



The Assam Rising

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Rich detail of an older woman's story

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fake doctor

Guwahati, June 18 : Another fake doctor has been found working in a tea estate in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The fake doctor stole the identity of Dr Hirak Das and working at the Mancotta Tea Estate in Dibrugarh. Dr Hirak Das is currently serving as an assistant professor of Anatomy at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). Dr Hirak Das after getting to know that a fake doctor has stolen his identity and is working in the Tea Estate, filed an FIR with the Dibrugarh Police on June 16. However, the fake doctor, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, went underground before the police could nab him. "The fake doctor is absconding but we will nab him soon. Meanwhile, we are trying to find out his real identity. Investigation is underway," officer in-charge of Dibrugarh police station - Rajib Saikia informed. Notably, this is the third case in one month, where fake doctors have been found working in tea gardens in Dibrugarh district.

Drug inspector Jiban Debnath died

Guwahati, June 18 : Sonitpur district drug inspector and former faculty member of Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (GIPS) Guwahati, Jiban Debnath passed away at his Nagaon home on Thursday. His demise has been consoled by the GIPS Guwahati family. The family of Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (GIPS) Guwahati paid their condolences to Jiban Debnath on Friday in the college premises. "It is unfortunate to hear the untimely and unexpected news about the demise of Jiban Debnath on June 17, 2021 at his home in Nagaon early in the morning," the GIPS family said in its condolence message. "Debnath was a wonderful person with absolute substance, sincere behaviour and great personality and has always been a great asset for our organization," it said. Debnath, 42, was serving as the drug inspector in Assam's Sonitpur district until his death.

Earthquake jolts

Guwahati, June 18 : Two separate earthquakes jolted Manipur and Assam in the wee hours of Friday. While an earthquake of 3.0 magnitude in the Richter Scale jolted Manipur at 1.06 am on Friday, another earthquake of 4.1 magnitude on the Richter Scale jolted Assam at 2.04 am on Friday. The news has been confirmed by the National Center for Seismology (NCS). According to the National Center for Seismology, the epicentre of the earthquake in Manipur was located 39 km east-south-east of Moirang in Imphal district. "Earthquake of Magnitude: 3.0, Occurred on 18-06-2021, 01:06:08 IST, Lat: 24.30 & Long: 94.10, Depth: 10 Km. Location: 39 km ESE of Moirang, Manipur, India," the National Center for Seismology tweeted.

Assam Congress MLA resigns; set to join ruling BJP next week

Guwahati, June 18 : The Congress in Assam suffered a setback on Friday as one of its MLAs resigned from the assembly citing the party



high command's failure to listen to their second-tier leaders. Rupjyoti

Kurmi, who won from the Mariani seat in Jorhat district for a fourth consecutive term, said he is set to join the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coming Monday. He submitted his resignation as legislator to assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary, one and half months after his win and was accompanied by two BJP MLAs, parliamentary affairs minister Pijush Hazarika and

chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's political secretary Jayanta Malla Baruah. Both the MLAs were also in the Congress earlier and had joined the BJP in 2015 along with Sarma. After resigning, Kurmi told journalists, "I was assured of the post of Leader of Opposition in the assembly but was denied that later. I had applied for the post of the party's state president, but didn't get that. The party didn't include my name in the list of members for public accounts committee (PAC) of state assembly. It seems the Congress doesn't want leaders like me,

who belong to a particular community, to rise." "I must congratulate the hard work and dedication with which chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is working and am confident that there will be all-round development in the state under his leadership. That's why, I have decided to join the BJP coming Monday," he added. Kurmi stated that he has already submitted his resignation to the Congress leadership. However, Assam Congress president Ripun Bora expelled Kurmi from the party "with immediate effect for his anti-party activities" **Contd...Page 6**

Congress expels Mariani MLA Rup Jyoti Kurmi from party

Guwahati, June 18 : The Congress has expelled Mariani MLA Rup Jyoti Kurmi from the party's primary membership with immediate effect for "anti-party" activities. An order, issued on Friday by the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC), said the action on Kurmi has been approved by the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Kurmi on Friday submitted his resignation letter as the

Mariani MLA to Assam Legislative Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary



and quit the Congress to join the BJP. "Shri Rupjyoti **Contd...Page 6**

Assam education department cancelled HSLC and HS exams

Guwahati, June 18 : In a major decision, the Assam education department cancelled high school leaving certificate (HS) and higher secondary (HS) 2nd year exams for 2021 due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The decision has been announced by education minister Dr Ranoo Pegu after a crucial meeting with several organisations of the state. "I would like to inform you all HS and HSLC exams of 2021 will not be held due to COVID-19," Pegu said. The department will constitute two committees to formulate the marking system. The results will be declared by July 31. Two hi-powered committees will be constituted on Saturday in order to finalize the modalities for declaring the results. The modalities and evaluation formula will have to be prepared within a week, said education minister Ranoo Pegu, adding that the

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Kaziranga guards gun down Royal Bengal Tiger in 'self-defence'

Guwahati, June 18 : An adult Royal Bengal Tiger, which strayed out of the Kaziranga National Park and made its way into a village, was gunned down by the forest guards in "self-defence". Kaziranga Field Director, P Sivakumar told The New Indian Express that the matter was being investigated. Narrating the incident, he said the 10-year-old big cat had strayed out looking for easy prey. "The incident occurred at a village on the park's fringe area. The tiger had killed a buffalo there two days

ago and reappeared last (Thursday) evening. A team of forest guards was sent to the place after the locals had informed us about the animal's presence. Once, the tiger and the forest



guards came very close to each other and the tiger tried to attack them. They had no other option and they fired in self-defence," Sivakumar said. He said since the tiger was old,

it possibly could not hunt in the wild and strayed out looking for livestock. "We are conducting an inquiry. We will take action if there were any lapses on the part of the forest guards," he added. Forest guards in Kaziranga National Park on Friday gunned down an adult Royal Bengal Tiger in Upper Assam. Forest officials said the tiger, which strayed out of the park and made its way into a village, died due to accidental firing by forest personnel. KNP director PK Sivakumar said that a carcass of the approx 10-year-old male Royal Bengal Tiger was found near Japoripothar, Karuabari area (fringe area KNP & TR) by the forest personnel. "On inquiry, it is found that the tiger died due **Contd...Page 6**

Auction of Cachar and Nagaon Paper Mills stands cancelled

Guwahati, June 18 : The Joint Action Committee for Registered Unions (JACRU) said the auction procedure of Assam's two paper mills -

Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon Paper Mill - stands cancelled for now. The Joint Action Committee for Registered Unions in a statement

said the auction stands cancelled because within the stipulated time, no private entity deposited Rs 55 crore required for participating in the auction process. It needs to be mentioned that the liquidator Kuldeep Sharma on June 1, 2021 informed the media that the government has decided to auction the twin paper mills. To participate in the auction the interested entities will have to deposit Rs 55 crore within June 15, 2021. But no entity has deposited this amount and as per rule, there will be no auction for now. However, it also

needs to be mentioned that on June 3, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while addressing a press conference in Delhi asked as to who would invest Rs 1,200 crore on these twin paper mills. Members of JACRU said the chief minister should step in and save the paper mills. "If adequate steps are not being taken now, many mill employees will lose their life," JACRU said in its statement. For the past 54 months the mill employees are not getting their dues. Many employees have already died of various ailments and **Contd...Page 6**



Air India Express flies India's 1st international flight with fully vaccinated crew

New Delhi, June 18 : Air India Express on Friday (June 18) operated the country's first international flight with a fully COVID-19 vaccinated

crew. Flight IX 191 operated from Delhi to Dubai with the pilots and all crew fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. "Air India Express, India's leading bud-



get carrier, operated the first international flight from the country with fully vaccinated crew on June 18

on Delhi - Dubai sector. The pilots and the cabin crew of IX 191, which took off from Delhi **Contd...Page 6**

Delhi riots: SC refuses to stay bail granted to 3 student activists

Guwahati, June 18 : Reading down of anti-terror law is an important issue and may have pan-India ramifications, the Supreme Court said on Friday and sought responses from three student activists granted bail by the Delhi High Court in northeast Delhi riots case. The high court judgements will "not be treated as precedent by any Court" to give similar reliefs, the apex court said while hearing Delhi Police appeal against the bail. A vacation bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian made it clear however that the bails granted to these student activists will not be affected for the time-being. Taking note of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission that the entire anti-terror

law, UAPA, has been turned upside down by the Delhi High Court while granting bail to these activists, the bench said what is troubling it was



that 100 pages of the verdict have been rendered while granting bail and judgement discussed the entire law. The High **Contd...Page 6**

Jaipal Bhullar encounter SC directs Punjab and Haryana High Court to hear gangster's father's plea for re-autopsy

New Delhi, June 18 : The Supreme Court on Friday (June 18) set aside the order of Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissing the plea filed by slain gangster Jaipal Singh Bhullar's father seeking directions to



Punjab government to conduct a second autopsy of his son's body. The apex court also directed the Punjab and Haryana High Court to consider the plea again on June 21. A vacation bench **Contd...Page 6**

COVID-19 third wave to hit India by October, health experts warn

Bengaluru, June 18 : A third wave of coronavirus infections is likely to hit India by October, and although it will be better controlled than the latest outbreak the pandemic will remain a public health threat for at least another year, according to a Reuters poll of medical experts. The June 3-17 snap survey of 40 healthcare specialists, doctors, scientists, virologists, epidemiologists and professors from around the world showed a significant pickup in

vaccinations will likely provide some cover to a fresh outbreak. Of those who ventured a prediction, over 85% of respondents, or 21 of 24, said the next wave will hit by October, including three who forecast it as early as August and 12 in September. The remaining three said between November and February. But over 70% of experts, or 24 of 34, said any new outbreak would be better controlled compared with the current one, which has been far **Contd...Page 6**





shows staff members working at the 500-KV Jinshan electricity substation in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality

'Pure insanity': emails reveal Trump push to overturn election defeat

Washington, June 18 : Donald Trump tried to enlist top US law enforcement officials in a conspiracy-laden and doomed effort to overturn his election defeat, a campaign they described as "pure insanity", newly released emails show. The documents reveal Trump and his allies' increasingly desperate efforts between December and early January to push bogus conspiracy theories and cling to power - and the struggle of bewildered justice department officials to resist them. "These documents show that President Trump tried to corrupt our nation's chief law enforcement agency in a brazen attempt to overturn an election that he lost," said Carolyn Maloney, chair of the House of Representatives' oversight committee, which released the emails on Tuesday. At least five times, the documents show, the White House chief of staff, Mark Meadows, instructed justice department officials to investigate false allegations of voter fraud, including a conspiracy theory called "Italygate", which claims electoral data was changed from Europe by means including military satellites and with the knowledge of the CIA. On 1 January Meadows, a fierce Trump loyalist, sent Jeffrey Rosen, then acting attorney general, a link to a YouTube video detailing the "Italygate" theory. Rosen forwarded the email to the then acting deputy attorney general, Richard Donoghue, who replied: "Pure insanity." The documents also show that Trump pressured Rosen to make the justice department take up election fraud claims. But Rosen refused to arrange a meeting between officials and Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who has played a leading role in pushing the conspiracy theories. Meadows asked Rosen to help arrange a meeting with Giuliani, the emails show. Rosen wrote to a justice department colleague on 1 January: "I flatly refused, said I would not be giving any special treatment to Giuliani or any of his 'witnesses', and reaffirmed yet again that I will not talk to Giuliani about any of this." Meadows also sent an email to Rosen about alleged irregularities in Fulton county, Georgia, a state Joe Biden won narrowly. Rosen again forwarded the email to Donoghue and asked: "Can you believe this? I am not going to respond to the message below." Trump, through an assistant, sent Rosen an email on 14 December with documents purporting to show evidence of election fraud in northern Michigan - a debunked allegation a federal judge had already rejected. Jeffrey Rosen, at the time the acting attorney general, refused to arrange a meeting between Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani and justice department officials. Forty minutes later, Trump announced that William Barr, his second and loyal attorney general but who proved reluctant to back the claims of a stolen election, would resign and be replaced by Rosen. Two weeks later, on 29 December, Trump's White House assistant emailed Rosen and other justice department lawyers a draft legal brief they were urged to file at the US supreme court. The department never filed the brief. Emails released by the House committee showed that Kurt Olsen, a Maryland lawyer involved in writing Trump's draft brief, repeatedly tried to meet Rosen but was unsuccessful. The draft brief backed by Trump argued that changes to voting procedures by Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania, made amid the coronavirus pandemic to expand mail-in voting, were unlawful, and hundreds of charges against those who attacked law enforcement officers, obstructed justice and used deadly and dangerous weapons to those ends."

Wealth secret of the super rich revealed: be born into a rich family

London, June 18 : Self-made billionaires including Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk made huge profits during the Covid-19 pandemic but a new report shows there's no beating family money when it comes to getting - and staying - really rich. Ten of the US's richest families, including the Walmart family and the dynasties behind industries including candy and cosmetics, also saw their assets balloon over the



pandemic, with a shared increase in their combined net worth of over \$136bn in 14 months, according to a report by the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) published on Wednesday. The report, Silver Spoon Oligarchs, details how these families have not only increased their wealth by billions in the last year, but have also worked to ensure the system supports this exponential growth over decades. Chuck Collins, a co-author of the report and director at IPS, said: "If the system is functioning as it should, we should not see wealth accelerating over generations, it should be dispersing." In 1983 the Walton family, whose patriarch

Sam Walton founded Walmart, were worth \$2.15bn (or \$5.6bn in 2020 dollars). By the end of 2020, Walton's descendants had a combined net worth of over \$247bn, an inflation-adjusted increase of 4,320%. The family behind some of the US's favorite candy bars, the Mars family, have also enjoyed a sweet return on their fortunes, increasing their family wealth by 28% or \$21bn from March 2020 to May 2021. The Mars dynasty began in 1911, when Franklin and Ethel Mars opened a candy factory that grew to produce bestsellers such as Milky Way and Snickers in the 1920s and 1930s. Today, it is run by their descendants. In 2020, their family wealth was \$94bn, according to the Forbes magazine Billion-Dollar Dynasties List, which was a key resource for the report. IPS compared information from the 2020 list to a similar list

Forbes published in 1983 and adjusted that information to reflect what it would be in today's dollars. Between 1983 and 2020, Mars family wealth increased by 3,517% from \$2.6bn to \$94bn. They were one of 27 families to appear on the Forbes lists in 1983 and in 2020, and together those families combined assets have grown by 1,007% in 37 years. Even among the super rich income inequality is an issue. The very, very wealthy did even better than their less rich cohorts. The five wealthiest dynastic families in the US have seen their wealth increase by a median 2,484% from 1983 to 2020. The numbers for an average American family are a blip in comparison. From 1989 to 2019, the most recent year the data is available, a typical family's median wealth increased by an inflation-adjusted 93%, according to the report.

Hundreds of thousands of EU citizens in UK risk uncertain status from 1 July

London, June 18 : Deadline to apply for settled status two weeks away, as academics warn that vulnerable groups face loss of rights. 3D Map of European Union post-Brexit and UK, with EU flag (blue and gold stars) and Union Jack textures. Extruded political Map of European Union and United Kingdom with relief after anticipated Brexit. Textures made of Union Jack and EU flags (with gold stars incrusting in EU 3D shape) on a white background. Academics are sounding the alarm about the hundreds of thousands of EU citizens in the UK who face falling into legal limbo on 1 July with their right to rent a home, work or continue in retirement at risk. With just 13 days to go before the government's deadline for EU and EEA nationals and their children to apply for settled or pre-settled status, a report from UK in a Changing Europe warns of the dangers ahead for those who do not apply by 30 June. The academic campaign group is concerned that some who have applied but are still awaiting a decision from the Home Office - including children and the retired - could face difficulties if they cannot prove their status when they try to access the NHS or travel. The latest official statistics show 320,000 people are still awaiting a decision on their status - settled status for those who have been in the country for more than five years and pre-settled for those in the country



for fewer than five. The UK in a Changing Europe report, titled Brexit and Beyond, warned: "If applicants cannot demonstrate they have a 'right to reside', they will lose their rights immediately, even if their application is valid." This is likely to impact most severely upon vulnerable applicants with complicated cases. Given delays in processing applications this difference in treatment could become quite significant. "The government has pledged that those on the waiting list do not need to worry and 'a pragmatic and flexible approach' will be taken on late applications. However, Catherine Barnard, deputy director of UK in a Changing Europe and a professor in EU law at Cambridge University, said people should be aware of the legal importance of having status, despite government reassurances. "In order to apply for settled or pre-settled status all you needed to be was resident in the country before 31 December. But in order to be protected after 30 June, if you have not got the status, you have to be exercising EU treaty rights which means you have to be in work, self-employed, a student or a person of independent means," she said. This means that children, the retired or spouses of an EU citizen who are from a non-EU country who have applied for but have not been granted status could be in difficulty, she said. The other cohort at risk are those that did not know they needed to apply for citizenship, which could include older adults who have been in the country for decades and do not believe the scheme applies to them, Barnard said. UK in a Changing Europe analysis showed that just 2% of the 5.4 million applications for status are in the over 65s category. Other vulnerable categories highlighted by 45 charities last week included victims of violence, homeless people, children and adults in care. Barnard said: "On one level, the EU settled status is a massive success in terms of providing a quick and efficient system, which has reached huge numbers of people. But it is about to enter a phase that will require sensitive management where the government will need to show pragmatism and flexibility in dealing with difficult cases." From 1 July landlords and employers will also face fines if they rent to or employ people without status or who have applied for status, with representatives of tenanted properties last year warning that some owners will just go for the easy option and rent to British and Irish people who have automatic rights. Under legislation about to be updated, landlords will be required to perform follow-up checks on tenants with pre-settled status and can be fined up to £3,000 for breaking the law, while employers can be fined up to £15,000, with discounts for reporting people to the Home Office early. The future borders and immigration minister, Kevin Foster, urged those who have not applied to do so by 30 June, promising that rights would be protected for those in the backlog. "We have already confirmed that someone who has applied to the EU settlement scheme by the 30 June deadline, but has not had a decision by then, will have their rights protected until their application is decided," he said.

At least 18 die as hospital hit in shelling of Syrian city

Afrin, June 18 : Shelling of the rebel-held city of Afrin in northern Syria killed at least 18 people, many of them when a hospital was hit, a war monitor said. The London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a doctor, three hospital staff, two women and two children died at al-Shifaa hospital, which is held by Turkish-backed rebels, on Saturday. A rebel commander also died at the hospital, the observatory said, adding that 23 people were injured. "The shelling targeted several areas of the town and hit the hospital," observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman told. Most of the victims died in shelling on the hospital, the monitoring group said in a statement, warning the casualty toll could rise further with some of the wounded in a critical condition. The artillery fire originated from northern Aleppo province "where militia faithful to Iran and the [Syrian] regime are deployed, near the zones run by Kurdish forces", the Britain-based group said. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) issued a statement denying any involvement in the shelling. The region, like all areas held by pro-Turkish rebels, regularly witnesses targeted killings, bombings and shootings. Syrian regime shelling on the opposition-held Idlib enclave killed 12 people on Thursday, in one of the deadliest violations of a 15-month-old ceasefire, the war monitor said. The conflict in Syria has killed nearly 500,000 people since it started in 2011.



shows a press conference on the Shenzhou-12 manned spaceflight mission at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China

Chetna Ladies Club built 6 toilets at Pandu Ganesh Temple



Guwahati, June 18 : One of the oldest and active women's NGO in Guwahati Chetna Ladies Club in association with Star Cement has built 6 toilets at Pandu Ganesh Temple in Guwahati. Newly constructed 6 toilet blocks were inaugurated by Mrs. Kavita Nimodia and the IPP of the Chetna Ladies

Club Mrs. Sunita Siotia jointly in presence of Clubs President Mrs Kavita Patwary, Treasurer Sudha Bajaj, Anu Agarwal, Samta Golcha, Sunita Saraf, Babita Agarwal and other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion immediate past president Sunita Siotia said that the inauguration of the toilets was to

be held in March (2021) but due to the spread of Covid-19, it was postponed. The project chairperson Kavita Nimodia spoke that we have constructed a total no. of six toilet blocks amongst them 4 for male and 2 for Female. Keeping in mind for old age people and disabled we have constructed one toilet amongst four male toilets specially for them. The Executive Director of Star Cement Sri Narendra Nimodia conveyed his best wishes to all the members of Chetna Ladies Club who had been given a chance to associate Star Cement for this noble cause. On behalf of entire club members President Kavita Patwary thanked the whole team of Star Cement, especially to Narendra Nimodia who had given us this opportunity. During the inauguration program the Organizing Committee of Pandu Ganesh Devalaya and Sri Nimai Das, were grateful to Chetna Ladies Club and appreciated the work undertaken by Star Cement. They said it was a great work under the Swachha Bharat Abhiyan and it was a very basic need over there as a large no. people all over the world visit this place and they don't have a single toilet. He also added that among so many organizations members of Chetna Ladies Club thought of it and they got it done even though the Covid pandemic is at peak.

COVID claims one, 177 fresh cases in Nagaon district

NAGAON, June 18: One more people died of COVID 19 in Nagaon district today including which total 78 people died of COVID 19 in the district till filing of this report, sources added. Besides, 177 people tested positive for COVID 19 today, taking the total cumulative active COVID cases in the district to 2369 while 244 people who were being treated in hospital as well as at homes, were recovered today from the infection of the virus, sources further added. Sources claimed that among those who tested positive today, 142 were admitted to hospital as well as other COVID Care Centres set up at various places in the district while the rest were put under home quarantine. Rapid Antigen Test was conducted on 8180 people while RT-PCR test was conducted on 122 swab samples, sources said.

Donation to CM fund



Biswanath Chariali, June 18: The Sootea Commercial Society under Biswanath district had donated a bank draft of rupees thirty one thousand to the CM's Relief Fund to combat with COVID 19 through Sootea MLA Padma Hazarika on Friday. A delegation of Sootea Commercial Society including Siba Sahu, Suraj Bora, Gourav Bora, Jadab Hazarika, Krishna Kanta Bhattacharya, Ram Swarup Sarma, Pawan Kumar Joshi and Rakesh Joshi had called on Sootea MLA at his residence and handed over the bank draft.

Virtual yoga programme in Raj Bhavan

Guwahati, June 18: As a run up to the celebrations of International Day of Yoga 2021, a virtual yoga programme is underway at Raj Bhavan. The yoga programme is being done on virtual platform considering the prevailing Covid 19 situation. Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi and the First Lady Smt. Prem Mukhi are participating the yoga sessions and urged everybody to participate and practice yoga on a daily basis, more particularly on the day of the International Day of Yoga on 21 June from home with their family members. All interested yoga enthusiasts can join the session on 21st June at 7 am to celebrate the International Day of Yoga on the link <https://360slive.com/vc/rajbhavan/yogaday21> provided by AMTRON.

Defence Minister Dedicates Yorlung-Lamang Road to Shi-Yomi District via Video Conferencing



Aalo, June 18 : Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri of India inaugurated via Video Conferencing and dedicated to the Nation

the Yorlung â€ Lamang Road(0.00 to 17.280 kms) under Shi Yomi District on 17th June 2021 at 1000 hours. Yorlung - Lamang

road is of great significance in terms of national security and tourism as this road not only leads to the border with People's Republic of China but also to a very beautiful lake called Pasang Tsom Lake. In the ground, Sri Mito Dirchi DC Shi Yomi District flagged off Army and BRO vehicles and the Yorlung Lamang was made open to all vehicular traffic. The DC was accompanied by Sri Padam Kumar, Chief Engineer, BRO, CO 5th Para, CO JAKLI, Dy Commandant 20th battalion ITBP, Officer and men of 1443 BCC(GREF), SP Shi Yomi, CO Mechuka, PRI members, GBs and many prominent personalities of Shi Yomi District. The day was marked by cultural items by Ramo and Tagin Cultural troupes.

Panel Discussion on National Education Policy in Assam down town University

Guwahati, June 18 : The Faculty of Commerce and Management of Assam down town University in association with Vidya Bharati Uchha Siksha Sansthan (VBUSS), successfully organized a Panel Discussion on "National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with reference to Higher Education Commission of India". Honorable Vice Chancellor, Assam down town University, Prof. N. C. Talukdar, while inaugurating the virtual panel discussion highlighted the dimensions of NEP. He said that a national framework is important in implementing the new education policy. Dr. Dibyajyoti Mahanta, an eminent academician and Dean of

study centers and academics, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Assam, was invited as a panel member in the discussion. Dr. Mahanta stressed on giving a solid foundation of education to students in the pre-school level. He also highlighted the strategic provisions and challenges in implementing the NEP in higher education. Invited panel member, Dr. Kiran Hazarika, Chairman, NEP implementation committee and commission member UGC, Govt. of India, enlightened the participants about the role of Higher Education Commission of India in the governance as well as in funding higher educational institutions. He also told about the importance of mother tongue in imparting education. Honorable Vice Chancellor, Tripura University, Prof. G P



Prasann graced the occasion and gave his valuable inputs towards formulating a framework in implementing the new NEP. Dr. Rajesh Barman, Co-ordinator of VBUSS and member of NEP Implementation Committee, Govt. of Assam, explained the initiatives of VBUSS in implementing NEP. The discussion was attended by close to 100 participants that include professors, academic administrators, teachers, parents and students from different parts of the country. Dr. Samannoy Baruah, Assistant Professor, Assam down town University acted as the moderator of the panel discussion. Dr. Seema Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Management, Assam down town University delivered the vote of thanks at the end of the discussion.

BSF Seized 20.7 Kgs Ganja From Indo-Bangladesh Border



Guwahati, June 18 : Troops of 38Bn BSF under Guwahati Fron-

tier of Border Security Force foiled attempt of narcotics smuggling at Indo-Bangladesh border and seized 20.7 Kgs Cannabis on 17 June 2021 from bordering village Haridas Khamar, PS- Sahebganj, Distt- Coochbehar (West Bengal). Acting on tip off, on 17 June 2021, the troops of Border Outpost (BOP) Narayanjan of 38 Bn BSF carried out a special operation in the general area of Haridas Khamar village, PS- Sahebganj, Distt- Coochbehar (West

Bengal). At about 2330 hrs, the operation party observed a suspicious movement of miscreant approaching towards the Indo-Bangladesh Border Fence (IBBF) who were carrying 10 bags. On being asked to stop by the BSF troops, the miscreant fled away throwing the consignment near IBBF and managed to escape taking advantage of darkness and close habitation. During search operation party seized 20.7 Kgs Cannabis on the spot. Seized Cannabis being deposited to PS- Sahebganj, Distt- Coochbehar (West Bengal) for further disposal. Keeping in view of the vulnerability of border, heightened activities of the smugglers and anti-national elements on the border, BSF troops are always alert towards the issues of trans-border crimes including drug trafficking & illegal trans-border crimes and are making all out efforts to prevent commission of such crimes.

Vaccination drive in a mission mode in Biswanath, Frontline Workers and Vulnerable Sections top priority

Biswanath Chariali, June 18 : To ensure that frontline workers and vulnerable sections of population those who are more prone to Covid-19 infection are accorded top priority with regards to vaccination, Biswanath district administration has revamped its complete process and is organizing regular vaccination camps for them. Having already completed vaccination of all healthcare workers and police personnel, the focus is now on getting senior citizens, Anganwadi Workers, Anganwadi Helpers, Divyangjan (Persons with Disabilities), Tea Garden workers, petrol pump employees, pharmacy employees, e-commerce employees, gas agency employees vaccinated at the earliest. Recently, vaccination camps were organized for jail inmates and residents of Old Age Homes which were personally monitored by Deputy Commissioner Mr. Pranab Kumar Sarmah. Besides, the district administration is also planning to soon launch mobile vaccination drive for elderly population and severely ill persons so that they could be vaccinated at their doorsteps. Near to Home Covid Vaccination Centres (NHCVC) are also being planned for localities where detection of positive cases has been high. Dr. Surya Kamal Borah, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) in charge of vaccination, said the focus is on to categorise people on the basis of vulnerability and the level of their interface with masses and get them vaccinated on priority basis. "These people may not visit regular vaccination centres and get vaccinated. Hence, we are organizing exclusive camps for them just to ensure that they are vaccinated on priority basis. For certain category of people, we are even making it mandatory for them to visit the special camps and get vaccinated," Dr. Borah said. He also said that priority is being accorded to beggars, homeless persons, persons working in Child Care Homes and people residing in and around localities where large number of positive cases have been detected with regards to vaccination. Ms. Kankana Saikia, Assistant Commissioner, added that the administration has till now completed administering 1,03,738 doses of vaccines in the district. Around 17,988 doses were administered to population above 60 years of age, 44,537 were administered to population falling within the bracket of 45 to 60 years and 22,557 to population between 18 and 44 years of age. She said 7 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) blocks have been identified where special vaccination camps are being presently organized for 100 per cent vaccination of all Anganwadi workers and helpers. The district administration has also arranged SMS notification facility for informing beneficiaries regarding dates of their second dose of Covaxin. Dr. Borah said second dose of Covaxin for all the beneficiaries would be completed in a day or two.

Deputy Commissioner Bhupesh Ch Das launches 'Customised Crash Course Programme for Covid Warriors' under PMKVY 3.0 at KMW Foundation, Tezpur

Rangapara, June 18: Deputy Commissioner Bhupesh Chandra Das today inaugurated a skill development training centre - KMW Foundation in Tezpur - as part of the nationwide virtual launch of the 'Customised Crash Course Programme for Covid Warriors' under PMKVY 3.0 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. It may be noted that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi today launched the Customised

Crash Course Programme for Covid 19 Frontline Workers in Healthcare (through video conferencing) under the Skill India programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana 3.0 with a view to fresh skill and up skill persons in this field. KMW Foundation, Tezpur is one of the 111 centres launched across the country as part of today's programme. At present, the institute will provide training programme

in one of the six job roles under this scheme, i.e., in General Duty Assistance (GDA). So far, 20 persons have enrolled for this three-month long skill programme. They will eventually be provided On The Job (OTJ) training at Kanaklata Civil Hospital, Tezpur after two months.

The human resources trained through this programme is expected to go a long way in providing support to the government health system during the Covid 19 pandemic. Assistant Commissioners Kavyashree Dihingia, Ankan Phukan were also present.

No.23/228/2021-2022/5A

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated Kokrajhar, the 17-06-2021

Sealed tender subsequently to be drawn in F-2 form affixing Non-refundable court fee .stamp of Rs.8.25p (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are invited from the Registered PWD Contractor's under Class-I (A, B, C) of Assam PWD (Rural Roads) and Class-II Roads category will be received for the following works up to **2-00 P.M. of 28-06-2021** in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWRD Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar which will be opened on the same date, place at **2.15 P.M** in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.) (ST, SC, OBC -1% & GEN-2%)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	Time for completion In days
1	Restoration of road from Simbargaon Duramari Road to Dotma Balajan Road via Jaoliapara Road with CD works in Kokrajhar District under SDRF for the year 2020-21.	27, 01,800.00	1%-Rs.27,018/- 2%-Rs.54,036/-	3000.00	90 (Ninety)
2	Restoration of road from Thingkhlanguri Thaletbari Road via Balahama Road with CD works in Kokrajhar District under SDRF for the year 2020-21.	19,99,800.00	1%-Rs. 19,998/- 2%-Rs.39,996/-	1000.00	60 (Sixty)

Details NTT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to **12.00 Noon** on all working days from **19-06-2021 to 22-06-2021** in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (Preferable SBI) duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, PWRD Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division. The contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, **GSTIN, PAN Card and Labour License** along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/opening day the same will be received/opened on the next working day.

Note:-

- The Executive Engineer, PWD Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender and also reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.
- Taxes will be deducted as per relevant provision of Act.
- Work order will be issued on receipt of Administrative Approval from competent authority
- Contractors will have to submit their tender with upto date registration certificate and item of annexure should be enclosed with the tender otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- No T&P and stock materials issued to the contractors by the deptt. Contractor has to arrange the same by himself
- The tenderer should submit their tender with upto date **GSTIN** certificate and **PAN card** failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.
- The tenderer must demonstrate the key equipment for road work specially the road Roller etc. failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, PWD
Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division

IPR(BTC)-75/2021

THE ASSAM RISING

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India prefers to wait and hope the phenomenon flames

Thousands of miles from the corridors of the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, a struggle between competing views on inflation is unfolding. Two emerging-market icons are watching prices jump and steering very different courses: Brazil is cracking down, while India prefers to wait and hope the phenomenon flames out on its own. Which of the two approaches proves most effective will shape the lessons a generation of officials take from the pandemic. Covid-19 has claimed almost 4 million lives worldwide, with Brazil and India among the hardest hit. The deepest economic slump since the Great Depression is being followed by an impressive, if uneven, rebound. Both nations, giants in their respective hemispheres, are part of that upswing. But the recovery, much as it is welcome, brings its own set of challenges. Inflation is chief among them. At the core of the argument is tension over whether the global spurt in prices is a natural and temporary response to the massive stimulus thrown at last year's economic implosion, or something more pernicious. While decision-makers have long prioritized inflation-busting over expansion, they're starting to push back. "Policy support from all sides is required to gain the momentum of growth," Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said this month after announcing a big boost to the country's quantitative easing program. Mumbai's stance has the advantage of giving the nascent revival scope to gather steam, as well as constraining politicians who may want to meddle in the central bank's affairs. The strategy isn't risk free. Misjudge and inflation will get away from you. Policy makers will then have to eventually raise borrowing costs faster and farther out, possibly inducing a fresh downturn. There will be some hair-raising data along the way: Wholesale prices soared to their highest since 1992 last month while retail inflation powered past the RBI's 2% to 6% target range. Brazilian policy makers aren't nearly so sanguine. The central bank has tightened quickly and with force: The benchmark rate has climbed 225 basis points this year. The latest boost, announced Wednesday, took it to 4.25%. The bank signaled another increase is coming in August. Only Turkey, which has undergone policy upheaval and suffered a purge in its senior ranks, has hiked more among major economies since the start of 2020. (Ankara is thought to be now laying the ground for a reduction.) The idea in Brazil is to come down early, leaving less to do later. If you wring inflation from the economy in its infancy, you prove your mettle and make future commitments to price stability more meaningful. The credibility issue is especially pressing, given Latin America's reputation as a region forever prone to inflation, banking crises and needing assistance from the International Monetary Fund. (Neighboring Argentina seems unable to escape from a cycle of high borrowing followed by default, with a long history of profligate populist leaders.) One arrow in Brazil's quiver is that the central bank was recently granted formal independence, with an inflation target and a mandate to buttress employment. The bank seems very keen on constraining the former as a way of doing more for the latter. For all investors' attentiveness to changes in U.S. payrolls and consumer prices, they might do well to look at how the debate is playing out in emerging markets. Many adopted the tools of the developed world over the past few decades to attract global capital: scheduled meetings, minutes, forecasts, forward guidance and press conferences. That approach has significance beyond wonkish circles. The durability of economic orthodoxy in far-flung corners of the globe could help determine the prosperity of more than 1.5 billion people. In India and Brazil, lives and livelihoods are both on the line.

A corporate tax reset by the G7 will only work if it delivers for poorer nations too

✍ Alex Cobham

When the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, welcomes the US treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, to the meeting of G7 finance ministers in London on Friday, those gathered around the table at Lancaster House will have the chance to strike the biggest blow against tax abuse in a century. After decades of evidence that the international tax rules are unfit for purpose, the Biden administration has finally injected genuine ambition into efforts to prevent the super-profits of the world's largest multinationals disappearing into tax havens. It's a deal could deliver hundreds of billions of dollars in tax revenues to boost the pandemic response and recovery. But there is also a downside: the current OECD proposals would distribute those revenues in a manifestly unfair way. That would surely eradicate any remaining legitimacy the richest nations could claim for their privileged position of setting rules for the rest of the world. To understand the significance of the moment, consider the historical context. In the 1920s and 30s, the League of Nations chose a path for the taxation of cross-border business that has persisted to the present day. But multinationals themselves have exploded in number and complexity since then, and tax abuse has in recent decades become a central part of their approach. Where once these corporations were a more efficient form for international economic activity, now much of their advantages stem from being able to pay lower tax than domestic competitors. This is achieved by exploiting the archaic basis of tax rules



in order to shift their profits away from the places where they make their money, and into jurisdictions such as the Netherlands or Cayman, which offer effective tax rates at or near zero. Only 5% of the global profits of US multinationals were shifted around the world like this in the early 1990s. But over the following 20 years, that exploded to 30% and kept rising, with an estimated \$1.4tn of profit shifted by the largest multinationals in the most recent high-quality data available (OECD data for 2016). That's nearly 2% of world GDP that year, not far off Sub-Saharan Africa's total GDP. The UK, with its dependent territories, is the biggest single actor, responsible for nearly a third of corporate tax abuse worldwide. Quite the qualification to be G7 chair at this crucial moment - but an opportunity for some redemption also. Within the current process, coordinated by the OECD in Paris but dominated by the G7, the greatest potential for progress lies with the proposal for a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15%. For companies that continue to shift profits, governments could insist on their tax being "topped up" to the minimum rate. But the distribution of those additional revenues

is crucial. The OECD proposal privileges the headquarters countries of multinationals, which are typically the richest countries. The G7 - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and US - make up 45% of global GDP, although just 10% of the world's population. They stand to gain more than 60% of the additional revenues. Lower-income countries lose a higher share of their tax revenues to corporate tax abuse, but would gain disproportionately little from a minimum tax enacted on this basis. Campaigners including my organisation, the Tax Justice Network, are proposing a minimum effective tax rate (METR). This would take the same undertaxed profit currently shifted into low/no-tax jurisdictions, but apportion it simply to the places where the multinationals' real economic activity - such as sales and employment - takes place, with no bias towards headquarters countries. In the METR system, those profits are taxed at the prevailing statutory rate in the country they've been apportioned to - which can be significantly higher than 15%. This would deliver additional revenues overall, and the distribution would be much fairer globally. With a 15% rate, our proposal would raise

around \$460bn, versus \$275bn in the OECD approach. The differences are dramatic. India could gain \$4bn under the OECD proposal; but more than three times that amount, nearly \$13bn, from the METR. China could gain \$32bn under the OECD proposal; but more than twice that, \$72bn, from the METR. For Brazil, the difference is \$11bn versus \$3bn. For South Africa, \$3.5bn versus \$1.5bn. The G7 countries themselves would each do substantially better under the METR at 15%, with an overall increase in revenues of \$250bn rather than \$170bn. The sheer size of the potential revenue gains reflects the extent to which the largest multinationals have been able - and aggressively willing - to exploit current tax rules. The monopoly power of Amazon and others owes a great deal to the un-level playing field faced by smaller, tax-compliant competitors. But the scale of revenues also offers the opportunity for a transformational shift in responses to the pandemic. The UK has cut its aid budget at the time of greatest global need, crying poverty. The G7 members are still arguing over whether or how much to fund international vaccination efforts. Delivering the minimum tax rate in a fairer way would more than cover the costs of the Covax initiative for lower-income countries. It would also boost their sovereign ability to fund their own public health systems - crucial to worldwide pandemic suppression. It should never again be in the power of a few rich countries to decide whether the rest of the world is able to claw back revenues from the biggest tax abusers. In September, the UN can signal the start of negotiations on a tax convention that would create a globally inclusive, intergovernmental body to set rules in future. For now, the G7 should use its unequal power to deliver the fairest possible outcome. We'll all be better off if it does.

As drivers, we know Uber's British union 'deal' is not all it seems

✍ Nader Awaad

As an Uber driver campaigning for my rights, I was disappointed to learn that the deal announced by Uber with the GMB union last week was a dud. The fact that an agreement that signs away collective bargaining on pay was celebrated as a turning point for gig economy workers is a sad reflection of the state of the British trade union movement. It's also quite obviously a PR move by Uber, but the fact that it felt it necessary to offer up an olive branch, however meagre, is at least testament to the power being built by driv-

ers on the ground. Uber is a multibillion-pound global corporation which has long refused not only dialogue with unions but even to acknowledge its workers as workers. It has not suddenly made peace with the labour movement. The very same week it struck a deal with the GMB in Britain, in California it betrayed drivers, removing control over fares and working conditions that it had given them ahead of voting for "proposition 22", a ballot that exempts app-based transportation and delivery companies from providing employees with full benefits. Uber is now trying the same trick in Canada with a rebranded program called Flexible Work+. So if Uber is still Uber, what does the GMB recognition agreement mean for drivers, and where did it come from? In the



short term the answer is unfortunately "not much". Trade union recognition agreements generally commit employers to regular meetings to discuss concerns raised by that union's members. However, they generally do not commit employers to act on those concerns and they can be dropped at will. On their own, then, they establish little more than your right to be ignored by the boss over tea and sandwiches. It is the collective power and fighting spirit within the union signing them that makes an agreement meaningful - just as is the case in negotiations that happen outside a recognition agreement. This one is particularly weak because Uber has been allowed to cherry-pick the issues on which it will permit collective negotiations, and the vital issue of pay is not on that list. It should not be up to the employer which workers' rights they opt into, when they listen to workers and when they don't. This is an agreement to fight with one hand tied behind your back. I joined the drivers' branch of the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) because I came to see that poverty pay, job insecurity and poor health and safety protections can be overcome if we build a fighting union. Supporting my family on my income as an Uber driver proved to be impossible, and I had been forced into debt. For drivers like me, our right to negotiate pay is more than some political demand - it's the difference between getting by and giving up. So when I learned that the agreement did not incorporate that right, I was tempted to dismiss it as only another PR facelift from the corporation that brought us Prop 22 and Flexible Work+. But it's a facelift Uber needs, because it's on the back foot. For years it managed to present a false choice between flexibility and workers' rights.

Earlier this year it was defeated very publicly on this point in the UK supreme court. And, at the same time, the public could see that taxi drivers were working without sick pay or PPE provision on the frontline of the Covid crisis, and dying in disproportionate numbers. Having fought the ruling tooth and nail, Uber still presented the new rights it granted as though they were its own idea. In reality, Uber has still not accepted and fully implemented the court's ruling, and unions should be calling them out on that. Drivers were supposed to receive the national minimum wage as long as they were logged into the app, but every day we still face unpaid waiting times. This forces down our pay after costs so much that I have to work 12- to 14-hour shifts just to break even. That's a recipe for accidents, but what choice is there when the level of deprivation I see among colleagues is terrible. It's like living in a Charles Dickens novel. While Uber continues falling short of its minimum obligations under the law, the timing of this agreement and Uber's determined promotion of it - including an article co-authored by a GMB organiser and a senior manager from Uber for the Evening Standard - tells you everything you need to know about whose interests it serves. Exploitative employers striking deals with an amenable trade union as a way of heading off those who pose a bigger threat is a well-established union-busting tactic. Uber will use this agreement to appear, to the inattentive observer, as if it's engaging with its workforce. But if that were so, it would open dialogue with all unions, including the one representing the largest number of unionised Uber drivers in the UK, to which I belong - the United Private Hire Drivers (UPHD) branch of the IWGB.

Rich detail of an older woman's story



Kate Winslet has always had guts. But for her to have a belly, let alone one that wobbles and jiggles in the way most 45-year-old women's middles quite unremarkably do, is still apparently a thing so shocking as to make headline news. This week the star of the cult TV drama Mare of Easttown disclosed that she had refused her director's offer to edit out footage of her "bulgy bit of belly" from a sex scene, arguing that her character should be allowed to look like the woman she was meant to be: a middle-aged small town detective who has carried two children, unwinds after an exhausting day with a beer rather than a gym session, and has rather more serious things to worry about than the odd flabby bit hanging over her jeans. "She's a fully functioning, flawed woman with a body and a face that moves in a way that is synonymous with her age and her life and where she comes from. I think we're starved of that a bit," as Winslet, who not only starred in but executive produced the show, puts it. Not since the eponymous heroine of Shirley Valentine ran away to

Greece in search of one last adventure, and marvelled at her new lover's willingness to kiss her stretchmarks, has a naked stomach on film been deemed to make such a statement. Alarm bells should always ring when a woman is called brave for taking her clothes off. But the fascination with Winslet's authentically jiggle stomach seems healthier at least than the double standards exposed by last week's Friends reunion, which saw the three female stars turn up looking barely a day older than when the show first aired in the mid-90s, while their male stars were as silvered and weathered as the audience they've all been ageing alongside for the past 17 years. We all know why women in the public eye feel compelled to freeze time; if they hadn't remained impossibly taut of midriff and smooth of forehead well into their 50s, presumably the female Friends could have kissed goodbye to the intervening decade and a half of work. Middle-aged women, expecting people to actually pay to look at them, with their wrinkles and their grey streaks and their secret sagging? Ugh, how disgusting. Next they'll be wanting people to listen to what they say. But heartening as it is to see someone ageing naturally on screen for once, I suspect many women neither particularly noticed nor cared what was under Winslet's trademark flannel shirt when she yanked it off. It was what her character's life looked like, not her body, that mattered: messy, difficult, but richer and deeper in some ways than it could ever have been at 20. Older women's lives are too often dismissed as devoid of anything audiences could possibly find interesting; at best dull and settled, at worst a grimly depressing descent into hagdom. The real genius of Mare of Easttown lay in treating the interior lives of Mare, her mother and her best friend as just as dramatic, poignant and varied as those of the

dewy-faced teenagers around whom a million Hollywood coming-of-age stories have revolved. Without the unmistakably middle-aged life events Winslet's character was struggling through - the aftermath of a long-term marriage falling apart, the death of a grown son, the bittersweet experience of reliving that lost relationship through a grandchild she is now equally terrified of losing too - it would have been just another telly whodunnit. And just as pertinently, without the experience accumulated through decades of living in one small community, getting to know her neighbours and their histories inside out, crucially Mare might not have been much of a detective either. I'm hooked on Mare of Easttown. Piecing it together slowly each week is half the thrill. If it was liberating to watch a woman with a muffin top unashamedly pursuing a one-night stand on screen, it was just as refreshing to watch one getting to grips with the kind of role men have long been allowed to play: the grizzled veteran cop whose career appears to be floundering down the slippery slope to nowhere, yet who turns out to have learned a thing or two down the years. For in real life, it's not vanity or fear of becoming invisible to the male gaze that pressures many older women into reaching for the hair dye or trying to hide their hot flushes, so much as the very real danger of being thought of as "past it" in the workplace. There is a cold hard economic price to be paid for the kind of vicious casual ageism that deems the over-50s too old and tired to learn new tricks, and while both sexes invariably begin looking nervously over their shoulders as the decades roll by, the particular sting for women is that anxiety about the professional consequences of getting older often kicks in just as a career derailed by motherhood is starting to get back on track.

✍ Gaby Hinsliff

Live the Grand Life with the Most Awaited Versatile, Premium, 6- and 7-Seater SUV Hyundai ALCAZAR - Launched in India



New Delhi, June 18 : Hyundai Motor India Ltd., country's first Smart Mobility Solutions Provider and largest exporter since inception, today launched its highly anticipated Premium, Versatile, 6- and 7-Seater SUV - Hyundai ALCAZAR. Personifying opulent and grand travel experiences, Hyundai ALCAZAR is here to enthral customers with its go anywhere attitude, taking them on an adventure through the Hyundai SUV Life. Commenting on the Launch of Hyundai ALCAZAR, Mr. S S Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "This year we have embarked on a new journey as we complete 25 years of excellence in India. Hyundai has entered a new segment and we aim to redefine premium travel experiences for our customers across the country. Hyundai ALCAZAR

is the personification of our customer's aspirations, giving them the ability to travel together with family & friends for a happy life and quality time. Offering superlative performance, comfort and convenience, Hyundai ALCAZAR will fortify our leadership position in the SUV segment and perfectly complement our line-up of VENUE, CRETA, KONA Electric and TUCSON." Mr. SS Kim, added, "Hyundai ALCAZAR has been developed to deliver the embodiment of Premium Manufacturing showcasing Hyundai's Ultimate Science of Human Engineering. This pinnacle of technology and performance, serves as another illustration of Hyundai's Technological prowess that has guaranteed superior mobility experiences. We are confident, Hyundai ALCAZAR will deliver an inimitable driving experience and set the benchmark yet again. Hyundai has a diverse SUV line up in India and each model offers customers a unique proposition, catering to their aspirations and varied needs. To further fortify our portfolio, we are now entering into a new segment of 6 and 7 seater SUVs with the launch of the Hyundai ALCAZAR."

itel launches Magic 2 4G Superphone with Wi-Fi Tethering in India

Magic 2 4G would be itel's first 4G dual-SIM feature phone that offers Wi-Fi & Hotspot Tethering priced just at INR 2349/-



New Delhi, June 18 : itel, the most trusted brand of consumers, in sub 7K mobile devices segment, today announced the launch of its first 4G feature phone Magic 2 4G (it9210 model) under its 'Magic series' targeting a huge feature phone consumer base who are looking for an upgrade. Equipped with power-packed features like 4G connectivity, premium glossy design, long-lasting battery and King Voice, this innovative device offers Wi-Fi & Hotspot Tethering through which we can connect up to 8 devices. Priced at just Rs 2349,

also offers HD call quality, Wi-Fi tethering along dual sim slots that allows for 2G/3G/4G connectivity with any operator. Packed in a compact and curved design, the phone offers an extremely premium feel to users. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Arijet Talapatra, CEO, TRANSSION India said, "As a market leader in feature phones in India, itel has always strived to enhance the consumer experience by adding unique value proposition to its offerings. Our latest addition it9210 under the name 'Magic 2 4G' is a complete package for feature phone users who are looking for

4G connectivity coupled with highly beneficial and cost-effective Wi-Fi & Hotspot Tethering option along with quality features like long lasting battery, high-end finish, entertainment services etc making it a 'Superphone'. He added, "itel has democratized technology for masses, making it accessible and affordable. With this launch, we take another step in this direction by providing low-cost access to high-speed network connectivity to country's vast feature phone consumer base who are vying for an upgrade. Aligned with our brand idea of 'itel hai. Life sahi hai', itel Magic 2 4G (it9210) will empower millions of feature phone users with magical features at a compelling price point of INR 2349." With a 6.1cm (2.4) QVGA 3D curved display, the phone features 128 MB of internal storage which is expandable up to 64 GB storage. Packed with itel mobile's exclusive King Voice feature, a text to speech feature, the device lets consumers hear incoming calls, messages, menu, and even their phonebook. Made for multilingual India, the it9210 transcends the limits of language and offers support for nine regional languages. The device features a big phonebook that helps users to add up to 2000 contacts. Additionally, it also provides up to 24 days of standby time with 1900mAh long-lasting battery. Connectivity options on the phone includes 2G, 3G, 4G, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth V2.0. This 4G feature phone also comes with a 1.3MP Rear Camera with flash to capture favourite memories, a wireless FM with recording advantage, an Autocall recorder to record conversations, a big LED Torch, One-Touch mute, and 8 preloaded games for entertainment needs.

MPL Sports Foundation becomes the Principal Partner for the Indian Olympic Association

Guwahati, June 18 : MPL Sports Foundation, the community initiative of esports platform Mobile Premier League (MPL), has become the Principal Partner of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Through this association, the foundation will be the Principal Partner for the Indian contingent at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. Further, sports and athleisure brand MPL Sports was also named the official kit partner for the Indian contingents for both the 2022 events. "India has the potential to become a global sports superpower. One of our goals with MPL Sports Foundation is to democratise opportunities in sports and esports for our vastly talented youth. We are honored to partner with IOA and hope that this will be a long-standing association. We look forward to working together to develop the future of sports in India," said Sai Srinivas, Co-Founder and CEO, Mobile Premier League (MPL). This partnership with IOA, which manages the selection of athletes to represent India at the Olympics and other events, comes on the heels of the announcement of the first ever Olympic Virtual Series (OVS), organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. Esports will also be a medal event at the 2022 Asian Games. MPL Sports Foundation aims to raise awareness and transform the sports and esports landscape in India, by identifying athletes from all walks of life and providing them a platform to develop and showcase their skills. Lovlina Borgohain from Assam will be competing in the women's Welterweight category at the Tokyo Olympics.

How to make the most of tax deductions on education loan

Mumbai, June 18 : You can claim tax deductions against education loans under Section 80E of the Income Tax Act. However, there are a few things to keep in mind. Section 80E specifies that only loans from specified financial institutions, including banks and any other financial institution notified by the Central government, are eligible for exemptions. An education loan allows you the finances and flexibility to take up higher education and pay for it systematically over a longer period. At the same time, it gives you tax breaks that make the repayment less expensive. However, there are some caveats involved in availing these benefits. Understand the tax exemptions available with the education loan and how to make best use of them. You can claim tax deductions against education loans under Section 80E of the Income Tax Act.



However, there are a few things to keep in mind about tax deductions on education loans. Income Tax FinMin officials to meet Infosys team on June 22 to discuss IT e-filing portal glitches. New online tax payment system Income Tax Alert! CBDT relaxes norms for forms 15CA & 15CB amid glitches on new e-filing portal. The first point is that while there is no upper limit on the amount you can claim, you can claim tax benefits only on the interest paid on the education loan and not on the principal. Second, only the person availing the loan can claim deductions. Education loans need not be taken by the student themselves. You can take a loan for your children or your spouse. So, "if you take an education loan for your daughter and repay it, you can claim the tax deduction. However, if your daughter repays the loan from her source of income after she starts earning herself, neither you

nor she can claim deductions. This is because the loan is in your name, but the repayment is not made out of your taxable income. Simply put, if the borrower wants to claim tax benefit, they must ensure the EMIs

go from their accounts," says Adhil Shetty, CEO, BankBazaar.com. Bear in mind that some institutions would allow you to take an education loan to fund your sibling or cousins' higher studies. However, unless you are their legal guardian, you cannot claim tax deductions on the loan. Third, not all education loans are eligible for tax exemptions. "Section 80E specifies that only loans from specified financial institutions, including banks and any other financial institution notified by the Central government, are eligible for exemptions. While most leading NBFCs fall in this list, you need to ensure that your loan provider is included in this list if you plan to take a loan from an NBFC. Money

borrowed from family, friends, or employers does not fall under the category of education loan and is not liable for exemptions," informs Shetty. You can avail deduction for the interest for a maximum of 8 years starting from the year in which you start repaying the loan. If your loan tenor exceeds 8 years, then you cannot claim a deduction for the interest paid beyond 8 years. It is clear, thus, that interest paid on educational loans obtained to pursue higher studies in India or overseas can be claimed as a deduction from taxable income of the individual. "The deduction can be claimed starting from the year interest payment commences and ending with loan repayment or 8th year, whichever is earlier. One should note that these loans should be availed from banks/financial institutions/ approved charitable institutions only. Interest paid on loans from friends and relatives for this purpose do not qualify for such deduction. A certificate from the institution would be necessary to support the interest amount paid for claiming a deduction," says Aarti Raote, Partner, Deloitte India. It may also be noted that loans obtained for self or spouse, children and legal wards would be permitted for this purpose. Higher education has also been defined to mean study pursued after passing the Senior Secondary Examination or its equivalent from any school, board or university recognised by the government.

7th Pay Commission: Before DA hike, Modi govt changes TA time limit for retired Central Government Employees

Mumbai, June 18 : 7th Pay Commission Travelling Allowance Time Limit (Latest News Today): Ahead of expected Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) hike for Central Government Employees and Pensioners respectively, the Union Government has extended the time limit for submission of claims for Travelling Allowance (TA) on retirement from 60 days to 180 days following the date of completion of the journey. However, the time limit for submission of TA claim on tour, transfer and training will remain 60 days, Department of Expenditure. Ministry of Finance said in an Office Memorandum (O.M.) Earlier, the Department's O.M. dated 13th March 2018 had changed the time limit for submission of claims for TA on Tour/Transfer/Training/Journey on retirement to 60 days from one year, succeeding the date of completion of the journey. How to make the most of tax deductions on education loan YOUR MONEY: Know tax im-

plications of credit card transactions. However, the department received several submissions regarding extension of time-limit for submission of TA claims against journeys performed by retired employees and their families for going to home town/place of settlement after retirement as difficulties are being faced by the retired Government officials while claiming reimbursement of TA on retirement within a period of sixty days of completion of their journey. "The matter has been considered in this Department and in partial modification of this Department's OM of even number dated 13.03.2018, it has been decided that the time limit for submission of claims for TA on Retirement is modified from 60 days to 180 days (six months), succeeding the date of completion of the journey," DOE's



O.M. dated 15th June 2021 said. It added that the "time limit for submission of TA claim on tour, transfer and training will remain 60 days." According to the DoE, the new orders for claiming TA on retirement will be effective from the date of issue of the order (i.e. 15th June 2021). However, the claims not settled due to the time limit of 60 days in terms of the O.M. dated 13.03.2018 on the subject, maybe re-considered by the concerned Ministry/ Department.

Yamaha Launches Neo-Retro Motorcycle FZ-X with the Concept of Ride Free



Chennai, June 18 : India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd. as a part of its electrifying brand campaign "The Call of the Blue", launches its first Neo-Retro motorcycle for the Indian market, the FZ-X has innovative features & offers a comfortable riding position for touring lovers. The FZ-X can be

availed at a starting price of INR 116,800 (Ex-Showroom, Delhi). The FZ-X model showcases a Neo Retro design theme for a nostalgic experience while being packed with industry-leading technology to meet the riding needs of young India. It is engineered to be the ultimate riding partner

across various riding conditions and is powered by an air-cooled, 4-stroke, 149 cc, SOHC engine. FZ-X offers a masculine and commanding presence & comes across as a handsome motorcycle with strong metal components visible on the fuel tank, side covers, engine guard, headlight stays, the front fender, fender stay, and the grab-bar, for increased strength and durability. The front forks are covered with stylish black color boots adding to the overall style. The new FZ-X comes with a 2-valve Blue Core FI Engine which generates 12.4PS of peak power at 7,250 rpm and 13.3Nm of torque at 5,500 rpm. The exhaust note too is extensively tuned to produce a powerful sound. The feature-loaded FZ-X is Bluetooth enabled, it also receives a Communication Control Unit (1st in India for Yamaha bikes), which is compatible with Yamaha's dedicated Y-Connect app that helps users enjoy a fuller motorcycling lifestyle. Through this, the rider can check smartphone notifications via the instrument cluster icons, look at maintenance recommendations, track the bike's last parking location, track fuel consumption, receive malfunction notification, along with a unique feature - The Revs Dashboard, which displays data such as engine rpm,

degree of throttle opening, rate of acceleration, an eco-friendly riding indicator, etc on your smartphone. Other attractive and innovative features include a unique looking Bi-functional LED Headlight with Daytime LED Running Lamp (DRL), a newly designed negative LCD console with a Power Socket, and an LED Taillight. The FZ-X also comes equipped with Side Stand Engine Cut off Switch which is a standard and mandatory feature for all Yamaha two wheelers in India. The new FZ-X gets a higher handlebar that is positioned closer to the rider, which in sync with a relatively flat and plush feeling step-up seat and well-positioned footpegs that offer improved ergonomics. The new FZ-X also showcases a minimum ground clearance of 165 mm and weighs 139 kg (with oil and a full fuel tank). On the convenience front, Yamaha has also offered a Side Stand with Engine Cut-off Switch, a lower Engine protector guard and for safety a BOSCH single-channel ABS with block pattern dual-purpose 100/80-17 (Front) and 140/60-17 (Rear) tubeless tyres to ensure maximum grip over every terrain. Overall, the Neo-Retro FZ-X gets a very mature design approach with a macho vibe and exclusive colour schemes to make it stand out from the crowd.

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Congress expels Mariani MLA

Kurmi, MLA, Mariani LAC is hereby expelled from the Primary Membership of Indian National Congress with immediate effect for his anti party activities. This has the approval of All India Congress Committee," said the order, issued by APCC president Ripun Bora. After submitting his resignation letter to the Assembly Speaker, Rup Jyoti Kurmi announced that he would join the saffron party. Kurmi said he would join the saffron party on June 21 during a function in Lakhimpur. Immediately after announcing his plan to join the BJP, Kurmi came down heavily on the Congress leadership and he was all praise for Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Meanwhile, APCC president and Rajya Sabha member Ripun Bora has constituted a committee to visit the Mariani Assembly constituency immediately to take stock of the political situation in the constituency in view of the decision of Kurmi to join the BJP. "The committee will visit the constituency and interact with the Congress party office-bearers of BCC, MCC, Panchayat representatives, etc. and Congress workers of Mariani LAC to boost up the moral of the Congress workers," said another APCC statement, adding, "This has come into force with immediate effect." The committee has been formed with Rana Goswami as its chairman and MLAs Sushanta Borgohain & Manoj Dhanowar as members.

Assam Congress MLA resigns

soon after he resigned from the assembly. Meanwhile, Hazarika, who had accompanied Kurmi when he met the Speaker, said, "I have seen Kurmi handing over his resignation but can't say which party he would join now. If he wishes to join the BJP, our party leadership will decide on that. I can say that he will be an asset to whichever party he joins. He is a dedicated leader who enjoys the trust of voters in his constituency and works hard for them." Prior to submitting his resignation, the 43-year-old leader from the influential tea-tribe community indicated to local TV channels that he was upset with the party's decision to tie up with All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in the recent assembly polls. Congress won 29 seats in the assembly polls, three more than 2016. The party-led 'mahajot' (grand alliance), which had 10 parties, bagged 50 of the total 126 seats with AIUDF securing 16 seats and Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF) getting 4 seats. On the other hand, the BJP-led coalition returned to power with 75 seats. While the BJP won 60 seats, alliance partners Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) bagged 9 and 6 seats respectively. Two sitting Congress MLAs, Ajanta Neog from Golaghat and Rajdeep Goala from Lakhimpur, had quit the party and joined BJP ahead of the assembly polls. Neog, a former minister in the Congress government of Tarun Gogoi, is now a senior minister in the Sarma Cabinet. There are reports that at least two more Congress MLAs may quit the party soon and join the BJP. Meanwhile, Congress has formed a three-member committee to take stock of the development and boost morale of party workers in the constituency.

Kaziranga guards gun down Royal

to bullet wound suspected to be accidental firing while trying to scare away the tiger from the public area. We are further conducting a detailed inquiry into the incident," Sivakumar said. He said that the tiger had killed a buffalo two days back and reappeared on Thursday evening. "Forest guards were immediately sent to the area after the local people had informed about the presence of the tiger. On Friday morning, the tiger and the forest guards came very close to each other and the tiger tried to attack them. After finding no other option, the forest guards fired in self-defense," Kumar said. Sivakumar said that since the tiger was old, it possibly could not hunt in the forest and strayed out looking for livestock. This is the third instance in the recent past in which a tiger carcass was recovered from KNP & TR. On June 5, the carcass of a four-year-old male tiger was found at Sidha Kathoni area of the national park. Forest officials had said that the four-year-old male tiger was killed due to infighting.

Assam education department

results will be declared by July 31. "In this unusual Covid-19 situation we are not in a position to wait till July for a decision and keep monitoring the improvement in Covid situation. In many districts of the state the virus infection remains a cause of concern," said Pegu. He said based on the records of the students available with the respective schools and education boards, results will be declared. Pegu informed that all students may not be promoted to higher classes. "Results will not be based on a subjective approach but previous academic records of each student," he said. While the Covid positivity has been hovering between two to three percent in Assam, the state health department said that at least till July third week they won't be in a position to conclude to declare the second wave is over. In May-June, about 14 percent of the total Covid infected patients in Assam were below 18 years, while the corresponding figure of 11-18 years was 10 percent.

Delhi riots: SC refuses to stay

Court had on June 15 granted bail to JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita and Jamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha saying that in an anxiety to suppress dissent the State has blurred the line between right to protest and terrorist activity and if such a mindset gains traction, it would be a "sad day for democracy". The high court, in three separate judgments, set aside the trial court's orders denying bail to student activists and allowed their appeals by admitting them to regular bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 each along with two sureties of the like amount.

Jaipal Bhullar encounter

of Justices Indira Banerjee and MR Shah also directed the Punjab government to make appropriate arrangement to preserve the body, which has been taken to Firozpur in Punjab from Kolkata. The Punjab and Haryana High Court had earlier declined the plea of Bhullar's father for conducting an autopsy of the body either at PGIMER or AIIMS, New Delhi, or some independent medical institute to ascertain the nature of injuries. The court said that the matter is not under its jurisdiction as the encounter took place in Kolkata. Jaipal Bhullar and another gangster Jaspreet Singh, involved in killing two policemen recently in Ludhiana, were gunned down by a Kolkata police team in a shootout in the city on June 9 after receiving 'pin-pointed' information from their Punjab counterparts. During the hearing in the apex court, advocate Ishma Randhawa, appearing for Bhullar's father Bhupinder Singh alleged that it is a fake encounter and the deceased was killed by custodial torture. She contended that Singh has seen the body of Bhullar which has gone blue and bones were broken. Randhawa said that his father had gone to Kolkata on his own and brought back the body to Firozpur in Punjab. "I am not seeking a CBI probe into the encounter but all I want is second autopsy to ascertain the fact whether he was killed in custodial torture or not. I have the right to know under Article 21 of the constitution to know how my son was killed," she said. Bhupinder Singh, a retired Punjab police inspector, has alleged that his son was tortured before being gunned down. Earlier on Monday, the Ferozepur deputy commissioner had rejected the request of Bhullar's family for a second post-mortem.

Air India Express flies India's 1st

at 10:40 am, had received both doses of their COVID-19 vaccine," said an official release by the airline. "Captain D R Gupta and Captain Alok Kumar Nayak captained the flight with cabin crew members Venkat Kella, Praveen Chandra, Pravin Chougale and Manisha Kamble. The same crew operated the return flight IX 196, on Dubai- Jaipur- Delhi sector," it added. The airline said that they have vaccinated almost all eligible crew members and frontline staff not only to ensure their safety and health but also to make their passengers feel safe and reassured as they fly with them. "As we operate the country's first international flight with a fully-vaccinated crew, it may be recalled that it was Air India Express that operated India's first-ever Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) flight that touched down Indian soil on May 7 carrying passengers from Abu Dhabi. We are happy that now our teams are shielded with the protection of the vaccines" the airline added. The airline has been part of the Vande Bharat Mission, the largest civilian evacuation exercise in the world undertaken by the Government of India in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak last year. Air India Express alone operated 7005 VBM flights carrying a total of 1.63 million passengers till last month.

Auction of Cachar and Nagaon

above all could not go for treatment due to their financial crunch. So far, 89 mill employees have already lost their lives - four employees have reportedly committed suicide. Meanwhile, JACRU said it is optimistic and hopes that the chief minister would keep his words as he assured it that the pending dues of mill employees would be cleared soon. At the same time JACRU also urged Silchar MP Dr Rajdeep Roy to come forward and help them save the twin paper mills.

Twitter India representatives

IT Act. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology, chaired by Tharoor, had last week summoned Twitter over issues related to misuse of the platform and protection of citizens' rights. Twitter India's public policy manager Shagufta Kamran and legal counsel Ayushi Kapoor deposed before the panel on Friday. Twitter and the Centre have been at loggerheads over several issues for the last few months. The microblogging site had faced backlash when it briefly removed the 'blue tick' verification badge from the personal account of Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and of several senior RSS functionaries, including its chief Mohan Bhagwat. Earlier, Delhi Police had sent a notice to Twitter, seeking an explanation of how it described an alleged "Congress toolkit" against the Central government as manipulated media. The police reportedly had also questioned Twitter India MD Manish Maheshwari on May 31 and visited the Twitter India offices in Delhi and Gurgaon on May 24 over the toolkit issue.

COVID-19 third wave to hit

more devastating - with shortage of vaccines, medicines, oxygen and hospital beds - than the smaller first surge in infections last year. "It will be more controlled, as cases will be much less because more vaccinations would have been rolled out and there would be some degree of natural immunity from the second-wave," said Dr Randeep Guleria, director at All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). So far, India has only fully vaccinated about 5% of its estimated 950 million eligible population, leaving many millions vulnerable to infections and deaths. While a majority of healthcare experts predicted the vaccination drive would pick up significantly this year, they cautioned against an early removal of restrictions, as some states have done. When asked if children and those under 18 years would be most at risk in a potential third wave, nearly two-thirds of experts, or 26 of 40, said yes. "The reason being they are a completely virgin population in terms of vaccination because currently there is no vaccine available for them," said Dr Pradeep Banandur, head of epidemiology department at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). Experts warn the situation could become severe. "If children get infected in large numbers and we are not prepared, there is nothing you can do at the last minute," said Dr Devi Shetty, a cardiologist at Narayana Health and an advisor to the Karnataka state government on pandemic response planning. "It will be a whole different problem as the country has very, very few paediatric intensive care unit beds, and that is going to be a disaster." But 14 experts said children were not at risk. Earlier this week, a senior health ministry official said children were vulnerable and susceptible to infections but that analysis has shown a less severe health impact. While 25 of 38 respondents said future coronavirus variants would not make existing vaccines ineffective, in response to a separate question, 30 of 41 experts said the coronavirus will remain a public health threat in India for at least a year. Eleven experts said the threat would remain for under a year, 15 said for under two years, while 13 said over two years and two said the risks will never go away. "COVID-19 is a solvable problem, as obviously it was easy to get a solvable vaccine. In two years, India likely will develop herd immunity through vaccine and exposure of the disease," said Robert Gallo, director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland and international scientific advisor, Global Virus Network.

Union Defence Minister and Chief Minister visit DRDO hospital at Sarusajai Sports Complex; take stock of facilities



Guwahati, June 18: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accompanied by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited the 300 bedded COVID hospital set up at Sarusajai Sports Complex here today. While visiting the hospital the Defence Minister took stock of the critical care facilities put in place for the COVID patients. It may be noted that Assam Government with the help of DRDO has come up with a 300 bedded COVID hospital in a record time to give advanced medical care to the COVID patients. While taking stock of the facilities put in place in the hospital, Minister Rajnath Singh said

that the hospital is a huge fillip for rendering advanced treatment to all the COVID patients. He also hailed the State government's efforts in getting the hospital ready in a record time with the help of DRDO. It may again be noted that this new COVID hospital has been made with financial involvement of Rs. 21.46 crore. The hospital was inaugurated by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on June 10. Health and Family Welfare Minister Keshab Mahanta, Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary and other senior officers were present during the Defence Minister's visit to the hospital.

Four more pair of trains to restore from this month Services of four pair trains extended from next month 26 pairs Mail Express Train services to resume in June - July, 2021 For the benefit of passengers

Guwahati, June 18 : Several passenger train services are planned to be restored in NFR area by mid of July. At present, 49 pairs Specials Mail/ Express trains and 5 pairs Local Passenger trains are running per day for persons who are in urgent need for travel. Running of 23 more pairs of Specials Mail/Express trains have already been notified and for 3 more pairs to be notified soon. It has been decided to restore the services of four more pair special trains from the month of June, 2021. Moreover, N. F. Railway has decided to extend the services of four pair special trains from July, 2021 until further advice. These trains will run as per existing path, timings, stoppages and composition notified earlier. Among these special trains, the services of following trains have been restored: * Train No. 02343/02344 Sealdah - New Jalpaiguri - Sealdah daily special will run from Sealdah w.e.f. 18-06-2021 and from New Jalpaiguri w.e.f. 19-06-2021. * Train No. 03161/03162 Kolkata

- Balurghat - Kolkata special will run six days a week leaving from Kolkata (except Saturday) w.e.f. 20-06-2021 and leaving from Balurghat (except Sunday) w.e.f. 21-06-2021. * Train No. 02261/02262 Kolkata - Haldibari - Kolkata special will run three days a week leaving from Kolkata on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday w.e.f. 19-06-2021 and leaving from Haldibari on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday w.e.f. 20-06-2021. * Train No. 03033/03034 Howrah - Katihar - Howrah daily special will run from Howrah w.e.f. 18-06-2021 and from Katihar w.e.f. 19-06-2021. Services of following trains have been extended to run from July until further advice: * Services of Train No. 02549/02550 Kamakhya - Anand Vihar - Kamakhya daily express special have been extended to run leaving Kamakhya from 01-07-2021 and Anand Vihar from 03-07-2021. * Services of Train No. 02514/02513 Guwahati - Secunderabad - Guwahati weekly express special have been extended to run leaving

Guwahati on Thursday and Secunderabad on Saturday from 01-07-2021. * Services of Train No. 05612/05611 Silchar - Guwahati - Silchar tri-weekly express special have been extended to run leaving Silchar on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and leaving Guwahati on Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 01-07-2021. * Services of Train No. 05713/05714 Katihar - Patna - Katihar daily special have been extended to run leaving Katihar and Patna from 01-07-2021. The details of

stoppages and timings of these trains are available in Railway's website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N.F. Railway. Passengers are requested to see these details before undertaking their journey. It may kindly be noted that, on arrival at their destination, the passengers will have to adhere to prevailing health protocols of the destination state. All passengers are requested to co-operate with the railway and respective state govt officials in this regards.

Two More Covid Deaths in Golaghat

Golaghat, Jun 18: Two more persons succumbed to Covid today in Golaghat. With these two deaths the death toll rises to 93. The deceased have been identified as Bikash Sarkar (80) from Bengenakhowa area in Golaghat and Suren Bora (45) from Dagaon, Bokakhat. Today 243 fresh cases of Covid positive were reported in Golaghat.

Ben Currie try decisive as Warrington defensive masterclass defies St Helens



London, June 18 : How does one solve a conundrum like Steve Price's Warrington Wolves? Any supporter of Super League's biggest underachievers in recent seasons will be well aware that nights like this, winning at Saint Helens, so often turn out to be a false dawn, all the more so considering their previous form this season. For everything they have done well in patches of late, Warrington have been awful in other key moments. That was illustrated two weeks ago, when they fell apart in their biggest game of the season so far, the Challenge Cup semi-final defeat by Castleford Tigers. But this, their fourth league victory in a row, certainly suggested there is plenty to fight for this season. For all their inconsistency in performance, this was a display that will have earned the respect of even their fiercest critics. To come to the home of the champions and prevent them from scoring a try all evening is about as decisive a marker as a team can lay down in terms of title credentials. Of course the inconsistency that has bedevilled the Wolves through parts of this year has to disappear. But this was a thoroughly impressive display. "We showed a lot of guts tonight," Price said after Ben Currie's sole try proved to be the difference here. "They're the champions for a reason but that shows

the backbone and steel we've got." Price himself has come under pressure in his final season at the club before returning to Australia but in terms of Super League his side look to be clicking through the gears as the regular season approaches its halfway point in 2021. Currie's first-half finish following a superb cut-out ball to Tom Lineham was the only try of the game. It came after Lachlan Coote put the Saints 2-0 ahead from the kicking tee but that was all the hosts were able to muster in terms of scoring, and Stefan Ratchford should have had another for Wolves but spilled the ball. Certainly Warrington were defensively magnificent, particularly in the closing stages, but this was an uncharacteristic performance in attack from the champions. "I thought we played plenty of stuff but we were a bit disjointed," the Saints coach, Kristian Woolf, said. "We were a long way off the mark." They certainly had their chances throughout, though, with the best of them coming as the game entered a pulsating final quarter. At times the match felt like one at the business end of the season given the intensity and aggression on display from both teams, something that bodes well for the play-offs later this year. But when the game's crucial moments arrived, it was Warrington who emerged unscathed. Each error felt more and more decisive as the game entered the closing moments and, with such as Stefan Ratchford outstanding at full-back for the Wolves, they were able to quell a sustained spell of St Helens pressure when it mattered most. This result may not mean much in terms of the title but psychologically it will surely give Warrington supreme confidence heading into the second half of 2021.

Russell Henley shares US Open lead after fog-affected day one at Torrey Pines

London, June 18 : When he last visited Torrey Pines Golf Club for the Farmers Insurance Open more than seven years ago, Russell Henley holed a full-swing flop shot on the 18th to finish with a 79 and miss the cut by six strokes. It's no wonder he wasn't exactly in a hurry to come back. "I don't really remember [it] besides just leaving the course feeling like I just got beat up," Henley said. "I played it that one time and really struggled and it was like, well, I'll just not play it from now on. Maybe that's not the best reason." The Georgia native's return to the city-owned oceanside track for Thursday's first round of the US Open played out somewhat more favourably. After opening with a bogey, the 32-year-old Henley made the turn in two under and added three birdies on the back nine for a four-under-par 67 and a one-shot lead over Francesco Molinari and Rafa Cabrera Bello. The early target nearly held through the afternoon wave until Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 Open champion, joined him atop the leaderboard until his round was suspended for darkness with two holes to play. Among the five players two shots off the joint leaders were two-time US Open champion Brooks Koepka, San Diego native and crowd favorite Xander Schauffele, reigning Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama and third-ranked Jon Rahm, who largely lived up to the oddsmakers' billing as the pre-tournament favourite in his first round since he was forced to withdraw from last month's Memorial due to a positive coronavirus test while leading by six strokes after 54 holes. The first round will not be completed until Friday thanks to the thick blanket of fog that rolled in off the Pacific Ocean at dawn, delaying Thursday's start by an hour and a half. The dense marine layer enveloped the course and rendered it unplayable, prompting one 15-minute delay after another as the roughly 150 spectators dotting the grandstand surrounding the first tee box shuffled in and out of the gallery. The fog showed no sign of burning off nor moving out to sea for more than an hour amid 17C (63F) temperatures and 90% humidity until finally clearing enough for local player Sahithi Theegala, grouped with Italy's Edoardo Molinari and Greyson Sigg of the US, to finally smack a tee shot into the grey San Diego morning at 8.15am. The first fog delay at a US Open since 2004 at Shinnecock Hills pushed the scheduled 2.42pm tee times to 4.12pm, leading to a halt in the action at around 8pm with 36 players left on the course. A marine layer also delayed play in 2000 at Pebble Beach, where Tiger Woods famously won by a record-setting 15 strokes over Ernie Els and Miguel Ángel Jiménez in the most dominant performance in major



championship history. The morning gloom quickly gave way to a sun-splashed afternoon on the par-71 South Course, which is playing host to America's national championship for the first time since Woods's famous triumph in 2008, with Bryson DeChambeau trying to defend his title and local hero Phil Mickelson attempting to become only the sixth player to complete the career grand slam at the major that's caused him so much agony down the years. Mickelson's bid got off to a rocky start as the six-time US Open runner-up, who turned 51 on Wednesday and required a special exemption for entry prior to last month's history-making win at the US PGA Championship, was repeatedly out of position off the tee and made three bogeys in his first six holes and two more late to finish with a four-over 75. At one point Mickelson was forced to back off his second shot multiple times on the 613-yard 13th hole as a spectator's phone repeatedly went off. He proceeded to send a shot into the bushes, before asking the fan: "I don't understand why you just can't turn that little button on the side into silent." "I was fighting hard throughout the round," said Mickelson, who became the oldest ever player to win a major last month at Kiawah. "I wasn't really getting anything going and I fought really hard, and then to let two bogeys slide on six and seven when I really shouldn't have." DeChambeau, who captured his first major at last year's US Open at Winged Foot, spent much of the opening day of his title defence in the dense, punishing rough, needing two birdies on the last five holes to escape with a two-over 73. The USGA bills its showcase event as the toughest test in golf and the narrow fairways, dense rough and glassy greens that comprised the set-up on the 7,652-yard South Course - the eighth-longest track in major championship history - followed what has become a familiar recipe. Mickelson was hardly the only big name to buckle beneath its rigour on Thursday. Former US Open champions Webb Simpson (79),

London, June 18 : England and Scotland resume their great rivalry on Friday night at Wembley in Euro 2020. Illustration: Guardian DesignOld rivalry is now more visceral in politics than football and this match may be memorable only if Scotland cause a shock. It's hard to convey now, in our splintered multi-platform age, just how inescapably, grotesquely enormous an event England v Scotland was in 1996. A quick browse through the daily newspapers on the morning of that game offers just a taste of the hope, fear, giddy expectation and casual jingoism that greeted the first tournament meeting between international football's oldest rivals. Among the wall-to-wall coverage, references to "Jocks", "kilts" and "sporrans" are rife. The Mirror commissioned an article from the comedian Bernard Manning in which he served up such gems as "I think Scottish people are great, even if they're a bit tight". The Sun printed a selection of "your good luck faxes to our boys", and urged England to "give the Scots a beating they'll never forget". Meanwhile the Guardian's ever-solemn front page displayed a horde of Scottish fans descending on London, highlighting the potential for violence. It meant something different back then, which is not to say it means nothing now. But as Harry Kane and Andrew Robertson lead their teams out on Friday night at Wembley - a venue that Uri Geller will very much not be circling in a helicopter - there is a sense that old enmities and old

hysterias may no longer be strictly necessary here. And above all that this game between England and Scotland - two neighbouring nations whose relationship has shaped so much of the sport - should be remembered above all as a sporting contest rather than a generation-defining cultural event. Partly, of course, this is down to the Covid-impelled strictures in place at Wembley, under which the



stadium will be at an airy one-quarter capacity. Partly, you feel, it is down to the gulf in quality between the two nations - 40 places in the world rankings - that will almost certainly mean Steve Clarke's Scotland sitting behind the ball in an attempt to soak up pressure. But partly, too, it is a sense that for all their shared heritage and intertwined histories, England and Scotland have simply drifted apart over the years: socially, culturally and in football terms too. A Scotland fan celebrates on the pitch with Alan Rough and Gordon McQueen at Wembley in 1977. The truth is that for all the various confected minor controversies that have surfaced this week - fuelled largely by the media and nationalist politicians - any real large-scale footballing animosity between these two nations exists primarily in the form of nostalgia. By and large - and to perhaps a greater extent than has been true for almost a century - England doesn't really care about Scotland any more. And increasingly, the reverse is also true. When Robertson declared this week that Scotland were "not as

respected" by England fans as he would like, he was speaking more to a deficit of attention than esteem. The days when many English football fans instinctively kept one eye on club football north of the border - even if it was only through their Pools coupons - are long gone. So, too, the days when Scottish fans invested a significant portion of their national pride on their annual Home Championship

meeting with the English. English football, for its part, has largely weaned itself off its traditional dependence on Scottish labour. There are now more German and Spanish than Scottish coaches in the top two divisions. Of the roughly two dozen Scottish players in the Premier League, only around seven or eight are genuinely indispensable to their clubs. Meanwhile the examples of Jordan Holsgrove at Celta Vigo, Aaron Hickey at Bologna and Liam Morrison and Barry Hepburn at Bayern Munich demonstrate there are alternative career paths for young Scottish players to simply migrating across the border. Two conjoined nations, each looking the other way. And in one sense, this is a direct effect of the political evolution of the two nations since the Scottish National Party first won power from Labour at Holyrood in 2007. Whereas football once served as a handy sublimation of Anglo-Scottish relations, a largely harmless canvas upon which to express historical tribal differences, now these battles are being fought for real. Over the past couple of years, successive

nationalist governments in England and Scotland have engaged in a sort of gruesome, mutually antagonistic pact, fully aware that each perfectly serves the other's purposes. For the SNP, resistance to "Tory Westminster rule" remains the defining note of their offering. The Conservatives, for their part, have been perfectly content to weaponise anti-Scottish sentiment in England for electoral gain, most notably in the 2015 general election. More animus and more grandstanding inevitably lie further down the line. A second referendum, a constitutional crisis, secession: who really knows? But set against all this, perhaps you begin to appreciate how the midfield battle between Calvin Phillips and John McGinn might begin to pale a little in comparison. And certainly you suspect that England's best chance of winning on Friday night lies in turning the volume down rather than turning it up, stripping out layers of meaning rather than lashing them on, treating this as business rather than personal. This is a tournament game at Wembley with qualification for the last 16 of the European Championship at stake. Any further motivation should be entirely unnecessary. For Scotland this is very much last-chance territory. Following their credible and yet calamitous 2-0 defeat against the Czech Republic on Monday, a draw would just about keep them afloat before a decisive final game against Croatia (against whom they have never lost). So the emphasis will be on squeezing the spaces between their back three (likely to become five without the ball), inviting England to overcommit, testing the back four with crosses, keeping 11 men on the pitch at all costs. Naturally history and muscle-memory drew the eye to this fixture as soon as the draw was made. Doubtless it will be an occasion to savour, a mass broadcasting event on both sides of the border (naturally with separate commentary teams), perhaps even a great game. But you suspect it will only be truly memorable if Scotland win.

Spurs open talks with Gennaro Gattuso after Paulo Fonseca move breaks down

London, June 18 : Tottenham have opened talks with Gennaro Gattuso after their move to appoint Paulo Fonseca broke down in the latest blow to their search for a manager. Fonseca, a former Roma and Shakhtar Donetsk manager, had been expected to sign after a contract was verbally agreed. Sources close to him said the deal collapsed because of issues relating to tax that became apparent to Fonseca in the past 48 hours. Italian law provided him with tax breaks that do not apply in the UK and he wanted his pay adjusted accordingly. Gattuso is available after leaving Fiorentina on Thursday, 22 days after his appointment was announced, and Spurs hope to conclude a deal swiftly to appoint the former Italy international. His previous jobs as a manager include spells at Napoli, from December 2019 until his sacking last month, and Milan. Tottenham's hunt for

permanent successor to José Mourinho has been fraught with problems. They called off talks with Antonio Conte after thinking they were close to a deal and interest in candidates including Hansi Flick and Mauricio Pochettino has come to nothing. Ajax's Erik ten Hag, Leicester's Brendan Rodgers and Julian Nagelsmann, who joined Bayern Munich, were also targets. Fonseca had been the choice of Tottenham's new managing director of football, Fabio Paratici, and the pair met in Como to discuss next season. Fonseca had been lined up for effectively a job swap with Mourinho, who was sacked by Spurs in April and has taken the Roma post vacated by Fonseca this month. Gattuso's swift departure from Fiorentina was over



disagreements on transfer policy and the club said it was "by mutual agreement". He won the Coppa Italia with Napoli in 2020 but has never finished in Serie A's top four as a manager. Napoli were pipped by Juventus to a Champions League spot on the final day of last season. The combative former midfielder famously headbutted Tottenham's then first-team coach Joe Jordan after playing for Milan in a Champions League tie at San Siro in February 2011. He apologised and was banned for four matches.

Stradivarius's Gold Cup dream falls apart just as history beckons

London, June 18 : Racing history was denied in emphatic fashion at Royal Ascot when Stradivarius, the usually mighty chestnut, finished a disappointing fourth and missed out on becoming only the second horse to win the Gold Cup four times. In a strangely misjudged race by the normally masterly Frankie Dettori, the jockey and Stradivarius suffered. Stuck in heavy traffic on the rail at the home turn, they struggled to find the space to have a sustained crack at the impressive Subjectivist, who streaked home to win by five lengths. Stradivarius was almost 10 lengths behind with three furlongs to run and, from that position, victory already looked unlikely for even a great horse. A damp squib of a race for the favourite was sealed when, while making a late surge to close the gap on Subjectivist, Stradivarius and Dettori succumbed and were also beaten home by Princess Zoe and Spanish Mission. Romantic followers of racing had hoped

the seven-year-old would join another magnificent stayer in Yeats, who won the race for an unprecedented fourth time in 2009. At the time that achievement seemed unlikely to be matched again and yet, 12 years later, Stradivarius entered the race on Thursday afternoon having won the past three Gold Cups in riveting style. There was logic to the yearning because, while the poetic and musical references in their names make them sound like a cultured duo, Yeats and Stradivarius have long been defined by their resolve, tenacity and sheer brilliance. But those three attributes were all missing as Dettori failed to give Stradivarius the room to flourish. He seemed to have miscalculated as, against such a richly promising four-year-old in Subjectivist - ridden by Joe Fanning, an arch-exponent of race management and winning from the front - Dettori lacked his

usual magic and nous. The threat of heavy rain had introduced early doubts that Stradivarius would again win a landmark race which demands both stamina and speed at the death. Stradivarius has never been invincible, having been beaten 11 times in his long 28-race career, and last autumn his aura was dented on heavy ground.



England Women press home advantage against India after Dunkley innings

London, June 17 : England fought back hard in the final 45 minutes of play on day two of this Test to reduce India from 167 without loss to 187 for five at the close, still 59 runs away from avoiding the follow-on, after Heather Knight's side racked up 396 for nine declared earlier in the day. While Shafali Verma (96) and Smriti Mandhana (78) shared a 167-run opening stand, the loss of the pair in quick succession - both caught at mid-off - triggered a collapse, as Heather

Knight removed the nightwatchman Shikha Pandey and had Punam Raut trapped lbw. Sophie Ecclestone added insult to injury to see off their captain, Mithali Raj, after DRS confirmed she had edged the ball to Tammy Beaumont at short leg. "We just tried to dig in, keep going and be patient," Sophia Dunkley said. "We had to keep fighting in the field. Luckily we got that breakthrough and a few wickets - we've got a good momentum going into tomorrow." The dramatic end to proceedings

came after a day in which two players who are not just Test debutants but have zero ODI caps between them - Dunkley (74 not out) and Shafali - proved the standout stars for their respective sides. Because women's Tests happen so infrequently, Test caps are often seen to be the top of a ladder: you earn your stripes when you have proved yourself in 20- and 50-over cricket. In the lead-up to this Test, there was therefore talk that it would be wrong to chuck in Dunkley and Shafali at the deep end - an idea that proved somewhat misguided on Thursday. First came the 22-year-old Dunkley, who - having begun the day on 12 - drove, flicked and glanced her way to an unbeaten 74 as if she has been playing Test cricket all her life. Only the decision by Knight to declare England's first innings, after Dunkley had shared in a pre-and-post-lunch onslaught with Anya Shrubsole (47 off 33 balls), prevented her from powering on to a century. "My main aim was to try and get us in a good position to go into the afternoon, but to get a 50 on the way is a very special moment for me," Dunkley said. "I was feeling confident going into the

day. I'll remember this day for a long time." At that point, England would have felt quietly confident they had this game by the scruff of the neck: no team have lost a women's Test after batting first and posting more than 300. Across the afternoon and evening sessions, the teenager Shafali made them think twice, in an innings which was as brash as Dunkley's was considered. Dunkley's 50 took 97 balls; she reached the milestone via a nudge through fine leg for two. Shafali's took 83 balls, including a six punched over mid-off, and was brought up with a four thumped through midwicket against a bowler, Ecclestone, who Knight describes as "the best in the world". Dropped twice en route to 96, it was a final slip in concentration that cost Shafali a Test century on debut: going for another big hit, she holed out to Shrubsole at mid-off. That milestone aside, in 152 balls including 13 fours and two sixes, Shafali smashed any doubts about her capabilities as powerfully as she smashed the ball. It remains to be seen if her innings will rob England of the chance to pull off a feat that they have not managed since 2005 and win a Test on home soil.



Euro 2020 Amrita Rao reacts with her meme to Cristiano Ronaldo Coca-Cola debate

New Delhi, June 17 : The video of the incident went viral on social media with fans transforming Ronaldo's visuals into hilarious memes. One of the memes going viral in India is the 'Jal Ijjiye' meme inspired by a scene from the Bollywood movie 'Vivah' starring Shahid Kapoor and Amrita Rao. After Ronaldo, Italian midfielder Manuel Locatelli repeated the Portugal legend's gesture in the post-match press conference after producing a Man-of-the-Match performance in the side's clash against Switzerland on Wednesday. Locatelli, who scored two goals in the game, removed the Coca-Cola bottles kept on the table and put water bottles in front to repeat Ronaldo's gesture. One of the biggest talking points of the ongoing UEFA Euro 2020 has been Cristiano Ronaldo's action of keeping Coca-

Cola bottles aside during a news conference and encourage people to drink water instead. Ronaldo's actions have inspired other footballers like Paul Pogba and Manuel Locatelli to do the same. One of the fittest athletes in the world, Portugal striker Ronaldo's simple gesture to promote a healthy habit ended up costing Coca-Cola big time. The soft drinks giants saw a dip in their shares as a staggering \$4 billion was wiped off the brand's net value after Ronaldo's snub. The video of the incident went viral on social media with fans transforming Ronaldo's visuals into hilarious memes. One of the memes going viral in India is the 'Jal Ijjiye' meme inspired by a scene from the Bollywood movie 'Vivah' starring Shahid Kapoor and Amrita Rao. The actress has reacted to the viral meme featuring her and

Ronaldo and came up with a pun. "Water Are U Saying," she wrote reacting to the meme shared by a Twitter user. After Ronaldo, Italian midfielder Manuel Locatelli repeated the Portugal legend's gesture in the post-match press conference after producing a Man-of-the-Match performance in the side's clash against Switzerland on Wednesday. Locatelli, who scored two goals in the game, removed the Coca-Cola bottles kept on the table and put water bottles in front to repeat Ronaldo's gesture. UEFA have now reminded the footballers about their sponsor commitments during the tournament. Football's European governing body have warned that they might punish footballers if they continue to re-

move sponsor items during press conferences. "UEFA has reminded participating teams that partnerships are integral to the delivery of the



tournament and to ensuring the development of football across Europe, including for youth and women," the tournament organisers said on Thursday.

Dutch Dumfries strikes to beat Austria, make knockouts

London, June 18 : Attack partner Wout Weghorst played a square ball in for the unmarked Depay at the back post, but he rushed the effort and skied his side-footed effort wide. The second goal came after Donyell Malen beat the offside trap and unselfishly played in the charging Dumfries, whose finish was enthusiastically celebrated by his team mates and the 16,000-strong crowd. An early Memphis Depay penalty and a Denzel Dumfries goal gave the Netherlands a convincing 2-0 victory over Austria on Thursday (June 17) and a place in the Euro 2020 last 16 as Group C winners. The Dutch cannot be overtaken at the head of the standings after a second win while Austria's hopes rest on the result of their last match



against Ukraine. The 11th-minute spot-kick provided an early platform for the home side and flying full back Dumfries proved a popular scorer at the Johan Cruyff Arena as he doubled the tally in the 67th minute with his second goal in as many matches.

Dumfries had netted the dramatic late winner as the Dutch edged Ukraine 3-2 on Sunday but there was less of a frenetic feel this time as they coasted through the match. They were awarded the penalty after Dumfries was caught on the foot by Austrian captain David Alaba on the corner of the penalty area. But it was only given after referee Orel Grinfeld consulted the pitchside VAR monitor, with Depay dispatching spot-kick powerfully underneath the diving Daniel Bachman. Depay had two more first-half chances to add to his tally, hitting the side netting with snap effort after another Alaba mistake and conjuring up a horror miss five minutes before the break. Attack partner Wout Weghorst played a square ball in for the unmarked Depay at the back

post, but he rushed the effort and skied his side-footed effort wide. The second goal came after Donyell Malen beat the offside trap and unselfishly played in the charging Dumfries, whose finish was enthusiastically celebrated by his team mates and the 16,000-strong crowd. The visitors' first effort on goal came as late as the 84th minute but substitute Karim Onisiwo headed straight at home goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg. Without the suspended Marko Arnautovic, Austria lacked a cutting edge in attack that they will need against Ukraine in Bucharest on Monday. The Dutch host North Macedonia at the same time and know already they will go to Bucharest on June 27 to face one of the third-placed finishers in the round of 16.



Sachin Tendulkar details the art and nuance of spin bowling in rainy windy England

Mumbai, June 18 : India has gone with two spinners for the World Test Championship final at Southampton that is likely to see several rain breaks. With the forecast predicting frequent showers all through the match, batting legend Sachin Tendulkar talks to The Indian Express about the tactics and skills needed to counter constantly changing overhead conditions. I have noticed that in England, one has to respect overhead conditions. In India or the sub-continent, it is the pitch condition that keeps changing. As the match unfolds, the pitch crumbles and the ball starts turning. In England when there is cloud cover, the surroundings change, something or the other starts to happen off the surface. If the surface demands that, then it's absolutely fine. Both the spinners (Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja) can bat, they have got decent partnerships in the past. It won't be out of place to play two spinners. Having said that, I am sitting in India miles away. There is high probability of rain for four-five days. The kind of surface they are playing on, it all depends on how much dampness there is on the surface or whether seamers are going to be effective or it will be the spinners. Only the players (in England) will know that. If it's a normal pitch, something like Old Trafford, where one is sure that it will assist spinners, the three-two (three seamers, two spinners) combination has a strong case. Over the years, I have noticed something that nobody speaks about. People normally talk about spinners not getting enough assistance from the pitch or say there is hardly any purchase off the surface. But I feel that spinners are able to do a lot in the air, if the ball is well maintained - if one side is shiny, it can be used to get drift. If an off-spinner is bowling, he can take the ball away from the right-hander in the air or change the position of the shiny side and try to get the ball to drift into the batsman - that is towards the middle and leg-stump line. You don't always need to deceive someone off the pitch by getting more turn or bounce, sometimes you can deceive them in the air also. This is what a quality spinner will be thinking. It is not always about the ball turning, tak-

ing the inside edge and going to short leg and the batsman getting dismissed. One can also get the ball to drift away in the air and get the batsman caught behind or in the slips. There are lots of such dismissals and a skillful spinner will always be able to do this. There are times when there is cloud cover and wind is also blowing. These conditions can also help spinners. In case the wind is blowing from off to leg (for a right-hand batsman), we can bring a left-arm spinner from that end where there is a chance to get a right-hander bowled or LBW. We can also get an outswinger pacer from the other end (here drift will be from leg to off) or, for that matter, even an off-spinner who can get the ball to drift away from the right hander. If a left-hander is batting this end, he (the off-spinner) can come round the wicket and get the ball to drift in the air (into the batsman and turn away) and try to beat the batsman. All these elements come into play. Wind and atmosphere are important since they also impact the surface. When there is cloud cover but no rain, the period is challenging because the ball doesn't get wet. After the rain when they are looking to start the game, the outfield is still wet. The umpires and players don't mind playing as long as the central square is dry. It's all fine as long as the ball is not going outside the 30-yard circle since it is mostly dry. The moment the ball starts to travel to deep square-leg, third man, fine leg and deep point, there is a problem for the fielding side. The ball starts getting wet and stops moving. It may have a fraction of seam movement but swing will stop. That is what batsmen try to do post-rain. You try to make sure the ball gets outside the 30-yard circle. It is the imbalance of the ball that causes swing. That is the reason teams try to keep one side dry and one side shiny. The moment you have players touching the dry side with their palm, the moisture is absorbed by the leather. Once that happens, the imbalance is gone. In ODI matches whenever there is dew, the first few overs are critical ones. Bowlers will get the ball to swing early because after 8-10 overs, the swing stops as the ball starts to go outside the 30-yard circle.

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