "I did everything well." There was, though, time to reflect on the value of Augusta experience. "I think that understanding how to play this golf course is so important," he added. "I've been lucky enough to have so many practice rounds throughout my career with so many past champions, and I was able to win this event early in my career and build myself up for the understanding that I'm going to come here each and every year." So understanding of how to play it is a big factor and it's one of the reasons why early in my career that I saw Jack [Nicklaus] conceding a lot, I saw Raymond [Floyd] conceding late in his career, now Bernhard Langer and Freddie Couples always contend here late in their careers. Just understanding how to play this golf course is a big part of it." DeChambeau's first four holes included two provisional balls, pine straw, Rae's Creek, a bush, a penalty drop and a fluffed chip. He was two over par taking to the 14th, his fifth tee. The ghosts of MacKenzie and Jones looked to be in play. To his credit - and in emphasising his level of tal-

ent - the Californian rallied to the point where he signed for a 70. "I am fortunate to be two under par," he admitted. He spent most of the day fighting a hook which will need to be eliminated if he is to contend for the Green Jacket. Casey's lead is two, from Xander Schauffele and Webb Simpson. Justin Thomas, who has played only 10 holes, is also five under. Lee Westwood, Hideki Matsuyama, Louis Oosthuizen and Patrick Reed matched Woods's 68. A three-hour delay, caused by a forecast thunderstorm that duly hit Augusta in the morning, meant a host of players must return to complete their first rounds. Rory McIlroy is level at the turn with Dustin Johnson, one of the Northern Irishman's playing partners, on three under. Thomas birdied his first three holes in serving notice that he was rightly among the Masters favourites; he collected a shot at the hazardous 10th immediately before the horn blew. Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player had undertaken ceremonial starting duties shortly before the delay. Nicklaus created something of a storm before the US presidential election when offering strong support for Donald Trump. Naturally, the 18-times major winner was asked if he now had any follow-up comments. Naturally his reply was curt. "I think I've said enough about that. I don't think this is the place for politics." Nicklaus did, though, share an endearing tale relating to his time in the Crow's Nest, Augusta's standard lodgings for amateur players, during the 1959 Masters. "We had Phil Rodgers, Deane Beman, Ward Wettlaufer, Tommy Aaron and myself," Nicklaus recalled. "We all stayed there. That's not a very big place, if you happen to go look at it, for five guys. One bathroom, one shower. But we all stayed there, and of course Phil and I were the big eaters at the time." The amateurs had to be charged for their food, so they charged us a dollar for breakfast, a dollar for lunch and two dollars for dinner. Phil and I, generally speaking, would have two steaks at night. They came to us after a couple nights and they said: 'Gentlemen, you're abusing the thing with eating two steaks, we're going to have to charge you \$2 apiece.' I said: 'That'll be quite all right.' Simpler times.

Gio Reyna among six debutants as youthful USA held to draw by Wales



Paris, November 13: Gio Reyna followed his father and mother onto US national soccer teams, showing an insightful passing ability similar to his dad's, and the Americans tied Wales 0-0 in an exhibition at Swansea on Thursday night. Reyna, who has gotten regular playing time at Borussia Dortmund, debuted a day before his 18th birthday and his distribution keyed the US attack, much the way former US captain Claudio Reyna did for many of his 112 appearances from 1994 to 2006. Gio's mother, the former Danielle Egan, played six matches for the American women in 1993 and married Claudio in 1997. Reyna, who played 78 minutes, was among six players who made debuts, joined in the starting lineup by Yunus Musah, a midfielder with Valencia who turns 18 on 19 November; and 19-year-old midfielder Konrad de la Fuente, who waits his first Barcelona senior team appearance. Johnny Cardoso, a 19-year-old midfielder with Brazil's Internacional, entered in the 71st; Nicholas Gioacchini, a 20-year-old forward with Caen, in the 79th; and Owen Otasowie, a 19-year-old midfielder with Wolverhampton, in the 87th. Reyna and Musah became just the 12th and 13th Americans to make an appearance before turning 18. The US have used 88 players since the October 2017 defeat at Trinidad and Tobago that eliminated the Americans from the 2018 World Cup, including 50 debuting. Reyna formed one of the Americans' most mobile and dynamic midfields, combining with 21-year-old Tyler Adams of Leipzig and 22-year-old Weston McKennie of Juventus. The starting lineup included 20-year-old right back Sergiño Dest, in his first season at Barcelona. Zack Steffen, a 25-year-old who is the backup at Manchester City, has succeeded Tim Howard as the top US goalkeeper and combined with his defenders to play out of the back in a way the Americans rarely have. Although this was a friendly that lacked intense physical contact, it was against a mid-level team that has qualified for the European Championship. Neither team had many chances. American Sebastian Lletget was saved on a long-range right-footed shot by Danny Ward in the 51st minute. Steffen make a right leg save in the 63rd on Daniel James, who had just entered and got by left back Antonee Robinson streaking down a flank. The clubs the players are with are a sign of how much the player pool has improved over the past three years. Starters averaged 22 years, 252 days (22.69), the fourth-youngest US lineup behind games in 2018. There were no fans at Liberty Stadium for the Americans' first match since 1 February and their first in a year on a FIFA international fixture date. The US play Panama on Monday at Wiener Neustadt, Austria. The Americans are preparing for a Concacaf Nations League semi-final against Honduras in June and the likely start of World Cup qualifying in September, a grind that likely will include three matches per international window. Wales is getting ready for a Euros delayed a year by the coronavirus until next June.

Why are young girls unable to play football in lockdown when boys of same age can?

London, November 13 : There has rightly been outrage and confusion about the suspension of girls' academies and regional talent clubs during the latest lockdown while at the same time boys in Premier League and Football League clubs' path-

in girls. How, then, have we reached a point where that message is being undermined less than a month after the Football Association unveiled its new four-year strategy for women's football, which includes ensuring that every primary-aged girl has "equal access to

comments on Tuesday - the now former FA chairman telling MPs the lack of women goalkeepers was because girls do not like the ball being kicked at them - but of course that is not the case. So what has happened? It would be wrong to say that women's football in England

of the truth, and the media are as guilty as the FA in doing so because by hyping it you can help to grow it to the point where it becomes more real. You help attract sponsors, you help attract the best players, you help attract the biggest audiences. The downside is that when the boat is rocked - by an unprecedented global pandemic, say - suddenly the temporary half-truths are fairly brutally exposed. When Covid-19 halted professional football its return became complicated, and the return of women's professional football was even more so. Not because of the will to bring it back but because the base level of what professionalism means is a whole lot lower and is interpreted by clubs in different ways. We are having the same conversation now. No one wants to see academies closed, but when the government announces a lockdown and the exemptions within days of the shut-out beginning, there is little wriggle room for clubs to redress the inequities in their academy systems and for the FA to redress the rules that allowed those inequities to stand. So far, one club has managed to announce an intent to reopen - Brighton said on Wednesday that they believe their girls' Duel Career Academy will be able to resume as it operates under the same pro-

ocols as their boys' academy. The Manchester United manager, Casey Stoney, meanwhile, said the club were discussing "how and when we can reopen". Once again the pandemic has exposed inequalities - such as the use of non-club pitches, poorer facilities generally, fewer staff, less access to medical facilities - that have, to some extent, been hushed up because progress is being made. Should that progress happen faster? No doubt. There is a lot of money swilling around for clubs to be able to provide mirroring pathways and contracts for boys and girls, pandemic or no pandemic. Boys can earn scholarship wages until they are 16 and sign a professional contract while girls are currently unable to be contracted to a WSL club until they are 18 and are considered grassroots players until then. The money exists in the game for equal access, facilities and conditions, just as the money is there to support the return and longevity of WSL clubs, men's EFL clubs and more. Now the pandemic has thrust some important home truths into the spotlight hopefully the will to make the necessary changes can begin to match the increased demand for better.

ways can continue to train. There should never be a situation where a young female footballer is being told she cannot play while her male equivalent can continue. It shatters the illusion of equality and could actively hinder the "be whatever you want to be" message that women's football is trying to instil



football in schools and clubs" and every girl has "equal access to participate for fun, competition and excellence"? Has there been a sea change at the FA? Does the governing body no longer care about the aspirations of girls? You would be forgiven for forming that impression following Greg Clarke's terrible

is still embryonic but it is safe to say it is still developing while, to continue the analogy, men's football is an adult in the prime of life. Ultimately the pandemic has exposed, and is still exposing, what lies beneath the shiny veneer of the Women's Super League. In the WSL, being a full-time professional since the league launched under

15. Under Gatland players knew exactly what was expected of them and they had the defence coach Shaun Edwards to answer to if they left the field with an unemptied tank. It is not difficult to imagine how he would have reacted to the passive performance against Scotland. By sacking the de-

Cricket Australia pick uncapped Pucovski, Green, Abbott for Tests against India

London, November 13 : Cricket Australia announced a 17-member squad for upcoming Test series against India starting in December. The team will take on India under Tim Paine's captaincy and youngsters Will Pucovski and Cameron Green have also been included to the side. The other uncapped

Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade, David Warner Talking about the selection, CA's National Selector Trevor Hohns said in an official statement, "What we saw in the opening rounds of the Marsh



Test players in the Tim Paine-led side are fast bowler Sean Abbott - whose bouncer had accidentally hit Phil Hughes during a Sheffield Shield game in 2014, leading to his tragic death - leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson and a 11-rounder Michael Neser. In recent times, past Australian greats have called for Pucovski's selection in the team following his fine run in domestic cricket - the 22-year-old struck successive double centuries in his two Shield appearances. His inclusion sets up a competition with fellow opener Joe Burns, who is feeling the heat after a disastrous start to the first-class summer. As per the cricket board, the selectors chose the expanded squad in considering the bio secure hubs that the team will be based in and the need to plan for replacing players at short notice if required. Youngsters Cameron Green and Will Pucovski are included in Australia's 17-player squad to take on India in the Vodafone Test Series! ?? Tim Paine (capt), Sean Abbott, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marcus

Sheffield Shield were a number of players performing exceptionally well. It is such a positive sign for Australian cricket to have so many good young players stepping into contention for the Test and Australia A selection. "Huge praise should go to the South Australian Cricket Association, the coaches, players and all those involved in delivering such a high quality block of Shield matches in challenging circumstances. The SACA went above and beyond to deliver great quality wickets and conditions for the players to thrive. "He also informed that in line with the white ball squad, Pat Cummins will be the sole vice-captain of the Test squad under Tim Paine. The limited overs leg, which will comprise three ODIs and as many T20Is, will be held prior to the Test series, starting November 27. Selectors have also chosen a 19-player Australia A squad to play India A and India in tour matches at Drummoyne Oval and the Sydney Cricket Ground which includes nine players from the Test squad and Australian captain Tim Paine. Final sides and a captain will be chosen closer to each match.

Wales need to avoid doldrums as they chart course through stormy waters

London, November 13 : Warren Gatland's final words as Wales's head coach a year ago after they had finished fourth in the World Cup resonated long into the Tokyo night. Reflecting on his 12 years in charge, during which they had risen from 10th in the world rankings to first for a few weeks in 2019, he put on a rare show of emotion. "We feel we have put respect back into Wales as an international team," he said. "Because of what we have done and what we have achieved, it would break my heart if Wales went back into the doldrums. There's an opportunity for the new group to come in and build on what we have created and to improve on it. I just want them to continue. "Wales have played six Tests since Gatland's departure and lost five. The doldrums is the next stop for his

successor Wayne Pivac, a fellow New Zealander whose coaching philosophy is significantly different. He places greater emphasis on risk and continuity but he has found it tricky to change the habits of players who, with the exception of Alun Wyn Jones, had not worked under another Wales head coach and were inured to the way of the previous regime. Pivac needs a result in Wales's Autumn Nations Cup opener against Ireland in Dublin on Friday night and his selection has been conservative and defensive, as if looking to harness the qualities that made Wales under Gatland so hard to subdue. The only change from the side that lost to Scotland in Llanelli at the end of the Six Nations is the return of the flanker Justin Tipuric, who pulled out on the morning of that match with tonsillitis. Pivac needs to expose more players who

owe their place to him, but defensive concerns about Nick Tompkins have led to the centre's omission from the 23 and Ireland's precise kicking game has kept out the Gloucester wing Louis Rees-Zammit. Liam Williams, Wales's best attacking option at full-back, is on the flank and Leigh Halfpenny at

15. Under Gatland players knew exactly what was expected of them and they had the defence coach Shaun Edwards to answer to if they left the field with an unemptied tank. It is not difficult to imagine how he would have reacted to the passive performance against Scotland. By sacking the de-

fence coach Byron Hayward after that defeat, and keeping faith with a losing team, Pivac has pointed the blame away from his players. With a small playing pool he needs them, but how much is left in some of them after, in some cases, a decade at the top and no little success? Is the hunger still there? Like Pivac,

Andy Farrell is taking charge of his first autumn campaign after succeeding Joe Schmidt. He has been more relaxed in his selection after the defeat in France ended their quest for the Six Nations title. Conor Murray and Keith Earls have been left on the bench as he gives James Lowe and Jamison Gibson-Park their first starts on a night when Johnny Sexton and George North, if he gets on, will make their 100th Test appearance. Farrell is trying to free Ireland from their tactical straitjacket, and like Pivac knows it will take time. The lack of a crowd will help Wales if they generate the energy Scotland plundered in Llanelli, but if they are to win in Dublin for the first time since 2015, it would be less Pivac's success than Gatland's, a problem deferred.



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