

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VI ■ Issue No. 175 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ MONDAY ■ AUGUST 09, 2021 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 7.00



Myanmar duo arrested in New York over plot to kill...

02

Mariner memories, a 148 break and the biggest sixes at Lord's

07

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blockade along border

Assam Rising News Desk Guwahati, August 8 :

Mizoram has taken up the issue of restriction of traffic from Assam government's travel advisory of July 29 that they had withdrawn last night, Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuauango on Friday said. "Travel advisory that they (Assam) had issued on July 29, was withdrawn last night. However, the movement of traffic has not started till now. We've taken up these issues with the Assam government. So let us hope that this blockade is removed soon," he said. "At the same time, you have to move ahead. On Assam's side, we have certain issues that need closure. I'm sure that at the right time, I'll be able to see to it with Mizoram CM and resolve those issues," he said. Assam and Mizoram decided to take forward the initiatives taken by the Union Home Ministry and their CMs to remove tensions prevailing around the inter-state border and to find lasting solutions to disputes through discussions.

Top priority

Assam Rising News Desk Guwahati, August 8 :

The Assam Government has said that it would give top priority to the beneficiaries, who are due for the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Informing this, Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta said that instructions have been issued to deputy commissioners of all the districts of the state to prioritise second dose of vaccination. "People who queue up at vaccination centres for second dose are to be given priority so as the schedule is maintained. DCs have been given instructions regarding the same," Mahanta said. Over 20 people in Assam have been fully vaccinated, while another 95,23,851 people have received their first doses. Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta further informed that the State at present has a stock of 12 lakh vaccine doses.

Fake currency racket

Assam Rising News Desk Guwahati, August 8 :

A fake currency racket has been busted by the police in Assam's capital city Guwahati. A woman has also been arrested by the Guwahati Police in connection with the case. Counterfeit Indian currency worth Rs 1 lakh has been seized during the raid. Apart from the fake currency, fake identity cards and items used in printing currency notes were also seized by the police. Meanwhile, the Guwahati police has launched a manhunt to nab more accused in the case, who are now on the run. "Fake Currency printing and circulation racket busted! A woman has been arrested & fake currency notes amounting to ? 1 lakh, fake IDs & items used in printing of currency notes seized."

Ayush Ministers visit and Laud the performance of AIIA

Assure all help in establishing the world's first Bio Bank of Ayurveda at AIIA : Two facilities inaugurated by Ministers at the Institute

New Delhi, August 8 :

Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State for Ayush, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai visited All India Institute of Ayurveda on Sunday and inaugurated Multi-Purpose Yoga Hall & Mini Auditorium. Both the Ministers highly appreciated the work done by AIIA and assured their full-fledged support for further development of the Institute to make it world's best Ayurveda Institute. Lauding the futuristic plan of the Institute, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal assured all help for establishing the first Bio-Bank of the world in Ayurveda at AIIA. Both the Ministers were shown vari-



ous facilities at AIIA and they took keen interest in knowing the unique features of the Institute. The

Cabinet Minister advised the Director AIIA, Prof. Dr. Tanuja Nesari to not only further intensify scientific

investigation in the Institute but also ensure that successful research reaches to masses. Contd...Page 6

Taliban Assassinate Head Of Afghan Government Media Department

Kabul, August 8 :

The Taliban shot dead the head of the Afghan government's media information centre Friday near a mosque in the capital, days after warning they would target senior administration figures in retaliation for increased air strikes. The assassination of one of the government's leading voices follows another bloody day of fighting in Afghanistan as the war spills into Kabul for the first time in months. It also comes hours before the UN Security Council meets in New York to discuss the conflict. "Unfortunately, the savage terrorists have committed a cowardly act once again and martyred a patriotic Afghan," interior ministry spokesman Mirwais Stanikzai said of the death of

Dawa Khan Menapal. Menapal was popular in Kabul's tight-knit media community, and known for pillorying the Taliban on social media -- even jokingly at times. Former presidential spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said he was "utterly shocked and devastated". "We lost another great soul," he added. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the death, with spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid sending a message to media saying "he was killed in a special attack carried out by mujahideen". The murder comes after the militants warned Wednesday of more attacks targeting Afghan government leaders, a day after the defence minister Bismillah Mohammadi escaped an assassination attempt in a bomb-and-gun attack. Contd...Page 6

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi releases video of a poem 'Okoni Okoni Boli'

Advocates for strong deterrence against child trafficking

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8 :

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi said that child trafficking is a social menace which hinders a nation's progress and therefore advocated for strict deterrence against child trafficking. Releasing a video of a poem 'Okoni Okoni Boli' written by Partha Sarathi Mahanta at a programme organized at Raj Bhavan here today, Governor Prof. Mukhi said that to address the problem of child trafficking, village level child protection committees should be established and child protection mechanism should be strengthened



across the state. He at the same time advocated for a sound rehabilitation system along with assiduous law enforcement and police vigilance. Prof. Mukhi also said that prosecution of those accused of child trafficking should be prosecuted on a fast track basis

to put a spanner on the malice of child trafficking. Prof. Mukhi also said, "Children constitute an extremely important segment of our Nation. Therefore, it becomes pertinent to take special care for their protection adding he said, "It is important for Contd...Page 6

Assam DTO (R&L) collects over Rs 58 cr in first 4 months of current financial year despite Covid-19 pandemic

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8 :

Assam Transport Department's Betkushibased office of the DTO (R&L), Kamrup District Metro has, in spite of ongoing lockdown and night curfew due to Covid-19 pandemic, has been able to collect in the first four months, i.e. from April to July, of the current financial year 2021-22 a sum of Rs 58,07,74,222.00 crores in the state of Assam. Notably,



under the direction of Gautam Das, DTO (R&L), Kamrup Metro, the collective efforts of motor vehicle inspectors, enforcement in-

US urges citizens to immediately leave Afghanistan as Taliban intensifies attack

New Delhi, August 8 :

As the Taliban continues to make rapid gains in Afghanistan, the United States on Saturday asked its citizens to immediately leave the war-torn country. The US embassy in Kabul said in a statement that its ability to assist Americans in Afghanistan is extremely limited given the security conditions and reduced staffing in the wake of increasing violence and threat reports. The militants of the Islamist fundamentalist

group have surrounded several Afghan cities and taken control of a provincial capital. On Friday, the Taliban fighters shot dead the head of the Afghan government's media information Contd...Page 6

Assamese film 'God on the Balcony' bags three nominations at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8 :

Filmmaker Biswajeet Bora's Assamese film "God on the

Acute Shortage Of Medicines Mizoram's Appeal Amid Tensions With Assam

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8 :



Days after Assam and Mizoram dialled down tensions over the border dispute, which escalated about two weeks back, Mizoram is still facing an "acute shortage" of medicines being used in the treatment of coronavirus patients, the state's Health Minister has said, as trucks carrying essentials are not able to enter the state from Assam. "Even after Assam withdrew its travel advisory, asking people not to travel to Mizoram, trucks carrying essentials are unable to enter the state from Assam," said Dr R Lalhangliana, Health Minister, Mizoram. "The supply of several medicines - being used in the treatment of Covid patients - has been badly hit. A lot of people are not getting life-saving medicines, which may increase the number of deaths. This act of arrogance

is in clear violation of basic human rights, as per the constitution. Covid kits and other materials are stuck. Granted under the PM-Cares Fund, the material for oxygen plants is also not able to reach. As Assam and Mizoram have both decided to restore peace, we urge the restoration of the vehicular movement immediately," he added. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also made an appeal to allow the movement of goods. In the unfortunate incident of 26 July, 21, we lost 6 precious lives. These brave hearts were also loving fathers, sons, brothers, husbands to many. Assam's heart bleeds for them. Many remain injured. We pray for their early recovery. We must, however, move on, on the path of peace and progress. While we stand committed to protect the constitutional boundaries, I would appeal to our people to allow movement of goods to Mizoram. Zoramthanga CM @ Amit Shah," he further tweeted. Last night, trucks - carrying eggs - were allegedly ransacked at Bhaga Bazar in Cachar district of Assam. On Thursday, both the states had agreed to find a "lasting solution" to the decades-old boundary dispute and take measures, including resumption of interstate vehicular movement, to de-escalate tension between the two sides.

Indian Expat Vaccinated With Covaxin Seeks Revaccination With Covishield

New Delhi, August 8 :

A Kannur native, Girikumara Thekkan Kunnumpurath (50), submitted the petition stating that Covaxin is not recognised in Saudi Arabia and as per his visa stipulation, he has to return to Saudi Arabia before August 30 or he would lose his job. Kochi: An expat working in Saudi Arabia submitted a petition in the Kerala High Court seeking permission to get re-vaccinated with Covishield after being fully vaccinated with Covaxin. The court sought the Central government's view on this and adjourned the matter to August 17. Thekkan Kunnumpurath (50), submitted the petition



stating that Covaxin is not recognised in Saudi Arabia and as per his visa stipulation, he has to return to Saudi Arabia before August 30 or he would lose his job. According to the petition, he returned to India due to the COVID second wave in Saudi Arabia in January and when the Centre provided vaccines for people aged above 45, he registered on the Cowin portal using his passport details. "He got the first Covaxin dose on April 17, and the second a month later. Contd...Page 6

Leads Connect Gets CCE Mandate for World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project

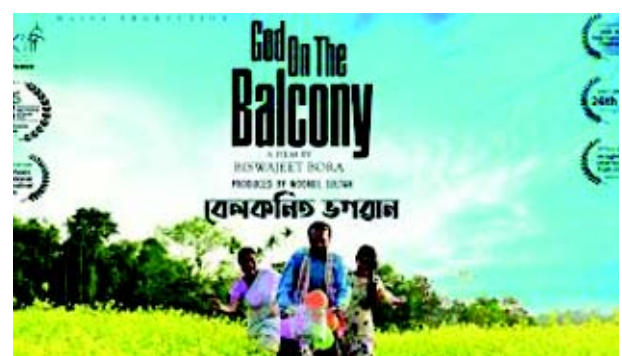
Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8 :

The Government of Assam (GoA) for its World Bank backed project, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) has given the



Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) mandate to Noida based Agri-tech company, Leads Connect. The agritech will conduct the CCE in 23 districts of the Assam state, on pilot basis. APART was launched in the year 2018 by the Government of Assam through Government of In-

dia and received huge funds from World Bank to uplift the agricultural sector of the state and encourage farmers to use technology to increase the production. On being appointed, Mr. Navneet Ravikar, Chairman & Managing Director, Leads Connect Services Contd...Page 6



A sample of hell: Rohingya forced to rebuild camps again after deadly floods

Dhaka, August 8 :

The process of rebuilding has begun once again for Rohingya refugees living in camps in Bangladesh after a week of heavy rains made thousands homeless. The chest-high waters that flowed through parts of Cox's Bazar have exposed the vulnerability of the area's unplanned settlements, which have to be repeatedly repaired and rebuilt after flooding, cyclones and fires. At least 21,000 refugees were displaced by heavy monsoon rains that began on 27 July and lasted for days. Flash flooding inundated the fragile shelters, which are made of bamboo and tarpaulin, with landslides crushing those perched on unstable hills. Zahed Khan, a Rohingya youth activist who lives in the Kutupalong refugee camp, said: "All of our family was at home and we didn't have any way to escape so we tried everything we could do to get rid of the water. We dug ditches to drain the water away. He said most of his family's belongings and documents were damaged by the water. "We're trying to rebuild, with difficulty because we don't have the



financial support to get materials. We spent days in the damaged shelter but after a few days some NGOs gave us materials like bamboo and tarpaulin. "The main Kutupalong camp was established in the 1990s, but, since August 2017, it has rapidly expanded to become the world's largest refugee camp. It is now home to 700,000 Rohingya who fled violence in neighbouring Myanmar. Forests and hills were quickly cleared of vegetation by the refugees to make way for the expanding camp. But the mass deforestation has weakened the soil and rainwater runs straight off the hills instead of being drawn down into aquifers. At least six Rohingya died in last week's floods, along with 15 Bangladeshis. The rains damaged bridges, roads and paths used by the refugees to move around

within the sprawling camps and which are crucial to deliver aid in hard-to-reach areas. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said hundreds of clinics, aid delivery centres and toilets were damaged, though some have since been repaired. UNHCR said it provided kits to help tie down shelters ahead of the monsoon and cyclone seasons, and trained thousands of volunteers. But with the camps locked down, as Bangladesh goes through its worst outbreak of Covid-19 yet, and after fires displaced tens of thousands of people earlier this year, the past week's deadly rains have increased desperation among the Rohingya. "The life we are having here at camp is like a sample of hell. We don't want to live here for one minute," said Mohammed Zonaid, a Rohingya photographer and aid worker whose shelter was

damaged by a landslide. "As long as we live here in the camp, we want to live safely and with dignity." He said the pandemic had reduced the presence of aid organisations, which meant less preparation was made for this year's monsoon season. "NGOs were not ready to deal with the rains and their lack of care meant people died and so many became shelterless," said Zonaid. He said more pressure needed to be put on Myanmar to give the Rohingya the right to return, a move that seems highly unlikely after this year's military coup. Sandbags are used to try to stabilise a hillside. The floods caused landslides amid widespread deforestation in the surroundings of the camps. Photograph: Yassin and Zia/ Norwegian Refugee Council on behalf of NRCM any Rohingya refugees have lived in the camps in Kutupalong and Nayapara, also in Cox's Bazar, since the early 1990s. A fire in January destroyed the homes and belongings of 3,500 people in Nayapara, including shelters where many residents had lived for almost 30 years. Flooding at Cox's Bazar, 28 July 2021, where at least six have been killed and 5,000 people left homeless. The families began



Chinese military personnel conduct adaptive training for a joint military drill

Menopause at centre of increasing number of UK employment tribunals

London, August 8 :

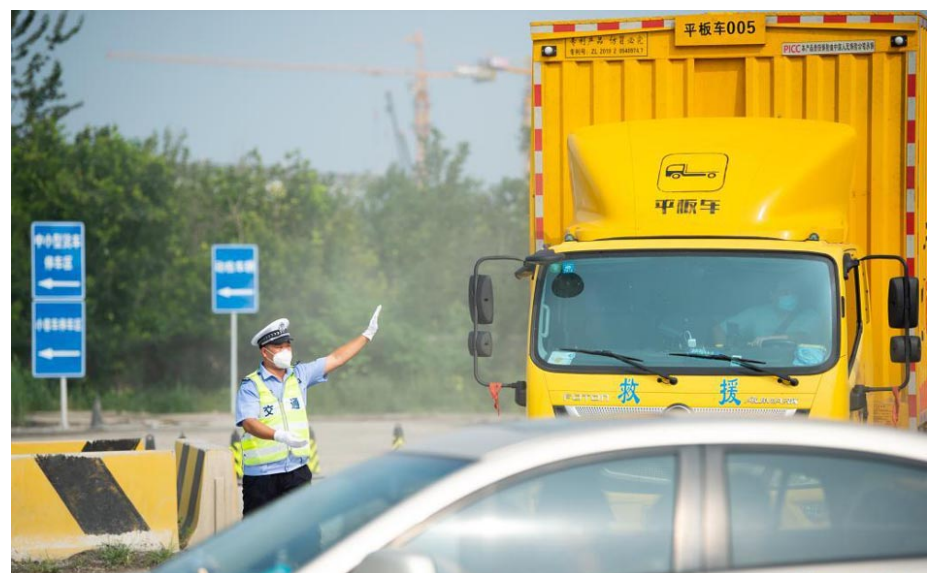
Growing numbers of women are taking their employers to court citing the menopause as proof of unfair dismissal and direct sex discrimination, researchers have said. According to the latest UK data, there were five employment tribunals referencing the claimant's menopause in 2018, six in 2019 and 16 in 2020. There have been 10 in the first six months of 2021 alone. Experts say the rise in cases shows women are increasingly feeling empowered to challenge employers who do not understand the impact the menopause can have and offer them support. "I can see that this will carry on building until such time as there are some really big, group lawsuits, which I'm sure there will be," said Dee Murray, the founder and chief executive of Menopause Experts, which carried out the research. "The women in a lot of the big companies are already setting up their own private, internal menopause support groups. If they decide their issues are not supported by HR, you could potentially have a real problem." Women aged 50 to 64 are the fastest-growing, economically active group in the UK, due to issues including the rise in the state pension age for women, increased life expectancy and the impact of Covid. Of the 70% of women in employment in the UK, almost 4.5 million are in this age bracket and it is, added Murray, in employers' interests to retain these women: many older women are at the peak of their careers, with research proving that the most diverse companies are more likely

make a greater profit than less diverse peers. Yet until recently, the menopause and its impact on women was rarely discussed. Recent research found the UK could be losing 14m work days a year related to the menopause. One in four women who experience menopausal symptoms consider leaving their job, with the resulting



Loss of knowledge, experience and talent. One tribunal heard how recruitment worker Aggie Kownacka was told by her female boss it was "no big deal" that she would face menopause at the age of 37 and no longer be able to conceive children. An employment judge ruled the comments did not amount to discrimination but did amount to harassment. Another claimant in Birmingham who was having 12 hot flushes a day and was woken eight times every night by sweats was ruled disabled by reason of the menopause. But the tribunal decisions are far from consistent, with the judge in another case dismissing the employee's claim to be ruled disabled on account of her symptoms. Murray said: "We regularly hear horror stories about how women are discriminated against in the workforce, and sadly

the director of employment and HR at Pannone Corporate law firm, has defended claimants in tribunals concerning the menopause. He said the rise in the number of tribunals was due to improved education and information, making women better informed and more empowered. "But the law in this area is too far behind the reality," he said, warning that tribunals' decisions vary according to which judge hears the case. "The lack of consistency from tribunals as to whether menopause is an issue of disability or sex discrimination is cause for concern," he said. "Employers and employees need clarity so this can be tackled proactively, and the law needs to catch up." We urgently need decisions from the appeal courts as this lack of clarity will continue until we see some real guidance in this area."



A policeman guides traffic at a road checkpoint in Beijing, capital of China

Myanmar duo arrested in New York over plot to kill UN ambassador

Washington, August 8 :

Two Myanmar citizens have been arrested in New York state for plotting with an arms dealer in Thailand - who sells weapons to the Burmese military - to kill or injure Myanmar's ambassador to the United Nations. The US attorney's office for the southern district of New York said on Friday

to a request for comment on the charges. Myanmar's junta fired him in February, after he appealed for the international community "to use any means necessary" to take action against the Myanmar military which seized power from civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. For now, however, he remains the country's UN envoy because the UN has not acknowledged the junta. According to the legal

transfers totaling \$4,000 in late July, according to the complaint. Phyo Hein Htut told the FBI he was supposed to receive an additional \$1,000 after the attack was completed. A volunteer security guard at Myanmar's UN mission told the FBI on Tuesday that Phyo Hein Htut had told him about the plan "to hire a hitman to kill or injure the ambassador". The complaint said Ye Hein Zaw admitted he transferred the money to Phyo Hein Htut, that he regularly sends money to others on behalf of the arms dealer and recently booked travel to the United States for two other people at the arms dealer's request. "These defendants reached across borders and oceans in designing a violent plot against an international leader on United States soil," the New York police department commissioner, Dermot Shea, said in a statement. Kyaw Moe Tun appealed in February for the international community "to use any means necessary" to take action against the Myanmar military which seized power from civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. US attorney Audrey Strauss said: "As alleged, Phyo Hein Htut and Ye Hein Zaw plotted to seriously injure or kill Myanmar's ambassador to the United Nations in a planned attack on a foreign official that was to take place on American soil. At an initial appearance in White Plains federal court Friday, Phyo Hein Htut consented to detention.



that Phyo Hein Htut, 28, and Ye Hein Zaw, 20, had each been charged with one count of conspiracy to assault and make a violent attack upon a foreign official, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, who represents Myanmar's elected civilian government which was overthrown by the military in February, told Reuters on Wednesday that a threat had been made against him and US authorities had stepped up his security. The ambassador did not immediately respond

complaint. Phyo Hein Htut told FBI investigators that the arms dealer in Thailand had contacted him online and offered him money to hire attackers to hurt the ambassador and force him to step down. If the ambassador did not step down, then the arms dealer proposed that the attackers would kill him, according to the complaint. Phyo Hein Htut and the arms dealer then agreed on a plan to tamper with the ambassador's car to cause a crash. Ye Hein Zaw contacted Phyo Hein Htut and made two money

Tiger kills woman working in safari park in Chile

Rancagua, August 8 :

Police say the woman did not realise the door of the animal's cage was open and was immediately attacked. The woman was among staff cleaning and carrying out maintenance work in the big cats' enclosure of a safari park in the city of Rancagua. A young woman working at a safari park in Chile has died after a tiger attacked her, police said. The woman, who has not been identified by police, was among staff cleaning and carrying out maintenance work on Friday in the big cats' enclosure of a safari park in the city of Rancagua, 90km south of the

capital Santiago. Police in an upscale Texas neighborhood said on Saturday they had found India, a nine-month-old male tiger missing for a week. Visitors drive through the safari feature, where animals can move freely. When staff are working in the area, animals are confined in enclosures. The woman who died suffered neck wounds in the tiger attack, authorities said. Williams Espinoza of the Rancagua police said the woman's ordeal was brief. "She did not realize that the door of the animal's cage was open and was immediately attacked by this tiger, causing her death on the spot," he said. The safari park was closed while police investigated. Jorge Mena, from the regional public prosecutor's office, said they would be investigating possible third-party



culpability for what happened. The Rancagua Safari Park did not respond to a request for comment. The condition of the tiger was not known.

Israel targets Hamas sites after balloons from Gaza ignite fires

Gaza, August 8 :

Israeli military says strikes target rocket launching site as balloons aim to pressure Israel to ease restrictions. The blazes along the Gaza frontier broke out on Friday as Israel separately traded fire over its northern border with Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah. Israeli aircraft bombed Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip in response to incendiary balloons launched from the Palestinian enclave, Israel's military said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the strikes on Saturday that targeted what the military said was a rocket launching site and a compound belonging to Hamas, the

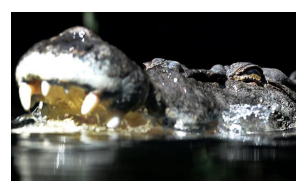
Islamist group that rules Gaza. Since a ceasefire in May ended 11 days of Israel-Hamas fighting, Palestinians in Gaza have sporadically launched balloons laden with incendiary material across the border, causing fires that have burned fields in Israel. Palestinians say the balloons aim to pressure Israel to ease restrictions on the coastal enclave that were tightened during the May fighting. Balloon launches had mostly ebbed after Israel eased some restrictions on Gaza. But on Friday, balloons were again launched from Gaza, causing at least four brush fires in areas near the Israel-Gaza frontier. The Israeli military said its air strikes were in "response to

Queensland crocodile attack Two army personnel mauled north of Lockhart River

Queensland, August 8 :

A soldier has head, chest and arm injuries after being mauled by a saltwater crocodile that also attacked an army colleague who went to his aid in far north Queensland. The men, who were reportedly swimming in croc-infested waters north of the Lockhart River on Friday

afternoon when the attack occurred, have been airlifted to Cairns with serious injuries. The ambulance service said the most seriously injured man, aged in his early 20s, suffered head, chest and arm injuries. He is in a serious but stable condition. The other man, in his early 30s, suffered wrist and arm injuries and is in a stable condition. The men were initially treated by a medical officer on an army barge before being transferred to another vessel and taken to shore. They were then airlifted to Cairns by the Royal Flying Doctors. The attack happened about a kilometre from the community



of Portland Road, towards the tip of Cape York Peninsula, just after 4pm. The defence department told reporters both men are army personnel but have not revealed if they were on or off duty when the attack happened. "Our immediate focus is on providing the necessary medical treatment for the soldiers involved, and supporting their families who have been informed," it said. "The incident is under investigation, as such, defence will not provide any further detail." Lockhart River mayor Wayne Butcher said the men had gone for a swim in known crocodile habitat. Butcher told the ABC: "Two blokes have been swimming in croc-infested waters. One got attacked and the other one ... tried to help. They're found and in safe hands ... I'm hoping that they're well." Denis O'Sullivan from the Queensland Ambulance Service said the younger man was incredibly lucky to be alive, given the extent of his blood loss and reports the crocodile was about 2.5 metres long.



A man passes by a vegetable stall at a temporary fair in Hajjah District, Hajjah province, north Yemen

Guardian Minister Suklabaidya holds meeting with Hailakandi administration on border related issues

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8:

Minister for Environment and Forest, Excise and Fisheries cum Guardian Minister for Hailakandi, Parimal Suklabaidya held a meeting with the district administration regarding border related issues pertaining to the Assam-Mizoram interstate border on Sunday. Following incidents of protests and economic blockade in Cachar as well as in Hailakandi in the wake of July 26 incident in which six Assam Police personnel lost their lives and scores injured following indiscriminate firing from the other side of the border, Minister Suklabaidya discussed a gamut of border related issues, including the need to keep unhindered flow of essential commodities and

medicine to the neighbouring state hard hit by shortage of supplies following the economic blockade resorted to by the people of Assam living close to the border in Hailakandi and Cachar districts bordering Mizoram. At the directive of Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister Suklabaidya said he along with Minister Ashok Singhal held a fruitful meeting with the district administration of Cachar and other stakeholders at Lailapur on Saturday evening that eventually led to the withdrawal of the economic blockade resorted to by the local people since the July 26 border flare-up. The Guardian Minister asked the civil and police administrations to take all possible steps to instill confidence among the people that the Government

stands with them through thick and thin and their safety and security will be ensured'. Suklabaidya asked the administration to be in strict vigil to foil the nefarious designs of certain forces at work and to create a congenial atmosphere for maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the border. The Minister urged the representatives of political parties who took part in the meeting to extend support and cooperation to the Government in bringing back normalcy along the inter-state border and in ensuring smooth flow of essential goods to Mizoram on humanitarian ground. The meeting was attended, among others, by Deputy Commissioner, Rohan Kumar Jha, DIG Southern Range, Superintendent of Police, District Development Commissioner and

other senior officials. Later, talking to media persons, Suklabaidya said surface movement of essential commodities would start from Hailakandi district bordering Mizoram today and that transportation through rail would begin once the tracks are put in place. "Movement of goods will begin today, barring six numbers of gas tankers on safety ground. I thank the local people, the MLAs and other stakeholders for making this happen," he added. Suklabaidya said that the Mizoram Government has assured that they would institute an inquiry into the violent incident on July 26 that led to the killing of six Assam Police personnel and injury to many and punishment to the guilty. He said that the Assam Government would also on its part do every-

Biswanath DC visits erosion affected areas in Gohpur



Correspondent Biswanath Chariali, August 8:

Deputy Commissioner of Biswanath Mr Pranab Kumar Sarmah visited the erosion prone areas in Gohpur subdivision on Friday and took stock of the situation. The areas, approximately 1.5 kilometres in length, under R a w n a m u k h G a o n Panchayat of Gohpur Revenue Circle under Gohpur Civil Sub Division have reportedly been under erosion

threat for the last couple of months. Deputy Commissioner Mr Sarmah visited Kaliapani, Gohpur and Chouguri villages and met the affected people. He also held discussions with the erosion hit villagers about the problems being faced by them and assured them possible help. "We will do our level best to stop erosion in those areas. We will also give priority to compensate the people who have lost their belongings due to the erosion", said Mr Sarmah after

visiting the areas. The Department of Water Resources has already submitted a proposal to control erosion in those areas to the Missing Autonomous Council (MAC) for execution. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Mr Prabhat Pegu, i/c Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) Gohpur, Mr Rahmat Ali Ahmed, Assistant Executive Engineer, Gohpur Water Resource Sub Division and the Executive Members of Missing Autonomous Council, Gogamukh, Dhemajai.

EM, DC and other officials take stock of problems of people of Indo-Bhutan border areas.

Correspondent Kajalgaon, August 8:

Executive Member (EM), Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Ranjit Basumatary, Chirang Deputy Commissioner (DC) Narendra Kumar Shah along with Additional Deputy Commissioners Khanindra Das and Ajit Kumar Sarmah on Saturday visited Hatisar, Deosri and Tukribasti along Indo-Bhutan border area and had an interaction with the villagers to take stock of their problems at Deosri ME school and Hatisar Community Hall. During interaction, villagers urged the authorities present for more infrastructural development in the area in terms of adequate number of schools, angadwadi centres, health centres, drinking water facilities, eradication of man-elephant conflict and road connectivity. In his reply, the Deputy Commissioner,



Chirang, Narendra Kumar Shah apprised that all these areas were being visited by line departments concerned for preparation of micro-level plan for the socio-economic development of the people of underdeveloped Indo-Bhutan bordering areas, from where 40 children and 2 adults were trafficked to Sikkim. The Executive Member, BTC, Ranjit Kumar Basumatary, while interacting with the public appealed to resist the

Bengali Federation BTAD Zonal Committee appealed for solving the problems of Hindu Bengalis

Bikash Rabha Tangla, August 8:

Rajiv Sarkar, President, All Assam Bangali Youth Student's Federation BTAD Zonal Committee and Sandipan Lahiry, General Secretary said in a statement on Saturday that we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Assam and the BTAD Committee on behalf of the Assam government decision of exempting Nepali people who staying in the Assam from foreigner citizenship and also solved their devoter problem. We are happy and full of support and congratulations to the Nepali brothers and it is their rights. But what is the future of Hindu Bengalis who have been living in Assam for several years? The BJP get almost 90% of the votes from all Hindu Bengalis who love Hindus. Having valid documents government wanted biometric from millions of Hindu Bengalis.

After submitting biometric, despite they did not acquire Aadhaar card till now. For that people of Hindu Bengali are suffering from various problems. On the other hand, the ration shop has said that if Aadhaar card is not submitted soon, there will not be any bank account issued on their name, no KYC, so what will be the future of millions of Hindu Bengali people? The government has repeatedly promised to the Hindu Bengalis solve our problems even though no action has been taken so far. We humbly request the Chief Minister to take care of all the ethnic groups living in Assam and strive for the rights and equal dignity of all the people. We hope that soon the problems promised the Hindu Bengalis will be solved.

Dreaded drugs mafia shot dead at Khatuwal, OC, driver too injured

Correspondent Nagaon, August 8:

One dreaded drugs mafia named Khairul Islam was shot dead in the wee hours today near Geruwamukh village under Khatuwal PS in the district. Significantly, during the drive against the drugs mafia, the officer in charge of Khatuwal PS Sub Inspector Alak Datta Gupta and driver of the police team, Utpal Boruah were also seriously injured by the drugs mafia Khairul Islam and his associates, sources added. Sources claimed that acting on a tip off, a police team from Khatuwal PS led by Sub Inspector Alak Datta Gupta last night conducted

a raid at the residence of dreaded drugs mafia Khairul Islam. During the raid, the police team found Khairul and other three his associates sitting around something. When police asked all of them to surrender, Khairul got up and leaped on the police personnel with a sharp knife without any provocation. The attacker Khairul targeted to slash the throat of the officer in charge SI Alak Datta Gupta. But the police officer Gupta fought bravely against the attacker. Meanwhile the driver of the police team Utpal Boruah who was nearby him tried to catch the attacker to save the officer in which both OC

Gupta and driver Boruah both sustained injury. Getting no option for their self defence as well as to bring the situation under control, OC Gupta finally opened fire with his service pistol. As a result, drugs mafia Khairul got hit on his waist and chest with bullets while driver of the police team Utpal Boruah also got a hit of bullet during firing, sources added further. The injured drugs mafia Khairul as well as OC Gupta and driver Boruah were immediately admitted to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital where the doctor on duty declared dreaded drugs mafia Khairul Islam brought dead, sources said.

A new AAGSU body formed

Correspondent Biswanath Chariali, August 8:



The Sootea regional committee under Biswanath district AAGSU (All Assam Gorkha Students' Union) was reconstituted on Sunday in a meeting held at Phateki LPS with Pranab Baskota in the chair. Dissolving the previous committee, a new committee with 31 executive members was formed. The new committee was constituted with Ajay Karki as president, Damodar Subedi as secretary Krishna Goutam, Shimanta Thapa and Rupak Katuwal as vice presidents and Abhishekh Chetry, Keshab Chetry and Shimanta Goutam as assistant secretaries, Manoj Budathoki and Karna Chetry as organizing and education secretary respectively along with other portfolios and members. Prakash Khanal, vice president of Biswanath district AAGSU and Pinki Sarma, cultural secretary of Biswanath AAGSU were present as observers. Damodar Subedi had

briefed the objectives of the meeting while Pranab Baskota delivered a lecture on organizational issues.

Wild elephant kills one, injures another at Rongbong in Assam

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8:

A lone wild elephant entered a house at Rongbong toward Karbi Anglong bordering Golaghat inter district border and killed the inmate and injuring another at around 3.30 am on Sunday. The jumbo entered the house of Ramnath Bhagat aged about 72, in village 4 No. at Rongbong in the wee hours and injured him and a labour named Paresh

Karmakar, aged about 35, residing with him. Karmakar succumbed to his grievous injuries on the way to SKK Civil Hospital in Golaghat while Bhagat has been shifted to the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital. Meanwhile, Range Officer, Golaghat and Assistant Conservator of Forest (Hq) along with police personnel visited the spot for conducting an inquiry into the incident and taking other necessary steps.

Correspondent Golaghat, August 8:

An international workshop entitled "Breast Cancer Facts: It's Time for Breast Health" was organized by Grihamalini Forum, Dept. of Home Science in association with IAPEN (India Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition). Principal Dr. Bipul Chandra Bhuyan inaugurated the workshop. Ms. Nomi Mohan, Senior Dietician, Dispur GNRC Hospital delivered the welcome speech. Re-

source person, Dr. Deepjyoti Bhuyan, Research Fellow cum Lecturer of NICM, Western Sydney University, Australia talked ornately on role of bioactive compounds in breast cancer prevention. Another keynote speaker Mr. Shivshankar Timmanpyati, Chief Clinical Nutritionist from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai delivered his lecture on onconutrition with special emphasis on breast cancer. Dr. Ananya Kashyap, HoD, Dept. of Home Science coordinated the session.

Lakhs of Property gutted in fire



Correspondent Hojai, August 8:

Properties worth in Lakhs were reduced to ashes when a devastating fire engulfed second floor of Sarawagi Textile in Hojai on Saturday night at around 11 pm. As per information, as soon as the neighbour's saw the flames running over the building, they immediately informed fire brigade and Hojai Police. A Police team led by Officer in charge Tapan Medhi along with five fire fighter

vehicle's reached the spot. It took sometime to extinguish the fire which already ravaged properties worth lakhs of rupees. Reportedly, it is suspected that the incident took place due to electric short-circuit. Locals said thank God, on time action have evaded a massive incident, as this place is located in the heart of the town and near to Super market. Notably, there is, however, no loss of human life. Further, investigation is going on.

Nagaland Assembly sets up panel to examine border dispute with Assam

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8:

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly has set up a 10-member select committee to assess all aspects of the border disputes with Assam. After thorough deliberation on the Assam-Nagaland border issue, the Assembly unanimously adopted a three-point resolution moved by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. The house has asked the committee to submit its report within a period of three months. The committee is headed by chief minister Neiphiu Rio as Convenor,

Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and Opposition Leader T.R. Zeliang, as Co-Convenors of the committee. The house resolved to request Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure maintenance of status quo in letter and spirit in the disputed area till settlement of the issues. The assembly also decided that the border issue should be resolved amicably. The Chief Secretaries of Assam and Nagaland had on July 31 signed an agreement to deescalate the tense situation prevailing at two locations in the Desso valley forest/ Tsurangkong valley

by simultaneously withdrawing security forces within the next 24 hours. Earlier in the Nagaland Assembly, Opposition MLA Imkong L Imchen initiating a discussion on matters of urgent public importance pertaining to the Nagaland-Assam border in the house said the border issue between the two states has been occurring from time to time while continuous harassment has been meted against the Naga people passing through Assam side. He also alleged that after Himanta Biswa Sarma becoming the chief minister



has started flaring up border issues with all the neighbouring North Eastern States "with the intent of declaring war against the neighbours surrounding Assam". Imchen also questioned the intention of Assam CM's announcement to deploy 4000 com-

Assam govt to fill over 24,000 job posts in education dept; recruitment process to start from Sept 1

Staff Reporter Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 8:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the state will initiate a 'major' recruitment drive in the Education department including appointments in Bodo, Garo, and Hindi mediums, etc. The Assam government has announced to fill a total of 24,385 job vacancies in the state's educational department this year. In the latest cabinet meeting led by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the state will initiate a 'major' recruitment drive in the Education department including appointments in Bodo, Garo,

and Hindi mediums, etc. As per the job data by the Assam government, there are a total of 22,921 vacancies—10,000 posts in primary education and 12,921 in secondary education—which are yet to be filled up. Additionally, Special Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) will be held to fill up 1,464 job posts reserved for ST (Hills) and also for recruitment in Bodo, Garo and Manipuri medium institutions under the education department in Assam. The cabinet also asked the education department to start a process of filling up 22,921 sanctioned posts from September 1.

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 175 MONDAY, AUGUST 09, 2021

Missions for exporters

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the heads of Indian missions abroad, especially those in developed countries, to make a bigger push for merchandise exports in a bid to augment India's manufacturing sector. In his address to all the heads of missions, and other trade and commerce stakeholders, Modi pushed for greater integration between missions abroad and Indian exporters and manufacturers. The message came a month after the Ministry of Commerce and Industry set an export target of \$400 billion for the current fiscal year. During April-July this year, exports had risen to \$130.56 billion against \$75.10 billion in the same period last year. To this end, Modi said the government has taken a "big decision" for exporters under which they will get a boost of about Rs 88,000 crore in the form of insurance cover. The PM also said it is imperative to rationalise export incentives, to make Indian exports compliant with global trading rules under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Also read: As Indians step out to shop, holiday, petrol demand looks at a V-shaped recovery. According to PM Modi, the decision to do away with retrospective tax was indicative of "consistency" in the government's policies. "Our exporters doing business in different countries of the world know very well how big the impact of stability is. The decision taken by India to get rid of retrospective taxation shows our commitment, shows consistency in policies," he said. Under the retrospective tax framework, introduced in 2012 by the UPA government, transactions involving sale or transfer of shares that took place outside the country, but where the underlying assets are located in India, were subject to tax. Invoking "Brand India", Modi said it is "time for a new journey with new goals". "This is the time for us to establish a new identity of quality and reliability. We have to try that there is a natural demand for high value-added products of India in every nook and corner of the world," he said. According to the PM, there are four major factors that can boost merchandise exports from India - manufacturing, transport and logistics, government's support, and exploring international markets. Modi asked the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to work in tandem to achieve the targets set for the country. "At present our exports are about 20 per cent of GDP. Considering the size of our economy, our potential, the base of our manufacturing and service industry, it has the potential to grow a lot," he said.

Rental housing in India is so broken, tenants and landlords are even teaming up in Delhi

Mukta Naik

The Delhi High Court recently directed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to keep his promise about paying rentals on behalf of those who were unable to, during the pandemic. The judgment, while raising interesting questions about the accountability of verbal promises in a polity rife with glib politicians, also provides an opportunity to revisit the idea of rental support as an important - but until now, a neglected - avenue for social protection. Across the world, governments have used a range of measures to support vulnerable renters during the pandemic. Many countries implemented moratoriums on eviction, but some, like Austria, Germany, Mexico and Portugal, also permitted delayed payments and offered zero-interest loans to renters (Spain and Portugal). Ireland and Luxembourg offered financial support to tenants and the United States extended an existing rental support programme to help those renters who lost their jobs during the pandemic. Housing rights activists have played a key role in pushing through these rental support policies, arguing that those facing maximum job losses are also most likely to be renters and that it was perverse



for governments to enforce work-from-home conditions without ensuring housing security. Their rationale resonates strongly in India, where the inability to pay rent and the fear of eviction exacerbated the economic crisis, especially for daily wage and informal workers whose livelihoods came to a standstill during the lockdown. Throughout the pandemic, there has been a growing demand for rental support to be seen as an avenue of social protection, alongside food and income support. The Modi government's draft urban rental policy has, in the past, suggested direct benefit transfers to low-income tenants through rental vouchers. A simi-

lar government order was issued the same day as Kejriwal's 29 March 2020 press statement that Najma vs Govt. of NCT Of Delhi evokes, which asked landlords not to demand rent payments. These communications announce eviction moratoriums as part of a strategy to contain migrants in cities, with neither any means of enforcing these nor an accompanying plan for rental support. Even if there had been intent to support renters, actually doing so would have been an onerous task, given that as per the NSS 76th round report in 2018, about 70 per cent of those living on rent have only oral agreements with their landlords. This informal rental housing supply, often located in urban villages and unplanned settlements, has successfully catered to a vast demand for low-cost rentals in Indian cities in the absence of formal supply, which is deterred by low rental yields. To provide financial support to renters, we must be able to identify them and verify their status as tenants. In a sense, this is akin to the registration problem that has plagued existing social protection measures for migrants and informal workers. Cash transfers through the Building and

Other Construction Workers Welfare Fund (BOCW), for instance, did not reach the vulnerable owing to low registrations. In the context of rentals, the agreement is documentary proof of the landlord-tenant relationship. This contractual underpinning has also made it hard to seek collective redress for renters in India. A division bench of the Delhi High court had, in June 2020, rejected a public interest litigation (PIL) asking for rental relief by refusing to interfere in a contractual agreement and making decisions on rent payments and evictions "without going through specific facts of each and every case". Unlike BOCW registrations, though, the challenge of documenting informal renting is not merely a matter of the State's inability to implement schemes. Oral rental contracts allow for tacit negotiations between renters and landlords, giving tenants flexibility in rent payments and duration of stay, while landlords can continue to leverage their stronger social capital to retain the upper hand. There is no incentive whatsoever for such landlords to take the risk of making themselves visible to the State - given conditions of insecure land tenure, built form that contravenes building regu-

lation, lack of clarity on property taxation, etc - via registration mechanisms proposed in, for instance, the Model Tenancy Act 2021 (MTA), recently approved by the Cabinet. Tamil Nadu's tenancy law has offered a simple online registration mechanism since 2019, with negligible uptake. Najma vs Govt. of NCT Of Delhi, where tenants and landlords have teamed up as petitioners as opposed to their traditional positioning as opponents of rent-related litigation, draws attention to the precarity of both parties. At the lower end of the rental housing spectrum, landlords and tenants are both economically vulnerable; hence this combined plea for State support. The landlord's vulnerability opens up the possibility of leveraging rental support as an opportunity to invite poor informal landlords to register contracts. Moving away from the stringent conditions laid out by the MTA, states would need to explore simpler, localised and more flexible registration mechanisms based on voluntary self-declaration, which have seen some success in the BOCW context. Complementary measures, like offering tax exemptions for rental businesses, housing finance, and construction technical assistance, would also go a long way in gaining the trust of informal rental suppliers, including those who are better off. Najma vs Govt. of NCT Of Delhi makes it quite clear that housing and social protection policies need concrete and urgent intersections. Leveraging this opportunity to simultaneously recognise and boost low-income rental housing supply will have long-term benefits in improving the bargaining power of poor tenants, who have been severely disadvantaged during the pandemic, while simultaneously bolstering entrepreneurship in the rental housing space.

Pakistan is confused how to protest Article 370 Stay silent or honk before Modi poster?

...The map business was taken very seriously by the government as it still periodically sends SMS that not using the 'correct' map could get you in trouble, not minor trouble, but jail time of five years and a fine of Rs 5 million...

Naila Inayat

On 5 August morning, as India was in Chak De mode, watching its hockey team bag a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, Pakistan was in silent mode. Or was it. There was a lot of confusion among Pakistanis, because at 9am they had to be silent but

decision was announced by the interior minister of Pakistan Sheikh Rasheed, who has been in prime form in the last 10 days, sometimes riding a horse to nowhere and at others rowing his boat towards the "Kashmir banega Paki-

historic decision was to stand each Friday, which even the prime minister could not honour. Never forget, Kashmir is Pakistan's jugular 'vain' Ground reality of 'project internationalisation' of Kashmir has been different. If 2019 re-

dia. You wish! Now 2021 wouldn't be all for nothing, like we said nothing was the same. And as a result, Halloween is being celebrated, not observed, early in Pakistan this year with a special guest. A road crossing in Islamabad was adorned with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poster with him in a Halloween costume of a Dracula. "Modi destroyer of peace, if you agree, press horn," the poster urged those driving by. Such thoughtfulness only in the name of Kashmir. The government wants Pakistanis to honk till the sound reaches the Indian PM. Can you hear us Modi? Now, long gone are the days of dreaming to conquer India or aiming to flutter the Pakistani flag in Srinagar. Now, just honk on a red light and win Kashmir's freedom. World might think this is some joke but this is as serious as the time when Modi and Abhinandan debuted together on a poster in Lahore last October. Pakistan is serious to reiterate that Kashmir is not an integral part of India and 5 August remains like the rest of the 364 days of the year. Don't ever buy into the statement of any Pakistani minister who says that Pakistan wasn't much bothered about Article 370 to start with, but then spent two years protesting it. Let it be clear that India's Constitution is of importance, thus the public display of affection. When the PM says that once Kashmiris decide to become part of Pakistan after plebiscite, they can become independent - a third option that he often refers to. He definitely means what he says, so we shall wait another few decades for that to suffice. After all, Khan's successful foreign policy revolves around two issues: Modi not taking his calls, Biden not calling him up.

WHO is right, we need Covid vaccines for all first, not booster shots for the rich

Max Nisen

A growing number of wealthy countries including Israel and Germany are now launching or making plans for Covid booster-shot initiatives for parts of their populations amid evidence of waning immunity among some of the vaccinated. That's prompted the World Health Organization to call for a moratorium on top-up shots through September or until all countries are at least 10% vaccinated. In the U.S., boosters aren't officially allowed, but people are going out and getting them on their own. The WHO has it right - the priority should be first vaccinations as long as supplies are limited and there's a huge global disparity in protection. Existing data suggests the vast majority of those who are vaccinated don't need a booster yet. Rolling third doses out broadly at this point is an ethically questionable, potentially dangerous and ineffective way of fighting the pandemic. The booster push is being fueled by the spread of the highly transmissible delta variant and evidence that it reduces vaccine protection that may already decline over time. But even if the effectiveness of mRNA vaccines against symptomatic infection with delta is about 60% (which is a conservative guess given varied estimates from different countries), shots clearly still offer a substantial degree of protection against even mild disease. And they are holding up exceptionally well on the most crucial measures: protection against severe disease, death and hos-

pitalization. Others may be motivated by recent data suggesting that vaccinated people who get an unlikely delta breakthrough infection may be more likely to spread the virus because of high viral loads. The reality is vaccinated people remain much less likely to get infected and when they are, they may be less likely to transmit it. They also tend to clear the virus from their systems faster, so they are likely contagious for a shorter period if they are at all. The data could eventually change, but most boosters are tough to justify at this point. Boosters likely offer only a modest increase in protection against infection, mild disease

the moral question, boosters are an exceptionally inefficient way of stopping spread or cutting deaths given that the unvaccinated are the ones most prone to both of these things. It will take many more boosters to have the equivalent effect of even a small number of initial courses. Vaccine supplies are limited and will be for some time, even with stepped-up donations from wealthy nations, so every booster shot effectively comes at the expense of a potential first vaccination. The costs of widespread booster shots could be very high and not just in lives in the developing world. Continuing to allow the virus to run rampant increases the chances that a variant will de-



and transmission, and only a limited reduction in the already small risk of a severe case. Both effects pale in comparison to the benefit of initial vaccination, especially when it comes to severe disease and death. There's a clear ethical and efficacy advantage for first doses, especially because many developing nations haven't vaccinated their highest-risk populations or health workers. Moreover, the risk of dying of Covid is heightened in poorer countries because they have weaker health-care infrastructure and less access to oxygen and treatments. Even if one ignores

velop that's much more adept at evading vaccine protection or poses a greater risk to kids. That will extend the pandemic for everybody. Even if that's not the case, continuing waves of outbreaks will do lasting economic harm that the whole world will feel. Very limited booster use in the immuno-compromised and older populations, where vaccines don't work as well, is more justifiable. But even in those groups, the case will be a whole lot stronger when a much larger portion of the world has a chance at a first dose. There needs to be a very high bar for broader use.



they also had to honk and create a lot of noise on Kashmir. Pakistan doesn't know what to do. Stay silent or make noise? At 9am, Pakistan Standard Time, everyone in the country woke up only to remain silent for a good 60 seconds. Nothing was the same after that. You'd wonder how. Well, even we still don't know how. But we do know why. On the second anniversary of the 5 August revocation of Article 370 by India that bifurcated Kashmir into two Union territories and ended its special status, the government of Pakistan announced to give India a silent treatment and now you know how. It was decided that a one-minute silence will be observed and traffic will be halted, in solidarity with Kashmir. The

stan" shore. Who knows it might happen sooner than later. Remember, you first read it here. The move to remain quiet was rather surprising, considering that the positive results of Pakistan's one-minute silence of August 2020 still haven't been shared with us. Though one can guess the outcome would have been dangerously positive, hence the repeat telecast. Detractors may complain that silence of two years from the Imran Khan government was enough then why burden oneself with one-minute hush. The opposition leaders have repeatedly, in the past two years, labelled the Khan government as saudagar (merchant) of Kashmir, for having not done "enough" for its cause. The government's

sulted in black day, black display pics, emotive India ja ja Kashmir se nikal ja anthems, standing for 30 minutes in the sun, then 2020 was all about taking the Kashmir solidarity up a notch - by making a new map, claiming Kashmir as Pakistan and even the state of Jughadh, renaming Kashmir highway in Islamabad as Srinagar highway and little bit more of same: the singing, walking and of course tweeting. The map business was taken very seriously by the government as it still periodically sends SMS that not using the 'correct' map could get you in trouble, not minor trouble, but jail time of five years and a fine of Rs 5 million. Hope these millions aren't the same as PM Khan's miscounted "1 billion and 300 million" people of In-

Investment options to earn higher returns compared to bank savings account

Mumbai, August 8:

If you wish to know as to where to invest for the short term in India, there are several options available for you. Where to invest for the short term in India, investment options, earn higher returns, bank savings account, debt fund categories. Do not compromise on safety even when parking funds for short term and also keep an eye on the taxation aspect. Need for funds may arise anytime. Keeping this fact in mind, most people look for avenues to park money for a short duration even if the returns are lower. For meeting short-term goals and for maintaining enough cash to meet any financial exigency, you also need to have an emergency fund handy. If you wish to know as to where to invest for the short term in India, there are several options available for you. The returns may still be higher in them, than what your savings account may be offering, of around 3 per cent. Overall, there are some investment options that carry fixed returns while in others, the returns are linked to the market and keep fluctuating. One

thing that you need to ensure is that you do not choose any equity-linked investment for short-term needs. For short-term goals, always keep away from equity-backed products such as equity mutual funds or shares. equity, equity in-

subscription opens on Monday. Among the investment options that provide fixed returns are fixed deposits (FDs), company deposits, post office term deposits etc. You can park money in bank FD from 7 days to up to 12

high effective returns is there in debt funds compared to fixed-income products. Within the debt funds there are several categories, some of which suit short term needs - liquid funds, ultra-short duration funds, and money mar-

fund: Investments are made into debt and money market instruments where the maturity of the underlying securities is between 3 months and 6 months. Low duration fund: The investment is made into debt and money market instruments where the maturity of the underlying securities is between 6 months and 12 months. Money market fund: The investment is made into money market instruments where the underlying securities have a maturity of up to 1 year. Floater Fund: An open ended debt scheme predominantly investing in floating rate instruments. Current, these funds are looking attractive as far as returns are concerned. Medium to Long Duration Fund: Such funds have investment in Debt and Money Market instruments such that the Macaulay duration of the portfolio is between 4-7 years. Do not compromise on safety even when parking funds for short term and also keep an eye on the taxation aspect. Remember, the funds invested in short term investments may have to be redeemed at short notice and thus know how many days will it take for the funds to hit your bank account before investing in them.



vestment, trading, investment, stock markets, market volatility, bull market, bear market, timing the market, market correction, Peter Lynch, Warren Buffett. Timing the market vs staying invested: What matured investors prefer? SGB Scheme V Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series V: Issue price fixed at Rs 4,790/gm;

months for short term needs or in the post office 1-year term deposit. Bank FD schemes may also be looked at for parking funds for goals that are around 3 years away. Apart from them, there are debt fund options in which there is no assurance of returns but the funds can be accessed at short notice. The potential to generate

ket funds. Of the 16 debt fund categories, making the right choice is important as some of them could be more volatile than the others. Some of the debt funds that you may explore are: Liquid fund: Here, the investment is made into debt and money market securities with maturity of the underlying securities up to 91 days. Ultra-short duration

Covid-19 vaccine: Serum, Novavax to file for emergency use authorisation, applies to DCGI for approval

Mumbai, August 8:

SII has committed to supply 200 million doses of the Novavax vaccine between September and December 2021. Novavax said they were on track to achieve 100 million dose monthly capacity by the end of the third quarter of 2021 and 150 mil-

come countries. Serum Institute of India (SII) and US biotechnology company Novavax on Friday applied for emergency use authorisation to the Drugs Controller General of India to launch Covid-19 vaccine Covovax in India. Novavax is also filing for a WHO emergency use listing this

commercialising the vaccine in India. SII has got exclusive rights for the vaccine in India and non-exclusive rights during the pandemic period in all countries excluding upper-middle/high-income countries. Covid-19 vaccination in India: Covid-19: India's cumulative vaccine coverage crosses 50-crore mark

billion doses to the COVAX facility. The European Commission has also placed an advance order of 200 million doses. SII would be supplying to COVAX countries. SII began manufacturing the Covovax Covid-19 vaccine in June at its Manjari facility in Pune. The Covovax is expected to be launched in the country this September after regulator approvals. The grant of EUL by the WHO would be needed to start SII's exports to the COVAX Facility. SII has committed to supply 200 million doses of the Novavax vaccine between September and December 2021. Novavax said they were on track to achieve 100 million dose monthly capacity by the end of the third quarter of 2021 and 150 million dose monthly capacity by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021. A Novavax statement said they had filed regulatory submissions in partnership with SII for emergency use authorisation in multiple markets, including Indonesia and Philippines. They expect to complete regulatory filing with the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the third quarter of 2021. Filing is also ex-

pected in Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as the USFDA in fourth quarter of 2021. Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine is a recombinant nanoparticle protein-based vaccine that is stored at 2° - 8° Celsius, enabling the use of existing vaccine supply and cold chain channels. The vaccination regimen calls for two 0.5 ml doses given intramuscularly 21 days apart. The Novavax vaccine trials in UK demonstrated efficacy of 96.4% against the original virus strain, 86.3% against the Alpha variant and 89.7% efficacy overall. There was a 100% protection against moderate and severe disease, 91.0% efficacy among high-risk populations, 92.6% efficacy against Variants of Concern/Variants of Interest and 100% efficacy against variants. Novavax also announced that the Covid-19 vaccine booster data demonstrated a four-fold increase in neutralising antibody levels. A single booster dose at six months increased wild-type neutralising antibodies more than four-fold, the company said. There was a six-fold increase in antibodies to Delta variant compared to primary vaccination series.



lion dose monthly capacity by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021. SII has got exclusive rights for the vaccine in India and non-exclusive rights during the pandemic period in all countries excluding upper-middle/high-in-

month. Novavax would be manufacturing and distributing 350 million doses, while SII will manufacture and distribute 1.1 billion doses to low and middle-income countries. As per the agreement, SII would be

Enforcement Directorate (ED) files money laundering case in fake Covid testing during Kumbh; conducts raids. Novavax has entered into advance purchase agreement with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to provide 1.1

Reserve Bank of India gives corporate borrowers 6 more months to meet debt recast guidelines

Mumbai, August 8:

Vivek Iyer, partner and national leader-financial services risk advisory, Grant Thornton Bharat, said, "We need to be patient and study how the coming few months pan out. Since economic data comes out with a lag, the extra time would allow banks to make a sharper assessment. "Experts also pointed out that RBI had given the relaxations as the earnings of companies were impacted due to the second wave of Covid-19. Experts also pointed out that RBI had given the relaxations as the earnings of companies were impacted due to the second wave of Covid-19. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday allowed corporate borrowers six more months to meet certain operational thresholds outlined by the KV

Kamath committee under Covid-19 debt recast scheme. The relaxation has been provided by the central bank upon recognising the adverse impact of second Covid wave on revival of businesses. The financial parameters were earlier required to be met till March 31, 2022, by companies that took the benefit of the debt recast scheme. "Recognising the adverse impact of the second wave of Covid-19 and the resultant difficulties on revival of businesses and in meeting the operational parameters, it has been decided to defer the target date for meeting the specified thresholds in respect of the above four parameters to October 1, 2022," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday. On comparing the results of banks from the pre-Covid days with

their numbers in March 2021, one can see an improvement in all the parameters with regard to the capital adequacy ratio, Jain said. RBI monitoring stress in retail, MSME segments: Deputy governor MK Jain. The loan assets under management fell by Rs 145 crore q-o-q as the company decided to go slow on non-gold business. Muthoot Finance reports 14% rise in Q1 consolidated net. Last September, the Kamath commit-

tee had recommended financial ratios for 26 sectors that had to be factored in by lending institutions while finalising a resolution plan for a borrower. Of these parameters, the thresholds in respect of total debt to EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) ratio, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio and average debt service coverage ratio are related to operational perfor-

mance of the company. The 26 sectors specified by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included automobiles, power, tourism, cement, chemicals, gems and jewellery, logistics, mining, manufacturing, real estate, and shipping, among others. According to bankers, the move by RBI will address the difficulties faced by businesses in their revival. SS Mallikarjuna Rao, MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB), said deferral for achievement of financial parameters under Resolution Framework 2.0 will address the revival difficulties faced by businesses in meeting the operational parameters. Experts also pointed out that RBI had given the relaxations as the earnings of companies were impacted due to the second wave of Covid-19.



Lok Sabha passes Bill, retrospective tax law on its way out

Mumbai, August 8:

Jaitley had said in the House that the law could not be amended at that time as the matter was sub judice, Sitharaman recalled. The government was not in a position to make legislative changes as the legal processes were to be concluded, she said. In the case of Cairn Energy, the The Permanent Court of Justice at The Hague had asked the Indian government to return the value of the shares it had seized and sold, tax refund withheld and dividend confiscated to enforce the retrospective tax demand. The Lok Sabha on Friday passed 'The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021' that seeks to amend the Income Tax Act to effectively withdraw tax demands made by India on 17 firms including Vodafone and Cairn Energy, on the capital gains from deals prior to May 28, 2012. These demands were made on the premise that the deal values were impacted by substantial underlying Indian

taxes. "RBI Rates Unchanged: RBI ignores inflation, says it will support nascent growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Tap opportunities in post-Covid world to take exports to \$400 billion: PM Modi. While the move is hailed by taxpayers and tax experts as bold and pragmatic, the fact remains that the NDA government has hitherto been seen pursuing these tax cases aggressively; it even raised Rs 7,900 crore from Cairn by seizing and selling the UK-based energy company's stake in its erstwhile India unit, confiscating dividends and withholding refunds. This apparently reflected an ambivalence if not a reversal of the policy articulated by the government. Of course, the amounts collected under retrospective tax claims - about Rs 8,100 crore - will now be refunded sans interest. Jaitley had said in the House that the law could not be amended at that time as the matter was sub judice, Sitharaman recalled. The government was not in a position to make legislative changes as the legal

tax and we preserve that right. Still we don't accept that the sovereign right of Parliament is being arbitrated in foreign courts. But we won't enforce tax demands based on retrospective change and amount collected would be refunded without interest". In the case of Cairn Energy, the The Permanent Court of Justice at The Hague had asked the Indian government to return the value of the shares it had seized and sold, tax refund withheld and dividend confiscated to enforce the retrospective tax demand. With the government refusing to honour the award, the firm moved court in the US to seize assets of Air India. It also got an order from a French court to freeze 20 Indian properties in Paris to recover \$1.2 billion-plus interest and penalties. The move clubbed India with nations such as Pakistan and Venezuela that have faced similar actions by entities seeking enforcement of awards. According to the Bill passed by the Lower House, the retrospective provisions aren't to be technically withdrawn but



assets. Finance Minister described the 2012 legislation, which is virtually being invalidated with the clarificatory amendment, as both 'bad in law' and 'bad for the investors' sentiments. She said the government's move was towards fulfilment of the promise made by the ruling BJP, prime minister Narendra Modi and former finance minister Arun Jaitley as early as in 2014, that the controversial piece of legislation introduced by the UPA-II government in 2012 would be reviewed, as "we don't believe in retrospective

processes were to be concluded, she said. Both Vodafone and Cairn secured arbitration orders in their favour in September and December 2020, respectively. Sitharaman said once the two lawsuits were settled, the government had started consultations with various stakeholders, including the law ministry. "Now, we have come up with this Bill at the next available opportunity," she said. Finance secretary TV Somanathan said on Thursday: "We are consistent with earlier position - we have the sovereign right to

their application would be curtailed subject to riders like withdrawal of the litigation, including those under arbitration and bilateral investment treaties by the taxpayers concerned. Also, it is being legislatively sanctioned that no tax demand will be raised in future on the basis of the 2012 retrospective amendment for any indirect transfer of Indian assets. Of course, the capital gains tax on indirect transfer will continue to apply for all transactions post the 2012 amendment.

Govt offers 21 oil/gas blocks in OALP-6 auctions

Mumbai, August 8:

This will be the third round of OALP auctions after the Cabinet, in February 2019, amended the revenue-sharing model for hydrocarbon exploration and capped the government's revenue share at 50%. The deadline for bid submission is October 6. A sharp surge in aluminium prices resulted in an all-time high Ebitda in the India aluminium business, which jumped 142% to Rs 2,352 crore during the quarter. Hindalco reports highest ever quarterly

bon exploration and capped the government's revenue share at 50%. The deadline for bid submission is October 6. A sharp surge in aluminium prices resulted in an all-time high Ebitda in the India aluminium business, which jumped 142% to Rs 2,352 crore during the quarter. Hindalco reports highest ever quarterly

(ONGC) was the only bidder for eight blocks while Oil India was the sole bidder for two blocks. For the smallest oil field offered in OALP-5, the director general of hydrocarbons (DGH) received bids from Invirene Petrodyne and ONGC. No private player had participated in the fourth OALP round where all the



net of Rs 2,787 crore as metal prices shine. On comparing the results of banks from the pre-Covid days with their numbers in March 2021, one can see an improvement in all the parameters with regard to the capital adequacy ratio, Jain said. RBI monitoring stress in retail, MSME segments: Deputy governor MK Jain. In the fifth round of OALP auctions where 11 oilfields were offered, only one private firm and two state-owned companies had participated. The Union government on Friday launched the sixth round of hydrocarbon blocks auction under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP), offering 21 blocks spread across approximately 35,346 square kilometres. Investments of around \$300-400 million are expected from the round in these oil/gas blocks. This will be the third round of OALP auctions after the Cabinet, in February 2019, amended the revenue-sharing model for hydrocar-

seven blocks offered were awarded to ONGC. In the first three rounds Vedanta was awarded 51 blocks and one block went to the joint venture between BP Exploration and Reliance Industries. A total of 105 exploration blocks measuring an area of 1,56,580 square kilometers have been awarded in the first five OALP bid rounds, of which exploration activities are being actively carried out in 89 blocks. Commercial production of crude oil has not commenced from OALP blocks so far.

Contd. From Page 1

Ayush Ministers visit and Laud the

in their lingua-franca. While appreciating the wholesome approach of treatment at AIIA, the Minister of State Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai advised to deepen the focus on integrated and holistic treatment. Both the Ministers visited almost all major departments and interacted in detail with faculty and students on ongoing treatment and research facilities. The unique feature of AIIA's Panchkarm for Children and Panchkarma for the eyes was also appreciated by the Ministers. After visiting the Ayurvedic Dentistry Unit the Ministers observed Ayurvedic Surgery facilities. At the Blood Bank, the Cabinet Minister advised to further deepen research on auto immune diseases and Leukaemia. At Pharmacology Lab, he also advised Institute to work rigorously on enhancing the quality standards of Ayurvedic Medicine. The Ministers also lauded Ayurvedic Herbal Fumigation practice of AIIA. Focus of both the Ministers was on competency and practical knowledge. After inaugurating the Multi-Purpose Yoga Hall, the shri Sonowal asked the students to demonstrate some complex Yogasanas and later appreciated the performance of students. The Ministers were shown a short film on AIIA, focused on scientific clinical studies during COVID times. They expressed satisfaction over the activities of the Institute and COVID Health Centre and COVID Testing Centre. Special Secretary from the Ministry of Ayush, Shri P. K. Pathak and Adviser, Ayush, Dr. Manoj Nesari were also present during the event.

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish

all stakeholders ranging from the government, non-government to private sector to fulfill their responsibilities towards the children". The Governor also said, "We all know that today's children are tomorrow's leaders. However, many a time because of some reasons, childhood, which is the formative period of everybody's life is ruined. Assam has 41 per cent of its population who are children and it is our prime responsibility to act responsibly and create an environment for their holistic development". In this context, he, however, hailed the timely intervention of Assam Police of rescuing 40 children of Chirang district from Sikkim very recently. He said that the rescued children were reunited with their parents and the government has taken special steps for the education and upbringing of the rescued children as per the recommendations of the Child Welfare Committees. Prof. Mukhi also lauded the initiative of UTSAH for creating this beautiful video poem. He also thanked Partha Sarathi Mahanta for this thought-provoking poem. He hoped that the message of the poem would help everybody to realize the pains and sufferings of every children and motivate every single individual to fight against the ills of child trafficking and child abuse in the society. The Governor on this occasion also reiterated that, for securing the future of the children every individual of the society should take a pledge and commit themselves to the task of securing a better future of the children. The First Lady of Assam Prem Mukhi, Commissioner of Police Guwahati city Harmeet Singh, IGP, Vigilance and AC Surendra Kumar, Secretary Home and Political Digantha Barah, Writer of the poem DIG Partha Sarathi Mahanta, Commandant 4th APBN Indrani Baruah, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Biswajit Pegu, Chief UNIEF Assam Madhulika Jonathan, Founder UTSAH Miguel Das Queah along with a host of other dignitaries were present in the occasion.

Indian Expat Vaccinated With

It was only after receiving Covaxin that he came to know that it is not approved by the Saudi government. Had the authorities informed the public about the non-recognition of Covaxin earlier, he would not have taken it. He never knew his decision would put his job abroad in jeopardy," read the petition.

Taliban Assassinate Head of

The Afghan and US militaries have stepped up air strikes in their fight against the insurgents in a string of cities, and the Taliban said Tuesday's Kabul raid was their response. Fighting in Afghanistan's long-running conflict has intensified since May, when foreign forces began the final stage of a withdrawal due to be completed later this month. The Taliban already control large portions of the countryside, and are now challenging government forces in several provincial capitals.

Assam DTO (R&L) collects over

during the first four months of the current financial year. This is quite an achievement taking into account the Covid-19 pandemic and strictly adhering to Covid-appropriate behaviour — hand sanitising, wearing of facial mask and maintaining social distance — while discharging their assigned responsibilities. Incidentally, Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswas Sarma called upon the transport and other departments to collect public revenue from time to time. Besides, Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary directed, through a video conference, the transport officers of all the districts of the state to continue collection of public revenue to meet the intended target. In the month of July of the current financial year 2021-22, Rs 18,98,34,77.00 crores public revenue was collected. From 1st April to 31st July the collection of revenue was Rs 58,67,74,222.00 crores. In comparison to four months' revenue collection during financial year 2020-21, this time the public revenue collection was more than Rs 31.72 crores. The increase in collection was 120.33%. according to DTO Gautam Das, along with revenue collection with support from various NGOs, the Assam transport department also organised camps to vaccinate public transport drivers, handymen, motor vehicle inspectors, enforcement inspectors, city bus owners and their families.

Leads Connect Gets CCE Mandate

Private Limited informed that "getting a mandate to conduct CCE for different zones of Assam is a huge achievement for us an organization, and we are very excited and prepared to deliver the project successfully". He further added, "that it is now indispensable to develop measures and frameworks for climate resilient agriculture for addressing the issues of food insecurity. Therefore, the need of using advance technology such as geospatial technology and artificial intelligence along with comprehensive field observations, are important. Performing these studies with sheer accuracy and precision, are keys, in providing people centric solutions besides necessity of upscaling developed solutions. So, the research unit of organization will also be utilizing this opportunity to further their research and development activities for developing quality products, in the context of climate resilient agriculture and disaster management, as these aspects are now needed to be studied in sync." Leads Connect, with its cutting-edge technologies such as Remote Sensing and GIS, Numerical Modeling, artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics frameworks, will co-observe the CCEs conducted by state Government of Assam. This pilot study will start from September 2021 and will be done for Kharif 2021. Currently, the agritech is engaged in delivering projects in more than 100 districts of India and has Pan-India presence backed by comprehensive presence of field team and well-equipped research lab. Leads Connect is an analytics company with core focus on Agri-technology driven Data Analysis and Modelling, Risk Management & Financial Services. It aims to connect farm value chain for enabling sustainable, scalable, and profitable agri-business ecosystem. Besides the core focus areas, the organisation has been engaged in research and development-based analytics related to climate and hazard, Landscape, Biodiversity, City, and Geospatial analytics. Leads Connect has delivered projects related to crop cutting experiments (CCEs), Remote Sensing based Crop Health Monitoring, Crop Acreage, Crop Yield estimates, Risk and Claim Management Services to various central and state organisations, insurers, and reinsurers. In addition, they have delivered projects pertaining to GP level yield estimation using technology. It has used machine learning algorithms and satellite remote sensing analytics to develop framework for yield estimation at GP level. They are currently monitoring CCEs for PMFBY in more than 100 districts across India along with Geotagging of Agriculture Infrastructures in 125 districts for NABCONS, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD.

US urges citizens to immediately

centre near a mosque in Kabul."The US Embassy urges US citizens to leave Afghanistan immediately using available commercial flight options," the embassy said amid the worsening situation. The US Embassy further stated that it can provide a repatriation loan to its nationals who cannot afford to purchase a ticket for a commercial flight to the United States. The US state department has maintained the travel advisory for Afghanistan at Level 4, the highest of all, owing to crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, armed conflict, and coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. Teen diving sensation is now China's darling "Domestic flights and ground transportation routes outside of Kabul are severely limited and subject to cancellation or closure," the US embassy added. White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told a media briefing Friday that the Biden administration is "closely tracking" and is "concerned about" the reports of atrocities and retaliatory killings of civilians in Taliban-controlled areas. Psaki, however, stressed that the US will complete its troops' withdrawal. "The President made clear: After 20 years at war, it's time for American troops to come home. And as he said at the time, the status quo was not an option. The Taliban was prepared to attack US and Nato troops after May 1st, which was the deadline for our departure," she added.

Assamese film God on the

held during the event, this will be a celebration of diversity and the best of Indian cinema in all its forms. "God on the balcony" starring Harish Khanna and directed by Biswajeet Bora and produced by Nurul Sultan will compete with some extraordinary films of 2021 such as Ludo directed by Anurag Basu, the Vidya Balan starrer Sherni directed by Amit Masurkar, Sooraaai Potru (Tamil) that is starred and produced by Suriya and directed by Sudha Kongara. Another key highlight is that the Best Film winner automatically gets a nomination nod under the Best Asian Film category at the annual prestigious AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards). "God on the balcony" will have its Australian premiere on August 21 at HOYTS Docklands theatre at Melbourne and the "Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2021" award ceremony will take place virtually on the same day.

NGO moves SC against Rakesh Asthana's appointment as Delhi Police chief

New Delhi, August 8 : An NGO Friday moved the Supreme Court challenging the appointment of Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner and the extension of his service by one year. The 1984-batch IPS officer, serving as the director general of Border Security Force, was appointed Delhi Police Commissioner on July 27, four days before his superannuation on July 31. He will have a tenure of one year as police chief of the national capital. The NGO, Centre for Public Interest Litigation, urged the apex court to direct the central government to produce the July 27 order it issued, approving the inter-cadre deputation of Asthana from Gujarat cadre to AGMUT cadre. The petition, moved by advocate Prashant Bhushan, also urged the court to set aside the Centre's order to extend Asthana's service period. It termed the extension of his tenure as well as appointment as illegal as he did not have a residual tenure of mandatory six months of service at the time of his appointment as Commissioner of Police since he was to retire within 4 days. Issue direction to the Union of India to initiate fresh steps for appointing Commissioner of Police, Delhi, strictly in accordance with the directions issued by this court earlier, it said. The petition said that just four days before Asthana was due to retire on his superannuation, on July 31, 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs granted him an inter-cadre transfer from his parent cadre of Gujarat to the AGMUT (cadre for Arunachal Pradesh, Goa Mizoram other Union Territories including Delhi) and granted him an extension of service for one year beyond the date of his superannuation, and further appointed him as the Commissioner of Police, Delhi. It said both the orders passed by the central government and ACC on July 27 are completely illegal as it violated the directions issued by the SC in the Prakash Singh case of 2006. It also claimed that the order violated the Fundamental Rule 56(d) which stipulates that that no government servant shall be granted extension in service beyond the age of retirement of sixty years. The central government did not have the power under Rule 3 of All India Services (Conditions of Service- Residuary Matters) Rules', to relax Rule 16(1) of the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, in order to give extension of service to Rakesh Asthana, the PIL claimed. It further claimed that the Centre's order violated the policy regarding Inter-Cadre deputation of All India Service Officers. The impugned orders are in clear and blatant breach of the directions passed by this court in the Prakash Singh case as Asthana did not have a minimum residual tenure of six months, no UPSC panel was formed for appointment of Delhi Police Commissioner, and the criteria of having a minimum tenure of two years has been ignored, it said. The petition also claimed that the High-Powered Committee comprising the Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition, in its meeting held on May 24, 2021 rejected the Central government's attempt to appoint the same IPS officer (Asthana) as the CBI Director on the basis of the six-month rule' as laid down in Prakash Singh case. The appointment of Asthana to the post of Commissioner of Police, Delhi must be set aside on the same principle, it said. Earlier on August 3, a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana had said that the contempt plea of lawyer ML Sharma against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for appointing Asthana as the Delhi Police Chief in alleged violation of a judgement would be posted for hearing if the registry has numbered it. According to the petition, the Prime Minister, who is the head of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, and the Home Minister jointly decided and appointed Asthana as the Commissioner. On July 3, 2018, the top court had issued a slew of directions on police reforms in the country and ordered all states and Union Territories not to appoint any police officer as acting Director General of Police (DGP). It had also directed all states to send the names of senior police officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for being considered as probable candidates to be appointed as DGPs or Police Commissioners as the case may be. The UPSC, in turn, will prepare a list of three most suitable officers and the states will be free to appoint one of them as police chief, it had said. The bench had also said that endeavour should be made that a person, who had been selected and appointed as DGP, has reasonable period of service left. These directions were issued on interim pleas which were filed in the disposed of PIL, titled as Prakash Singh versus Union of India. Prior to this, the apex court, deciding the PIL filed by two former DGPs Prakash Singh and N K Singh in 2006, had given a slew of directions, including setting up of a state security commission to ensure that the government does not exercise unwarranted influence on the police.

Fraud By Covid Labs Led To Positivity Error During Kumbh: Probe Agency

New Delhi, August 8 : The Enforcement Directorate on Friday searched the homes and offices of the top executives of five diagnostics firms for alleged money laundering in connection with a fake COVID-19 testing scam during the Kumbh Mela in Uttarakhand. The Enforcement Directorate started investigation after a case was filed by the Uttarakhand Police. These labs were given a contract by Uttarakhand government for conducting rapid antigen test and RT-PCR test during the Kumbh Mela. They allegedly did not carry out the required number of tests, but made fake en-

tries for Covid testing and raised bogus bills. Explaining how these labs allegedly ran the fraud, the Enforcement Directorate said they used a single mobile number, address and form for several people and inflated the number of Covid testing without actually testing anyone. Some of the names in the Covid testing record have not even visited the Kumbh Mela, the probe agency said. Due to false negative testing by these labs, the positivity rate in Haridwar at that time was shown at 0.18 per cent, while the actual was 5.3 per cent. The Enforcement

Directorate said it has seized incriminating documents, bogus bills, laptops, mobile phones and property documents. The companies raided by the probe agency are Novus Path Labs, DNA Labs, Max Corporate Services, Dr Lal Chandani Labs and Nalwa Laboratories. The homes of their top executives in Dehradun, Haridwar, Delhi, Noida and Hisar were searched, the probe agency said in a statement. The state government has already given them a part payment of ₹ 3.4 crore, the probe agency said in the statement.

Where do Indians want to save? Data shows provident fund remains popular, even with the rich

New Delhi, August 8 : How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected personal (household) savings? There is a trade-off between current liquidity and locking money away in assets. In our last CEDA-CMIE Bulletin we took a longer look at how intention to save has changed from January 2017 to April 2021, instead of zooming in narrowly around the pandemic. We based our analysis on CMIE data on households' intention to save. We focused on intention to save in gold, real estate, and business. We saw that there was a downturn in intention to save that started in 2017 but was made worse by the pandemic. In this part, we examine life insurance, provident fund, fixed deposits, mutual funds, and listed shares as instruments for a household to invest its savings in. MIE provides us the percentage of surveyed households who intend to save in a particular instrument (or avenue) for example gold or real estate or fixed deposits, in the next 120 days from the date of survey. The CMIE data provides these percentages for all households as well as broken down by slabs of annual household incomes. Here too we show year on year changes on a quarterly basis as the CMIE data is nationally representative on a quarterly basis. When we look at data for all five instruments, we find a broad decline in intention to save in life insurance, and fixed deposits. There has been a sharp decline in the popularity of fixed deposits since Apr-Jun 2018 while life insurance has seen a decline after the Covid-19 pandemic hit India (Jan-Mar 2020). We also see an increase in the popularity of provident fund to save among all income groups while mutual funds, and listed shares have maintained a consistent level of interest between Jan-Mar 2017 and Apr 2021. depicts the intention to save in life insurance over the next 120 days for all income groups and all quarters starting Jan-Mar 2017. We see a similar pattern in the increase and decrease in the popularity of life insurance as an investment avenue across all income groups over this period (Jan-Mar 2017 to Apr 2021). Life insurance hit the peak of popularity in Jul-Sep 2018 (for all income groups) and has seen a steady decline since then. The sharpest decline in intention to save in life insurance is seen in Apr-Jun 2020, the first quarter after India was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. It recovered slightly in the two following quarters and then declined again after Jan-Mar 2021 when India was hit by the second wave of the pandemic. The decline in intention to save in life insurance could perhaps be attributed to reduction in household earnings because of the Covid pandemic. We plot the intention to invest in mutual funds by all income groups. For all income groups combined, mutual funds hit the peak of their popularity as a saving avenue in Jan-Mar 2020. This could be attributed to the sharp increase in interest in this category for those households earning more than INR 1 million per annum. Mutual funds became more and more popular for this income group between Jul-Sep 2017 and Jan-Mar 2020. We plot the intention to save in listed shares for all income groups between Jan-Mar 2017 and Apr 2021. The story of listed shares popularity echoes that of mutual funds. They remain of interest largely to those households earning between INR 500,000 to a million or more per annum. For the households with income more than INR 1 million per annum, listed shares see a rise in popularity till Jan-Mar 2020 (just like mutual funds) and then see a dip after the first wave of Covid-19, and another dip after the second wave of the pandemic. As we noted in part 1 of this two-part series, high net worth individuals are under-represented in all household surveys, everywhere in the world. It is because of the difficulty in getting the super-rich to answer survey questions. CMIE data has some representation of households earning more than INR 1 million per annum. We look at fixed deposits as an investment avenue for responding households. Fixed deposits display an interesting trend in their popularity in this period (Jan-Mar 2017 to Apr 2021). While we see a general weakening of their popularity over this period, it is the reverse for the highest income group (households earning more than INR 1 million per annum). For all income groups combined, fixed deposits saw peak popularity as an investment avenue in Jan-Mar 2018 while for households earning more than INR 1 million per annum, the peak of popularity was seen in Oct-Dec 2018. Fixed deposits have remained relatively more popular since then for this income group even as its wider popularity has gone down substantially. The decline in popularity of fixed deposits could be attributed to the low interest rate regime of the RBI. With banks like SBI, and HDFC offering interest rates of only 4 to 6 percent on FDs, they have become less popular as an investment avenue. plots the intention to save in provident fund for all income groups. Unlike other saving/investment avenues, provident fund remains consistently popular. We observe that this is especially true for lower income households in the CMIE data. For the higher income groups (INR 500,000 to a million or more than INR 1 million per annum), provident fund has become more popular as a saving avenue in this period. The consistent popularity of PF could be attributed to its linkage with salaries (owing to job regulations). As contribution to PF is defined by regulation, it makes it harder to shift out of a provident fund plan. We have seen two dips in intention to save in all the savings instruments included in this bulletin. We observe the first sharp dip when India saw the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic, followed by a brief recovery, and then another sharp dip in the first quarter of 2021 when India was hit by the second wave of the pandemic. In part 1, we had observed that the downward trend in intention to save started before the Covid-19 pandemic but has been worsened by it. But here we note that unlike other saving instruments, for equity market linked instruments (listed shares or mutual funds), the intention to save has been growing over time in the pre-pandemic period. This is especially true for high income households. From the starting point of Jan-Mar 2017, we see a significantly higher share of households intend to invest in mutual funds, and listed shares in Apr 2021. This could partly be explained by rich households' greater tolerance for risk, or it could also be attributed to the performance of the equity markets in this period (Jan-Mar 2017 to Apr 2021). The S&P BSE Sensex has gone from 26,366 (closing on January 31, 2017) to 48,782 (closing, April 31, 2021). The keen interest shown by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the Indian market is credited as the reason for this stock market rally in India. India saw FII inflows of \$37.6 billion in 2020-21, the highest among emerging markets. The pandemic has also seen a rise in first time investors in the Indian stock markets which has driven them upwards. According to some experts, markets have been driven up by these 14.2 million new investors in 2020-21. They now account for 45 percent of trading turnover in the NSE.

Team GB rise to fourth in Olympic medal table after flurry of success

Tokyo, August 8:

A day of golden glory for Team GB at the Tokyo Olympics on Friday saw cyclist Laura Kenny become the first British female Olympian to triumph at three consecutive Games and Kate French win the modern pentathlon, while there were more medals in cycling, hockey and on the athletics



track. Laura Muir won silver in a thrilling 1500m final, a feat matched by Team GB's men's 4x100m relay team, while the women took bronze in the 4x100m final. All eyes were on Kenny at the Izu Velodrome, but she and Katie Archibald brushed off nerves to give a masterclass in the madison in a race hailed as this Games' greatest ride. They finished on 78 points, well ahead of Denmark in silver and the

Russian Olympic Committee in bronze. Glowing with pride and bursting with emotion after the race, Kenny - now the most successful female cyclist in Olympic history - could not keep the tears at bay as she spoke about her son Albie. "I have never missed him so much in all my life," she told the BBC. "It's so hard leaving him at home. To have Katie here - it feels like I am racing

in the modern pentathlon, after her dominant display destroyed a strong field with her concluding laser run performance at the Tokyo Stadium. The 30-year-old had never won an Olympic medal coming into these Games, but won gold by a clear margin after five and a half hours in a series of disciplines including fencing, swimming,

with my sister. I couldn't have done it without her." Katie Archibald and Laura Kenny during their medal ceremony. Shortly after Kenny made history in the velodrome Jack Carlin took bronze in the men's sprint, to go alongside his team sprint silver. Team GB have now won five cycling track medals, with more racing to come - including from Kenny. GB's second gold of the day belonged to French

show jumping, and target shooting after running at full pelt in the laser run. "I tried not to think too much about getting a medal," she told the BBC. "I'm so pleased I was able to hold it together. It's always been a dream and I can't believe it's come true." At the Oi Hockey stadium Great Britain's women won bronze, while Welsh boxer Lauren Price is now guaranteed at least a silver medal after winning her

middleweight semi-final. Friday's seven medals take the overall Team GB tally to 58, with 18 golds - leaving Britain fourth in the medal table as these Olympics enter the final straight. On the track, Laura Muir, who qualified as a vet in 2018, vanquished the memory of a series of near misses in other competitions to win a silver medal in the 1500m final with a personal best and a new national record of 3min 54.50sec. Kenya's defending champion Faith Kipyegon took gold with a new Olympic record - with Muir and a delighted, barefoot Kipyegon taking a lap of honour together. Sifan Hassan from the Netherlands took bronze. Gasping for breath, the British flag draped around her shoulders, Muir struggled to find the words to describe her emotions. "I've worked so hard, for so long," she eventually managed. The 28-year-old Scot has had a series of near misses in a series of world and Olympic finals, but had not made the podium until Tokyo. "I don't think I've ever been so scared, like someone was going to pass me and I was going to come fourth," she said. "I just gave it everything and I was tiring up so bad. But I thought just keep pushing, keep pushing." In the relays, Team GB's CJ Ujah, Nethanel Mitchell-Blake, Richard Kilty

and Zhanel Hughes won silver in the men's 4x100m relay final, missing out on gold by just a hundredth of a second, as they were pipped to the line by Italy - their fifth gold in athletics in the Games. There was a tense wait for Asha Philip, Imani-Lara Lansiquot, Dina Asher-Smith and Daryll Neita in the women's 4x100m final. They were forced to wait to celebrate their bronze after a review of their first changeover, which was finally confirmed to the team's delight. Asher-Smith's ambitions for individual success at the Olympics were knocked off course by a hamstring tear at the British trials in June. In Tokyo she missed out on a place in the 100m final and withdrew from the 200m. "I've got a bit of a mixed-emotions feeling because obviously I'm like, 'Aargh, I could have done this and this and we could have pushed for a different colour medal,'" she said. "But at the same time if I'm being honest, on a personal journey, I was on crutches six weeks ago and there was a less-than-10% chance I was going to be here. I worked incredibly hard and to come away with a medal here is honestly something I could not even have contemplated six weeks ago. Seven weeks ago? Absolutely. Six weeks ago? Not at all."

Rishabh Pant hits out in the drizzle but the rain could not dampen India's enthusiasm

London, August 8:

After their World Test Championship final in June, the India team had a six-week hiatus that allowed them to enjoy the delights of Britain. Some disappeared into the Scottish Highlands, others to England's hinterlands, and the youngest into the hipster dens of east London. Their break has clearly had a lasting impact: even on day three of the Test match, the holiday spirit has not quite left them. From first thing in the morning, when Rishabh Pant emerged for his flirtatious cameo, it was clear India's lower order were up for a good time. Jimmy Anderson had just wound up for his second over of the day when Pant smacked him through the covers for four, chasing him down the pitch like someone trying to shoo a cat off their lawn. Pant scurried out of the crease for singles that weren't there and hooked anything short. England must have thought that if the rest of the batters took this approach, they had a shot at a first-innings lead. Ravi Jadeja, in particular, looked at times like a walking wicket. There's laid-back, and then there's nearly getting run out when you've taken your gloves off and you're dithering around in the middle of the pitch. Unfortunately, the only thing England picked up from his carefree batting was an equally loose approach to fielding. The No 7 was soon outsourcing the settled KL Rahul. Just as Root had been for England, Rahul was the sole blob of Blu Tack doing everything in its adhesive power to stop the rest of the innings peeling off the wall. And where the lower order wanted their moment in the sun, Rahul spent much of the morning trying to get out of the rain. Anderson's first over to him was a proper tester and when the squalls came, Rahul was Mr Safety First,

turning towards the pavilion even before the umpires had made an official decision. His calmness at the crease counters the frequent criticism during his career that he can suffer from nerves in high-pressure situations. Rahul's part in this Test match was by no means assured until Mayank Agarwal was concussed in a net session on Monday; he played in the middle order in India's practice matches but it will be hard to dislodge him from the opener's spot now. He



has defended patiently and with confidence, waiting for the right balls to unfurl his favourite square drives. He could be even seen giving Jadeja a little talking to at moments after the latter's near run-out. It didn't dampen Jadeja's spirits too much. As soon as Anderson strayed on to middle stump, Jadeja picked the ball over fine leg for a mighty six into the stands. The crowd, preoccupied with their pints, didn't seem too interested in searching for the ball, and the fourth official had to run out with a shiny silver case of replacements. It was hard cheese for England, who had been working so hard to keep that one swinging. Jadeja was swinging, too. He went at Anderson's next delivery like a historical re-enactor wielding a mace; he missed, and the turbulence threatened to blow over the nearest fielder. When

Robinson replaced Anderson, Jadeja cut his very first ball for four to bring up his 50, and gave his swishing Zorro salute with his blade. Someone in the crowd attempted to replicate it with an umbrella. The India team applauded enthusiastically from the dressing room. India's tail has been one of their few obvious weaknesses in recent years. It let them down repeatedly in their last series in England and their Nos 9 to 11 have averaged 7.89 since the start of 2018.

Here, with India just 22 runs ahead when they lost both Rahul and Shardul Thakur, Jadeja went for broke, and his confidence was catching. The new ball flew off edges and over fielders, plopping down in safe spaces it had no business being. At one stage, Anderson was haplessly chasing down balls from Mohammed Shami all the way between mid-on and mid-off, and the one he actually caught dribbled down his front and on to the turf. As for Jasprit Bumrah, it augurs poorly for

England's batsmen that the bowler seemed to be having the time of his life. Consecutive deliveries from Sam Curran went for four, six, four - the six clubbed to the square leg boundary, where Dan Lawrence ended up starfishing in his entertaining but spectacularly undignified attempt to make the catch. Bumrah pumped his bat in the air. England's batsmen didn't really need help embarrassing themselves in the field: it was what they had been doing all day. At the other end of the wicket, Mohammed Siraj's efforts would have won him excellent scores in an air batting world championship. But they still annoyed Anderson, who had supposedly been brought on to mop things up - enough to earn the tailender a special shoulder brush at the end of an over. Bumrah, meanwhile, unleashed a perfectly respectable on-drive off Ollie Robinson and finished with 28 off 34 deliveries. His previous Test highlights with the bat have included four, six and a landmark 10 not out against New Zealand. The Great British Holiday lives on.

Mariner memories, a 148 break and the biggest sixes at Lord's

London, August 8:

Last week, we lost Paul Mariner. The striker made his name playing in Bobby Robson's brilliant Ipswich Town team of the late-70s and early-80s - here they are

brought in liberal quantities by Alja Tomljanovic and Jelena Ostapenko when they met in Wimbledon's third round. Here are the pleasantries in full.3) Though cricket sees more sixes than ever before, it's



beating Arsenal to win the 1978 FA Cup final, here he is discussing his memories of that day, and here's the win over AZ Alkmaar which clinched the 1981 UEFA Cup. Mariner also contested that year's goal-of-the-season competition, all of which is worth your time, but here's his entry; here's a hat-trick he scored in a 6-0 win over Manchester United, a game in which Town also missed three penalties; here's a goal against Hungary that qualified England for the 1982 World Cup; here's his winner in the 1982 Rous Cup match; and here's a career tribute.2) There's little better than sporting needle,

and only South American to take the famous claret jug - after betting £100 on himself at 70-1. Here he is telling that story, the one about him missing out on an 18-hole Masters play-off after signing an incorrectly-

New Zealand's Lydia Ko claims golf bronze, but Carrington misses out on fourth gold

Tokyo, August 8:

New Zealand's Lydia Ko has won a bronze medal in the women's Olympic golf tournament in Tokyo after a playoff against Mone Inami of Japan. Ko, who won silver in the Rio Games in 2016, bogeyed the first playoff hole to miss out on a repeat performance. She and Inami had come close to catching the American Nelly Korda, but she held on to finish 17 under par and win the gold after four rounds at Kasumigaseki Country Club in Saitama. Ko and Inami finished one shot behind on 16 under. The latest medal for New Zealand followed disappointment for Lisa Carrington when she and her teammates finished fourth in the K4 500m kayak race earlier on Saturday. New Zealand have now won seven golds, six silvers and seven bronze



medals and stand 11th in the medal table. Lisa Carrington had already cemented her status as one of the greatest Olympians of all time after she racked up a third gold of these Games and a fifth overall earlier in Tokyo. Carrington has five gold medals and one bronze in a remarkable run of success across three Olympics.

High-jump bromance, race-walk red cards and Lions series deciders

Tokyo, August 8:

Tokyo eye-candy: Australian swimming coach Dean Boxall loses control entirely after Ariarne Titmus beats Katie Ledecky to 400m freestyle gold. Mutaz Essa Barshim and Gianmarco Tamberi are deadlocked in the men's high jump final, so an official explains what happens next, but nope. Instead: "History, bro" for the rivals and firm friends Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands falls on the final lap of her 1500m heat. "Leaving her hopes of qualifying in tatters" - you might stupidly think. Meanwhile Peru's Angelo Caro Narvaez provides a key first in skateboarding's

Games bow. Today and tomorrow it's race-walkin' time. In 2000, Australia's Jane Saville prepares to enter Sydney's Olympic stadium with a comfortable cushion, and then... not so much. Four years ago at the world championships in London, China's Lu Xiuzhi - in the bronze medal position - is shown the red card five seconds before the finish. At Rio 2016, France's world-record holder Yohann Diniz was a man on a mission. Unfortunately he was also suffering what we'll tastefully describe as "intestinal problems". He led at halfway before suddenly stopping at the 33km mark. After some swift, subtle work with a sponge, he continued, only to suffer a shocking collapse.



And yet he batted away the attentions of officials to plough on, finishing eighth. More official-swatting to mark Thursday's men's 400m final: 29 years ago in Barcelona, Jim Redmond memorably gave his son Derek a helping hand. More one-lap memories from Michael Johnson at Atlanta 1996 (where he did this too), and then again in his Sydney swansong; there's no dream defence for Wayde van Niekerk this year, but we'll always have his stunning sneak attack on the world record from lane eight in Rio. Ninety-seven years ago in Paris, Eric Liddell put the hammer down and gave Vangelis a story to soundtrack. Friday sees the women take centre-stage in the event, but it'll take some performance to eclipse Cathy Freeman. And, from downtown at Beijing 2008, Christine Ohuruogu. Last time out saw a thriller between Shaunae Miller-Uibo and Allyson Felix.4) Saturday sees another Lions series decider. In 2017 against the All Blacks, it was all to play for at Eden Park... and honours ended even. Four years earlier, Sydney hosted a markedly less tense final Test, thanks to Leigh Halfpenny and George North.4) Andreas Pereira, pre-season specialist for Manchester United against Brentford. Joe Willock rues the absence of a beep in the ref's ear in defeat by Chelsea. Dartford turn on the style against Southend. A fairly regulation equaliser for Wolves at Stoke, but a nice moment as Raúl Jiménez returns to scoring ways. Meanwhile, just the seven goals in 34 minutes for Fiorentina's Dusan Vlahovic in an 11-0 victory over amateur side Polisportiva C4 Foligno.6) Fifty-five years ago today: Garry Sobers clobbered England all over Headingley as West Indies cantered to an innings victory. Forty-nine years ago today: Patrick Ewing was born, so here are 10 big moments from the Knicks mainstay.

Finn Russell could provide spark for Lions from bench in series decider

London, August 7:

If you were to put all of the leading coaches in the same room and show them the second Test between the British & Irish Lions and South Africa, I would be extremely surprised if any of them said that is how they want to ad-

rugby, becomes all the greater. That has been accentuated on this Lions tour. Supporters haven't been allowed to travel so there are no three-hour braais before the match, no safari trips during the week, all fans are exposed to are the matches and when they are as turgid as the two Tests have been so far there is nothing to deflect from that. The

row from that style. So when it's South Africa enjoying success with their suffocating gameplan, lo and behold that becomes the trend. There are probably two or three teams in that top tier who will play a more aesthetic brand - New Zealand, France and maybe Australia - and we need a real alignment from the leading coaches, referees, World

win the series but perhaps it was also an admission that they have just run out of time and run out of games to implement an expansive attacking gameplan. Confrontations between Eben Etzebeth and Alun Wyn Jones, among others, interrupted a bruising second Test. A lot of it comes down to risk and reward, which brings me on to Finn Russell's presence on the bench. We know he can change a game, he is unpredictable, he strikes fear into defences and he can create something from nothing. He can be perceived as a risk because of his unpredictability but I'm not sure he is with that level of talent. With Warren Gatland having that option to turn to I see this squad selection as a hybrid approach to the expansive game the Lions initially wanted to play and the more pragmatic style that has in some ways been forced upon them. I go back to what Gregor Townsend said when the initial squad was announced. He talked about a squad who could test the Boks with thought, precision, pace and dynamism. That made perfect sense at the time but after the first Test in which the Lions' superior fitness got them through, I didn't see that in the second Test. They got drawn into trying to beat the Boks at their game and the scoreline reflected that it's very hard to do that. The worry for the Lions is that if we look at the two Tests and the South Africa A game, they have scored only two tries, both from very short range. That needs to change but while you can just about change your defensive system in the space

of a week, it's much harder to do that with your attack. You either change the whole gameplan, your systems or your personnel. It's probably easier to change your personnel above anything else which is why I believe Russell has a crucial part to play in this match. The last 20 minutes is likely to be crucial and the stage may well be set for him. Equally important for the Lions is to keep the tempo high. They are well aware of it and after that has been the message all week, the key is to get the referee onside early on. Show him that you want to play a fast game, gain some momentum and make him realise that South Africa's attempts to slow the ball down are preventing a quick game from ensuing. If they can't get that momentum, if South Africa dominate the gain line, the referee will allow them to play the game at their pace. Finally I look at the aerial contest and how important Liam Williams's role is. He backs himself, he is fearless and he is better than most when competing for the ball in the air. Just as important, though, is Williams having the confidence to run the ball back from deep. If you get bogged down into a kicking battle then teams have several men in the backfield which means there has to be space somewhere. If Williams runs from deep, it keeps the South Africa defence honest and challenges them. We saw what he is capable of against New Zealand four years ago and a repeat of that would certainly give Lions supporters something worth watching.



vertise the sport. Not even the Springboks. Unfortunately, it speaks to where international rugby is at the moment and puts into perspective England's performances in 2020 when they came in for such criticism for adopting a kick-first mentality yet lost only one match all year. The pandemic has shone a light on it because without fans you strip away the matchday experience and so the scrutiny on the product, the quality of

alarming thing for me is that if you look at the quality of rugby on show at the moment, it really isn't very different from where we were 20 years ago. The 2003 World Cup was similar, 2007 and 2019 - both won by South Africa - were carbon copies of each other. Rugby is such a copycat sport that whenever a team has success, everyone else analyses how they've achieved it and looks to bor-

Rugby and players. Two years out from a World Cup, what do we want the game to be? There are obvious mitigating factors to why South Africa have not exactly been expansive given how few matches they had played in the buildup and the same could be said for the Lions. Their approach to the second Test felt to me like an attempt to defend their first Test victory rather than to go out and

Love, courage and solidarity

20 essential lessons young athletes taught us this summer

Tokyo, August 8:

The Olympics are racing towards the finishing line; the Euros gave us euphoria and heartbreak; and Wimbledon revealed that the true hero on Centre Court was not an Adonis in crisp tennis whites, but rather a middle-aged vaccine researcher. More than anything, though, this summer has thrown a spotlight on the inspiring and surprising strength and character of young people like never before. We have watched elite athletes behave with the sort of dignity and respect that world leaders would do well to emulate. They have competed under intense global scrutiny at the highest levels and never lost sight of the fact that how you behave matters more than the goals you score or the aces you serve. Here are 20 things we learned about youth politics and culture from an astonishing summer of sport. When the 23-year-old pulled out of the French Open, then Wimbledon, to focus on her mental health, Osaka showed the world that elite athletes are people; that we cannot use them like arcade machines. In her Roland Garros withdrawal statement, she wrote that she experienced "huge waves of anxiety" before interviews and had endured "long bouts of depression". Her bravery prompted a groundswell of support from tennis legends, including Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King. Osaka destigmatised mental health concerns for a generation of athletes. For that, she should be commended. Once a fortnight, the UK collectively loses its mind over flags/children's books/statues. It is an endless cycle of outrage in which the only winners are chattering pundits and merchants of hate. When Gareth Southgate announced that England would take the knee before Euro 2020 games, bad-faith provocateurs accused the team of cultural Marxism - because multimillionaire footballers are always on the brink of trying to overthrow capitalism. Southgate, with characteristic decency, backed his players, explaining that they had "a responsibility to the wider community" to use their voices on "matters such as equality, inclusivity and racial injustice". With this, Southgate and his team helped to define a patri-

tism that is not boorish or rooted in rose-tinted nostalgia, but rather focused on trying your best for your country and giving back to your community. This young, diverse team did not shy away from passionately defending these principles. When Priti Patel condemned the racist abuse of Bukayo Saka, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho after they missed penalties in the final, their teammate Tyrone Mings accused the home secretary of

her up and held her aloft, as triumphantly as she deserved. Did you have something in your eye? Me too. From Harry Kane's rainbow armband - showing solidarity with LGBTQ+ people - to Jordan Henderson's tweet supporting a non-binary, queer fan who attended an England game in makeup, the conduct of the Three Lions this summer showed that football is for everyone - not just the beer-guzzlers and bum-



"stoking the fire" by refusing to condemn those who had booed players taking the knee. His comments prompted much soul-searching among Conservative MPs, with Johnny Mercer and Steve Baker suggesting that the Tories needed to rethink their attitude to the gesture. A squad of footballers - two of them teenagers - ended the culture wars (albeit temporarily). For that, we should be grateful. Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest during Denmark's game against Finland was horrifying to witness: the hush descending on the stadium as fans realised the gravity of the situation; the sight of his panicked partner. But the way Eriksen's teammates formed a human shield around their fallen friend, preserving his privacy while medics worked successfully to resuscitate him, was a spontaneous and heartfelt gesture of dignity - even as the cameras refused to cut away. A glow settled over England when Mason Mount spotted a young girl in the crowd after England's semi-final win over Denmark, climbed into the stands and handed her his shirt. She collapsed in ecstatic squeals while the spectators around her cheered. Properly heartwarming. With UK Sport no longer funding female BMXers, Bethany Shriever had to crowdfund even to qualify for Tokyo 2020. Nonetheless, she stormed her way to Team GB's first ever gold medal in BMX racing. Her friend and fellow Team GB BMXer Kye Whyte, who won the UK's first ever silver medal, was cheering her all the way. After Shriever crossed the finishing line, she collapsed with agonising leg cramps - so Whyte scooped

flars. The Olympics is not just about medals, but also, as the Games' charter puts it, "friendship, solidarity and fair play". Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim and Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi embodied this spirit after trying in an exhausting two-hour high jump final. They were offered the opportunity to have a jump-off. Instead, Barshim asked an official if they could have two golds. If you agree to share, came the response. "His-tory, my friend," said Barshim, shaking Tamberi's hand. It was a joyous example of sportsmanship at its best. Penalties are organised cruelty at the best of times, but during an international final they can feel positively medieval. After Saka missed the tournament-deciding penalty in the Euros final, the Italian team flooded past in glee. Saka was distraught, choking back tears. All alone, he looked like the teenager he was. Then Calvin Phillips - a man who had just run for two hours straight - bolted towards his teammate and pulled him into a tight hug. It was a moment that cut through, because it showed that supporting your teammates in triumph and adversity is more important than any goal. In that embrace, Phillips reminded us that the best athletes have heart. The Irish consistently show up the British - in drinking ability, accents and devotion to the craic. At Tokyo 2020, they added manners, stopping to bow to their Japanese hosts as a token of respect during the opening ceremony. It was a gracious, Olympic-spirited move.

Seoul boxing memories, Serie A's heyday and the great Sally Gunnell

London, August 8:

The Olympic boxing is in full swing, so let's have a look back to the memorable 1988 edition. Here's the great Roy Jones Jr losing his gold medal fight to Park Si-hun in a robbery so outrageous that he considered quitting the game and here's Park explaining the impact of the verdict on his life; here's Lennox Lewis fighting Riddick Bowe in the super-heavyweight gold medal match and here are the two of them exchanging words in the ring immediately after Bowe beat Evander Holyfield to become undisputed champion of the world; here's Chun Jin-Chil mistak-

ing the bell in another ring for the bell in his, when his opponent, Todd Foster did not, and here's the consequent rematch. 2) Maradona, Platini, Zico, Falcão, Rummenigge, Elkjaer, Socrates, Boniek - rarely, if ever, has a league boasted as many of the world's best players as Serie A did in 1984-85. Just look at them! 3) Over the weekend, Peter Wright beat the defending champion, Dmitri van den Bergh, to win darts' World Matchplay competition, after which the two shared an emotional moment on stage. In the semi-final, Van den Bergh had danced his way to the oche as he usually does, only for Gerwyn Price, his

opponent, to mock him after nailing a finish; naturally, when Van den Bergh progressed, he has some thoughts to share on the subject. 4) Until his bad back got in the way, Mike Atherton bowled a bit of leg spin - here are his two Test wickets. The first came at Headingley in 1996 and saw him trap Wasim Akram lbw, making it the sixth time opposing captains had dismissed each other - earlier in the match, Wasim had persuaded him to edge behind. Wasim was involved in similar at Karachi in 1997 when Courtney Walsh got him for a duck, then he returned the compliment by cartwheeling off stump. In total, it's now hap-



pened 12 times, most recently when West Indies came to Southampton after lockdown and Jason Holder nicked off Ben Stokes, then Stokes had Holder caught in the deep, then Holder nicked Stokes off a second time 6)

On this day in 1966, Sally Gunnell was born. Here she is winning Olympic gold in 1992, here's her post-race interview and here she is in 1993 winning world championship gold and breaking the world record in the process.

The bond of love and devotion.

Caps

100% DEPENDABLE... That's our guarantee!

CHIMNEYS WITH APPS | R.O. WATER PURIFIER | HOBS | GAS STOVE | OTHER KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Abhayapuri-94350-22784 | Agartala-98560-93668 | Baihata chariali-94351-42568/98641-40488 | Bangaigaon-7002184811. 9435547654,9435121367 | Barpeta road-94350-17865 99541-41975 | Barpeta town -94350-25127 | Bhawanipur-7002206773 | Bandaradewa-98649-84753 | Bijoynagar -99570-98392/94010-01157/94353-40662 | Boko-94010-02588 | Chayagaon-9435014549 | Dadara -98546-98027 | Dhupdhara-96785-16189 | Dhamaji-99546-51322 | Dhubri-94350-29279 | Diphu-94350-66701/94350-66643 | Dudhnoi-94357-21505/94351-28048 | Goalpara-70023-10904/88762-23858 | Golaghat-96132-30384 | Guwahati -94355-59057/97065-94950 | Hajo-94353-47024/88763-09327 | Hojai-94357-29521/84028-59256 | Jorhat -94350-53934/98541-06776 | Kharupitia -98541-44223 | Kokrajhar-97070-29429/99548-88721/94354-81234 | Karimgunj-97061-39061 | Krishnai-88224-15337 | Lumding -94351-63327/97066-14137 | Mangaldoi -94350-87284/94351-86435/97065-39174/73994-79163 | Mirza-98540-71983/99572-81858 | Morigaon -94350-64966/80111-17171 | North Lakhimpur-88224-21077 | Nagaon-97061-79408/94355-18665 | Nalbari -98644-14515/98540-30209 | Pathsala-80110-06658 | Dhekiajuli-98548-29934 | Dibrugarh-98548-11265 | Rangia -94351-05888/96782-26563 | Silchar -97061-39061/70054-86129 | Silapathar-70028-94393 | Shillong-90869-66640 | Suwalkuchi -98643-54859 | Tinsukia-94350-35156/94350-35511/94350-36463 | Tezpur-97060-73481 | Tihu-97068-53124 | Udalguri-97063-46492

Trade enq. 9435146909/9435559057/9435559056 www.capsindia.in Toll Free: 1800 103 4646