

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

2 Crore Covid-19 Vaccination

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

Assam has successfully crossed 2 crore Covid-19 vaccination across the state of its eligible citizens on Saturday. Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the news through one of his tweets in the official twitter handle of the CM. "Proud to inform that Assam has achieved the milestone of 2Cr vaccination against #Covid_19 today. Congratulations to all health workers for this important landmark @mansukhmandviya," wrote Sarma.

SDFK Chief Neutralised

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

In a joint operation carried out by Manipur police and 31 Assam Rifles neutralized a self-styled commander-in-chief of the banned militant outfit Socialist Democratic Front of Kukiland (SDFK) in Churachandpur district. As per reports, acting on tip-offs both the teams traced the SDFK chief and his accomplice in Khominthang village in New Lamka. The firing started around 2 am when security personnel surrounded a house where the insurgent was reported to be hiding. The suspects fired at the police team. A police statement said, "security teams entered the house after the firing stopped and found a person lying dead". He was identified as Letminthang Haokip alias Boithang, Lunghosei Chongloi, who is said to be the bodyguard of Boithang, was found injured and was sent to Imphal.

Delhi Streets Waterlogged

News Desk
Delhi, September 11 :

Delhi wakes up to heavy rainfall on Saturday, bringing the temperature down in the city. Several parts of the city witnessed waterlogging after constant rain. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) today predicted thunderstorms with moderate to heavy intensity rain and gusty winds in parts of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the morning and afternoon. "Thunderstorm with moderate to heavy intensity rain and gusty winds with speed of would continue to occur over and adjoining areas of many places of Delhi, NCR (Bahadurgarh, Gurugram, Manesar, Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Loni Dehat, Hindon AF Station, Ghaziabad, Indrapuram, Chhapraula, Noida, Dadri, Greater Noida) Kaithal, Karnal, Rajauri, Asandh, Safidon, Panipat, Gohana, Gannaur, Sonapat, Kharkhoda, Jind, Rohtak, Hansi, Mehram, Bhiwani, Jhajjar, Narnaul (Haryana) Shamli, Kandhla, Baraut, Bagpat, Meerut, Siyana, Hapur, Pahasu, Bulandshahar (Uttar Pradesh) during next 2 hours," the India Meteorological Department said in its 7:55 am bulletin.

Body of missing person from Assam ferry mishap recovered

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

National Disaster Response Force personnel search for missing people after two passenger ferries collided on Wednesday in the Brahmaputra river, 350 kilometres from Guwahati, Assam. The body was found near the Umatumuni island by staff from the Kaziranga National Park. The body of one of the two persons missing after a ferry mishap on September 8 was recovered downstream in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on Saturday. The staff of the tiger reserve found the body, identified as that of Indreswar Bora, near the Umatumuni island in the Brahmaputra river. The island



falls in the Biswanath Range of the tiger reserve. Rescue officials said the search for the other missing person, Bikramjit Baruah, was on. According to the Assam

State Disaster Management Authority, there were 90 passengers on the ill-fated Maa Kamala, a passenger ferry that sank after colliding with a larger ferry off Neamatighat

in the Jorhat district. While 87 people either swam to safety or were rescued on the day of the accident, a teacher named Parimita Das died on

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Assam CM holds meeting with FCI officials regarding paddy procurement

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today attended a meeting with the officials of Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA) Department and Food Corporation of India (FCI) regarding paddy procurement in the state during the upcoming marketing season. Recognizing the role of the FCI in paddy procurement from common farmers at Minimum Sup-



port Price (MSP), Chief Minister Dr. Sarma asked FCI Executive Director (HQ) Sudeep Singh to increase paddy procurement in the

state and achieve the target of minimum 10 Lakh MT during the next season. He also asked FCI authorities to divide the paddy pro-

curement centres horizontally all over the state to

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Celebrate Durga Puja with caution, get vaccinated, says Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said celebration of Durga Puja will be allowed under strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. "We had imposed strict curbs for the celebration of Bohag Bihu in April. It is better to celebrate with caution," he added. GUWAHATI: After a low-key celebration of Durga Puja last year due to



the Covid-19 pandemic, people may get a chance to celebrate the much-awaited festival in October with fewer restrictions as the 'present Covid-19 situation in the

state is safe'. Gyanendra Dev Tripathi, chief executive officer of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), told TOI, "The present situation in the state is safe. However, the scene may change at the time of the Puja. We review the situation weekly and on the basis of that, we decide on the regulations." He added that a standard operating procedure will be published by the month-end. "There will be restrictions on gatherings inside and outside pandals. We have to wait for a few more days to get a clearer picture and then decide on the curbs," he added. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said celebration of Durga Puja will be allowed under strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. "We

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Bodoland Pig Mission launched in Kokrajhar



Abhijit Chaliha
Guwahati, Sep 11: Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora formally launched "Bodoland Pig Mission" at Bodofa Cultural Complex in Kokrajhar in presence of Bodoland Territorial Region CEM Pramod Boro. Further state minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma was also present at the event among others. Notably, the Bodoland Pig Mission is a new initiative for farmers to make

Bodoland Territorial [Region (BTP) a Piggery hub in the days to come. The mission was initiated by the BTP administration to create awareness of self-reliant livelihood in the region. Reportedly, over 35,000 farmers are going to be engaged in the Bodoland Pig Mission across the districts. "It is a step to transform traditional livelihood into sustainable economic activities.

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Financial support enhances to open Ayush colleges from Rs 9 crore to Rs 70 crore

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

The central government has increased the financial support from Rs nine crore to Rs 70 crore to ensure more Ayush colleges are opened across the country, Union Minister for Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said on Saturday. The Minister was addressing a conference on 'Diverse and Fulfilling Career Paths in Ayush Systems: Education, Entrepreneurship & Employment Focus on North eastern States' in Guwahati. The Union minister said that there are only a few Ayush colleges in the North-East and the Indian traditional medicine systems can only be popularised by making available more qualified practitioners. "For this purpose, more Ayush teaching colleges may be required to come up in the

North East States. Earlier, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission provided financial support of Rs.9 crores to state governments to open new Ayush colleges. Now, the Government of India has enhanced this amount to Rs.70 crore. States may identify the land and manpower for this purpose and avail this opportu-

ment Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari, Assam as the Centre of Excellence with the support of up to Rs 10 crore. He said that his Ministry provides Rs. 5 crore to upgrade the undergraduate teaching colleges and Rs. 6 crores to improve the infrastructure of post graduate institutions. The minister also an-



nity as per the guidelines of the NAM," Sonowal said. Sonowal added that the Ministry of Ayush has also accorded in-principle approval for upgrading the Govern-

ment Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari, Assam as the Centre of Excellence with the support of up to Rs 10 crore. He said that his Ministry provides Rs. 5 crore to upgrade the undergraduate teaching colleges and Rs. 6 crores to improve the infrastructure of post graduate institutions. The minister also an-

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IAF joins rescue forces to trace 2 missing persons in Jorhat

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

The Indian Air Force on Friday joined NDRF and SDRF rescuers from the sky in search of the two missing passengers of the country boat that sank in the Brahmaputra on Wednesday near Neamatighat in Jorhat after colliding with a bigger vessel. Rescuers searched approximately 60km downstream of the incident site after a fisherman

found the bag of one of the missing persons - Indreswar Bora - a teacher from Lakhimpur. The bag contained several documents, including the Aadhar card of his wife, but there was no sign of him or the other missing person - Dr Bikramjit Barua of Jorhat, who was posted at Majuli. One woman passenger, Parimita Das, died on the day of the incident while 89 other passengers of the boat have been res-

cued and traced alive till Friday. An official said that NDRF search teams used deep divers and sonar system at suspected places but no victim or bike, which were on the boat, could be traced. Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who was representing Majuli constituency when he was chief minister from 2016 to 2021, arrived at Majuli on Friday. He said both the Centre and the state government are committed to

complete a bridge connecting Majuli with Jorhat within four years. "We all want a bridge on the Brahmaputra and both the state and central governments have taken necessary steps in this direction so that it is well constructed with the latest technology," Sonowal said. He also said that central and state agencies will work in tandem to dredge the river Brahmaputra so that the Rax

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Vedanta seeks premium over govt rates for gas from Assam block

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

Billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd is seeking a premium of at least USD 1 over the government-mandated price for the natural gas it plans to produce from its Assam block. The firm, which merged the Rajasthan oil-discoverer Cairn India Ltd into itself, has sought bids from users for the gas it plans to produce from the Hazarigaon field in Assam from March next year. The company plans to produce 0.10 million standard cubic meters

per day from the onshore block it had won under the discovered field bid round a couple of years back. Bidders have been asked to quote a number above the APM or government mandated gas price plus USD 1 per million British thermal unit, the company said in the bid document. "Bidders shall be required to quote the variable denoted as 'P,' it said. " 'P' shall be quoted as a non-negative value, equal to or greater than Zero (0)." The government fixes the price of gas produced by state-owned Oil and



Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) from fields given to them on nomination basis, every six months. This price

is called APM or administered price mechanism rate. The gas price for six months beginning April 1 is

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Govt Funded Road Technology Firm Granted Patent For Green Invention "Tailor-Made Cold Binder"

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11 :

BitChem Asphalt Technologies Limited, pioneers in the Coldmix® Technology Industry, announced on Friday that they have been granted a patent for its Green invention "TAILOR-MADE COLD BINDER" by The Patent Office, Government of In-

dia for a period of 20 years, effective June 30, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970 vide patent no. - 376242. With this accomplishment, the already much acclaimed Green technology company has set up an unmatched milestone for its product as a patent not only grants the legal right to BitChem to exclude others from exploiting its patented

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From The Big Breakfast to Gogglebox: Channel 4's Black to Front day, reviewed in full



London, September 11 : The day kicked off at 6am with four episodes of Desmond's, the Norman Beaton comedy about a Guyanese barber whose outdated haircuts both mortified and bonded Peckham between 1989 and 1994. It was an apt choice for the early-morning crowd; while it was not the first British sitcom to feature a primarily black cast, it became one of the most prominent, and - sadly - black British sitcoms remain few and far between. The Ambrose family's efforts to create a better life for themselves, with the odds stacked against them, still feel poignant in 2021, and the opening titles come complete with scenes of HMT Empire Windrush and lyrics about leaving a sunny life for the 'damp and rain of London city' (and the strains of Don't Scratch My Soca by Beaton). At 8am it was over to east London as The Big Breakfast returned to screens after 19 years, with Mo Gilligan and AJ Odudu hosting the one-off revival with much energy, biting humour and celebrity guests including Usain Bolt and Nile Rodgers. While a largely lighthearted and fluffy concoction, Odudu and Gilligan weren't afraid to comment on current events, for example the latter's witty remark about the education secretary, Gavin Williamson,

mistaking footballer and campaigner Marcus Rashford for England rugby player Maro Itoje: "There's people at home being like, 'Oh my God, I didn't know Marcel from Love Island was presenting this.'" This led to a hilarious segment about mistaken identities, including an appearance from Guy Goma, infamously interviewed on BBC News as an IT expert while waiting for a job interview. Overall, a delight. Gregory Robinson Next up, Channel 4 showed the US sitcom Black-ish, which follows the lives of the Johnson family, as "Dre" Johnson and Rainbow "Bow" Johnson try to raise their children in a largely white, suburban neighbourhood while ensuring they explore their black identity (including the "black culinary tradition" that is a real barbecue). In the first episode of four, Dre coached son Junior on how to perfect the art of trash-talking to deal with a bully, leading to Junior ultimately bullying his teacher. In a more meaningful watch, Dre then took his sons to "the cornerstone of the community" - the barber shop. Lessons include never switching seats, even if your barber has an off day with your haircut (or gets done for tax evasion). We then watched twins Diane and Jack go on

an adventure after their parents realised they were too cautious about entering black neighbourhoods. For a project seeking to champion black history, it seemed a missed opportunity not to include harder-hitting episodes, like the widely praised Hope - which featured a cross-generational discussion on police brutality - or Please, Baby, Please, a more controversial episode on white supremacy and black pride which was originally shelved in the US before being eventually released. Black-ish often feels like an inside joke for

black people, but that is what ultimately makes it crucial viewing for a mainstream audience.

Hibaq Farah Between 12 and 3, Channel 4 delivered a shot in the arm to lunchtime staples. As the leading broadcaster of cake-themed content with The Great British Bake Off, a cookery show in the company of a former contestant felt fitting. A gentle episode of Liam Bakes (first aired in 2018) saw Liam Charles infuse well-known classics with a Jamaican twist, via the patty quiche, while joking around with his charismatic friend Weyland.



shows the scenery of the Three Gorges Reservoir in Zigui County of Yichang City, central China's Hubei Province

'I'm the face of it': the people whose images came to define 9/11 reflect on the day

New Jersey, September 11 : Marcy Borders was a 28-year-old Bank of America employee when she fled from the north tower on 9/11. She became known as "the dust lady" because of a single indelible photograph. She died from stomach cancer in 2015. Her daughter, Noelle Borders, now 28 herself, is an elementary school teacher and lives in Bayonne, New Jersey. "I remember 9/11 as clear as day. I was in 3rd grade at the time. My teacher was teaching current events and I guess it popped up like breaking news, what was taking place in New York City, so they had to turn it off. Kids' parents were coming in the building to pick them up, but for me it was weird because I knew my mom was a very active class parent and never missed anything. I'm like, my mom wouldn't leave me to be the last kid." My aunt then came but, before she took me out of the classroom, she pulled my teacher into the hallway and must have told her my mom was in the building and she just started crying. I remember going home and everything being top secret because none of my family members really wanted to say anything to me, to have me worried, because I was a child. "My grandmother, my mom's mom, called and was screaming and crying: 'Where's your mom? Is your mom OK?' Panicking and going crazy and I was like, err, no, and in that moment I just started crying. I couldn't help thinking the worst happened to my mom and I was so upset." At some point, my mom must have got to a payphone. She was screaming and crying and she told me that she was OK. Marcy Borders and her daughter Noelle. Marcy was working on the 81st floor of the north tower when the planes struck. "My mom was a single mom. You look at your mom as your superhero. Nothing bothers her, she's always the toughest cookie for you. To

see her emotionally upset takes a toll on the child and that makes me scared and nervous now because my person who's my hero is hurt." I went to bed upset, panicky, and there was nothing much that anyone around me could say because nobody really knew what was going on. She returned home late because it was hard to get out of New York. She had to wait for the fire department to transfer her over to New Jersey. Then she had to go to the hospital to get checked

feelings so she fell into a depression. She used drugs and she drank alcohol but I never saw that. Whatever she did in the dark, I've never seen it. The only reason why I found out about these things is because my mom finally started to begin telling her truth in interviews. "I learned that my mom would never allow her children to see her at her weakest point, no matter that deep down inside she was hurting



out to make sure there was nothing wrong with her and then she was released. "I didn't see my mom until the next morning. She was cleaned up: she didn't have no dust on her. She was on the front page and honestly, when she first saw that picture, she was scared. She thought, 'Oh, my God, the world knows who I am. Whoever attacked the World Trade Center is going to come after me because now I'm the face of it.' For a long time, the dust lady photo, she was scared." You could tell she was different. She was quiet. Any noise, she was like, what is that? I remember a few weeks after 9/11, she wasn't going outside, she didn't want to be in large crowds, she didn't want to be around people because she was still in fear. "I said to her, 'Please, I want to go to the parade, all my friends are going to be there', so I guess she just tried to show me, all right, I can do this. While we were at the parade, this plane was flying low and my mom panicked, grabbed my hand and started running like somebody was chasing us. My friends looked at me: what is going on? This is a local side-effect after being in 9/11." She didn't know how to express her

and she didn't know how to help herself, so she looked to drugs and alcohol ... But she didn't want it to spill over to her children so my mom went away and got treatment. "While she was away in treatment, Osama bin Laden wound up being caught so she felt like, 'Oh, my God, this was God answering my prayers'. She felt safe again and that's when things started to go back to normal a little. She started to open up and be who she was before the plane hit. You could tell she was different. She didn't want to be in large crowds, she didn't want to be around people because she was still in fear." Photograph: Neville Elder/Corbis "I never really liked it when people said, 'Oh, your mom, she's the dust lady'. I never really liked to do interviews, although she asked me. 'Mom, I don't want my friends to see me

on TV.' But it wasn't until my mom passed away and there were news reporters outside her funeral that I was like, wow, my mom made a huge impact! "People love her story. She was not just my hero but she was a hero to many other people around the world. It was just a lot for me to take in at that moment. I couldn't believe that. To actually see that she was more than just what I thought of her as a mother. She was a huge part of history today; my son is eventually going to be reading about his grandmother in a textbook. It was an eye opener. "Her breathing in the debris was one of the causes of the cancer she developed and that eventually took my mom's life. She was in the process of writing a book that has yet to be published. I'm actually looking into the possibility of finding someone to help me get that process going. "My mom's story has helped so many people all over the world. Things that they've dealt with are some of the things that my mom dealt with and she helped them overcome. So hey, why not finish what she started and put out her story and continue to show people that although you're facing dark days, the sunshine always comes."

'My son misses his Papa': Brexit rules force families to split

London, September 11 : A British woman has told how she had to separate her six-year-old son from his French father because post-Brexit rules prohibited her spouse from returning with her to the UK for a new job without prior Home Office approval. After 11 years in France, the couple, who work in highly skilled jobs in the defence industry, decided to move back to the UK and thought it would be as simple as getting on a Eurostar train. However, the Home Office no longer

recognises the EU family permit her husband used before Brexit and is now taking months to respond to applications for a British version. The delays are splitting countless families, whereby one British parent can return to the UK and the non-British one - whether an EU citizen or from elsewhere - cannot. The woman explained how she had little choice but to make the journey with her son because her new job started on 6 September and, although she was expecting

a family permit for her husband within 15 days, two months after her application, she is still waiting for a Home Office response. She was so anxious that her dual-national son might be refused entry because he has yet to get his British passport that she went as far as drilling him to say he was going on holiday if questioned by immigration officials. She sent her luggage on separately to make it look like she was not moving country.

More than 2 tonnes of cocaine seized in British and Australian operation

London, September 11 : National Crime Agency, Border Force and Australian Federal Police seize drugs worth £160m on yacht off Plymouth. Officers from Britain's National Crime Agency intercepted a yacht carrying 1,500kg of cocaine off Plymouth. Officers from Britain's National Crime Agency intercepted a yacht carrying 1,500kg of cocaine off Plymouth. Photograph: Jonathan Brady/PA Archive/Press Association Images Six men including a Briton have been arrested off the coast of Plymouth after authorities seized more than two tonnes of cocaine worth about £160m. Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) said an operation involving its personnel as well as the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Border Force arrested the British man from Stockton-on-Tees and five Nicaraguans aboard a Jamaican-flagged yacht 80 miles out to sea. The luxury yacht Kahu, which was sailing from the Caribbean, was escorted back to an undisclosed location on the UK mainland where a team carried out a deep rummage search and discovered the enormous haul of class A drugs. The men, whose ages range from 24 to 49, were arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking and remain in custody awaiting interviews, the NCA said. The NCA deputy director, Matt Home, said: "There's no doubt these drugs would have been sold on into communities across the UK in such ways as county lines fuelling more crime and misery." Organised crime groups (OCG) are motivated by money. The deprivation of these drugs will smash a hole in the OCG's plans and ability to operate. "Also, the arrests of the men transporting the drugs means the crime group has lost trusted offenders who would have been key to their operation."



Learners practice Kung Fu (Chinese martial arts) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

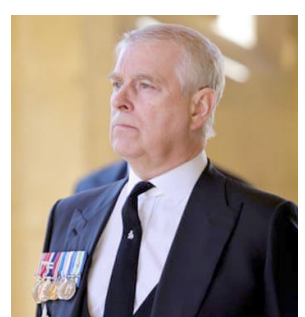
Prince Andrew served with lawsuit from Jeffrey Epstein accuser Virginia Giuffre

London, September 11 : Prince Andrew has been served with an affidavit for a lawsuit say lawyers for Virginia Roberts Giuffre, who alleges she was forced to have sex with the royal when she was 17 years old. A document filed in a US court on Friday showed that paperwork for Giuffre's lawsuit was filed at Andrew's home, Royal Lodge, in Windsor on 27 August. The affidavit was accepted by a Metropolitan police officer at the gates of the property at 9.30am, after the agent filing the document had been turned away

the previous day, according to the documents. Court documents show that a response is now due from Andrew by 17 September. Buckingham Palace referred the Guardian to an external PR agency that represents the Duke of York. A spokesperson then said: "No comment." Giuffre filed a lawsuit against Andrew in August. She accused Andrew of sexually abusing her at the home of socialite Ghislaine Maxwell in London and at properties

owned by disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew has "absolutely and categorically" denied having sex with Roberts and Buckingham Palace has called the claims "false and without foundation". The legal claim alleges that Giuffre "was compelled by express or implied threats by Jeffrey Epstein, Maxwell, and/or Prince Andrew to engage in sexual acts with Prince Andrew, and feared death or physical injury to herself or another and other

repercussions for disobeying Epstein, Maxwell, and Prince Andrew due to their powerful connections, wealth and authority". The lawsuit further claims that Andrew knew she was a sex-trafficking victim, and that she has suffered - and continues to suffer - "significant emotional and psychological distress and harm". Maxwell, who is facing trial in New York in November, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking charges regarding her alleged involvement with



Epstein. In August it was reported that Andrew is considered a "person of interest" in the investigation into Epstein, who died in jail in 2019, and Maxwell.

Plantation drive as a part of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



CORRESPONDENT

Barpeta Road, Sep 11: Barpeta road : 64 BN Sasshastra Seema Bal Barama, organised a Mega Plantation drive as a part of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Nand Kishore Tamta, Commandant 64 BN SSB told that this Battalion has achieved its target to plant 15500 saplings during this

year. We will plant additional saplings during the remaining period for the success of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme. We are also ensuring the safety and security of the planted saplings with the help of local people. During this plantation drive, long life trees as well as seasonal fruit trees were given priority. Tamta also thanked the Forest

department, NGO, and other govt. agencies as well as local people who help this BN in achieving its target. This plantation drive was conducted in the nearby areas of 64 BN HQ Howly as well as in the AOR of its BoP's Daranga, Patkijuli, Sukhanjuli, Amguri, Uttarkuchi & Dara of Baksa district. Tamta said that as a part of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are organising multiple programmes in addition to plantation drives like Fit India Movement, Cycle Rally, Civic action programmes etc. During this programme Nand Kishore Tamta, Commandant 64 BN, Sandeep Poonia, Deputy Commandant and all ranks have participated.

Hojai Guardian Minister Parimal Suklabaidya reviews developmental projects, schemes

STAFFREPORTER

Dispur, Sep 11: Minister for Environment and Forest, Excise and Fisheries cum Guardian Minister, Parimal Suklabaidya reviewed various projects and schemes of Central and State Governments at a meeting with district administration and officials of concerned departments in Hojai on Saturday. Reviewing the status of activities of various departments at a meeting with Guardian Secretary, Deputy Commissioner, MLAs and district officials at FC's conference hall, Minister Suklabaidya asked the officials to gird up their loins and to implement the schemes and projects expeditiously so that the people derive the benefits out of these developmental projects and welfare schemes of both State and Central Governments. The

Minister in course of his marathon meeting with officials of different departments, reviewed the Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana, MGNREGA and other flagship programmes and asked the officials to ensure timely implementation. He also reviewed the Asom Mala Road Scheme and Asom Darshan Scheme. The officials of the concerned departments apprised the Minister about the status of ongoing schemes and projects and the problems that they have encountered while implementing them. Suklabaidya directed the Deputy Commissioner and district heads to work in tandem and to take steps in earnest to overcome the problems for smooth implementation of the projects and schemes within the

stipulated time-frame. "Concerted efforts must be made to implement the projects and schemes on a war footing," he quipped. The Guardian Minister also reviewed the prevailing COVID situation in the district and directed the administration to take all possible measures to step up the second dose of vaccination. The review meeting was attended by MLAs Sirajuddin Ajmal, Ramkrishna Ghosh and Shibu Mishra, Guardian Secretary, Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Anupam Choudhury, Superintendent of Police, Barun Purkayastha, CEO, Hojai Zilla Parishad, Debashish Baishya, Chairperson, Zilla Parishad, Ramabala Devi, ADCs, SDO (Sadar), district heads of different departments and representatives of political parties.

Teachers meeting held at Nagsankar



Correspondent Biswanath Chariati, Sep 11: The representative's teachers of various centers under Nagsankar and Sootea mouja hold a meeting in a conference hall of Nagsankar Stadium on Saturday with Tankeswar Barua in the chair. The teacher's repre-

sentatives unanimously took a resolution that the teachers of Nagsankar and Sootea mouja will adjust themselves with Biswanath mahakuma Siksak Samilani now onwards. At the very outset of the meeting, a one-minute silence was observed in memory of the Nimatighat

ferry tragedy and teacher Ridip Bhuyan. Convener Niranjan Neog forwarded a welcome address while another convener Arun Bordoli briefed the objectives of the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Jyoti Bhattacharya, president of Tezpur district committee, Rajen Kalita, secretary of Naduar teachers association, Banewar Bora, Hitesh Barua along with others. Samsul Haque offered a vote of thanks.

Lack of parking space at Bijoynagar

CORRESPONDENT Palasbari, Sep 11: Lack of parking is one of the major problems at Bijoynagar, the commercial hub of South Kamrup. People from all over South Kamrup come daily to Bijoynagar to sell various goods. The lack of parking space for bicycles,

scooters, e-rickshaws, passenger buses, freight trucks and private four-wheelers has created a lot of hassle in the long run. As a result, in addition to frequent accidents, it is unfortunate that various types of theft are also taking place. Vehicles are often seen as a problem

for the local police. Some locals requested the Chief Minister Himanta Bishwa Sarma, Palasbari MLA Hemanga Thakuria and the departmental authorities of the Government of Assam to take strong action in this regard at the earliest.

Covid-19 Vaccination & health camp

Staff Reporter

Aalo, Sep 11: The PHC officials of Darak Circle led by Dr. Soyum Potom, Medical Officer Darak PHC organized Covid-19 Vaccination cum Mini Health Camp in the remotest village of Darak Circle, Boru Rakshap on September 10 last. Altogether 40 villagers availed the health check up on BP, blood sugar test, malaria slide tests and many of them received the Covid-19 doses. The ADC Kamba Rujum Rakshap who too joined the camp lauded the health department of Darak for bringing such health



delivery services in the door steps of the remote village. Mikbom Boje Raksap, Gram Chairperson

arranged the to and fro conveyance facilities for all medical staff. The villagers who are deprived of

Outward loading : NFR contributing to growth of local economy

STAFFREPORTER

Guwahati, Sep 11: Freight loading figures continue to maintain the high momentum in the month of August, 2021 for N. F. Railway. N. F. Railways loaded 0.812 MT during August, 2021. This is an increase of about 43% in comparison to the corresponding period of last year. N. F. Railways loaded 3.996 MT during the period from April to August, 2021 as compared to 2.779 MT done in corresponding period of last year. This is an increase of 43.8%. Loading of few commodities was increased by a substantial margin in N. F. Railway during August, 2021 in comparison to last year. Coal loading increased by 12.5%, dolomite



loading increased by 521.9%, container loading increased by 120%, cement loading increased by 94.7%, and loading of miscellaneous commodities which includes items like Stone chips, Ballast etc increased by about 85.9%.

During this year from April to August, 2021, dolomite loading increased by 426.3% in comparison to the same period of last year. Food grains loading increased by 17.6%, container loading increased by 105.9%, fertiliser load-

ing increased by 27.7%, cement loading increased by 59.7%, other commodities increased by 161.1%; and it is an overall increase of 43.8% in comparison to the last years loading up to August, 2020. Various steps and initiatives are being taken by

N. F. Railway to further improve the transportation of freight. This includes opening of new stations for handling inward and outward goods traffic, introduction of 24x7 working in goods sheds, regular virtual meetings with producers and stakeholders for attracting piecemeal loading, initiatives by Business Development Units (BDUs) at Headquarters and Divisional levels and improvement in average speed of freight trains due to continuous monitoring. It is worth mentioning that a number of concessions/ discounts are also being given in Indian Railways to make Railways Freight movement very attractive.

Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda visiting Assam for two days



NEWSDESK

New Delhi, Sep 11: The Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda will remain on a 2-day visit to the State of Assam from tomorrow. It's expected that during his visit, he will assess how well-implemented the state's MFP, VDVK and TRIFOOD programmes have been. His entourage will include Pravir

Krishna, TRIFED's Managing Director, as well as other top TRIFED executives. As a National Level Cooperative Body, TRIFED was established in August 1987 by the Government of India under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, with the basic mandate of bringing about socio-economic development of tribals in the country by institutionalising the trade in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected/cultivated by them. He will meet with the Governor of Assam, Jagdish Mukhi, and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati, as well as Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of Assam as well as other high-ranking state of-

ficials. As part of this week's events, two workshops/conferences are scheduled: the Voice of North East Janajatiya Leader Conference on the first day, and a Van Dhan Workshop at IIE on the second day. Additionally, he intends to visit VDVKC at Katakipara, Guwahati, as well as Lokhara Guwahati. They declared this in a press release today by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. These tribal development initiatives will be reviewed and assessed by the Minister during his two-day visit. They are designed to alter tribal lifestyles and livelihoods across the country, paving the way for an Atmanirbhar Bharat. These programmes are being implemented by TRIFED across the country.

Paban Kr. Kalita chosen for Rabindra Nath Tagore national award

Correspondent

Sipajhar, Sep 11 : Assamese writer, Poet and Subject teacher of Political science in Sipajhar Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School has been chosen for prestigious Rabindra Nath Tagore National Award instituted by Chinna Rao Welfare Trust, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The award will be presented to him on October 2 at a function to be held at Maridimavaba Kalyana Mandapam in Malikapuram in Andhra Pradesh as informed by Domana Chinnarao, National President, Chinnarao Welfare Trust. Kalita who has authored 15 books and former secretary of Hazarikapara branch of



Assam Sahitya Sabha and Present President of Doulguri Jnan Uday Puthibharal was also recipient of Dr. BR Ambedkar Fellowship National Award and Assam-Bonga Maitri Sanman.

No. EE/PWD/KOJ (R)/IFB/33/536/2021-22-22 Dated Kokrajhar, the 10th September/2021

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

The Executive Engineer, P.W.D Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar invites 5 (five) Nos. of bid under BADP Fund (Balance Work), total bid amount of Rs. 4,15,82,543.00 (Rupees four crore fifteen lakhs eighty two thousand five hundred and forty three) only (Approx), from the contractors of class-II, I (A, B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads)/BTC.

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, P.W.D.
Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division
Kokrajhar

PR (BTC)-240/2021

GOVT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD, KOKRAJHAR RURAL ROADS DIVISION, KOKRAJHAR
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender subsequently to be drawn in F-2 form affixing Non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25p (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only and invited from the registered PWD Contractor's under class-I (A,B,C) of Assam PWD (Rural Roads) and class-II Roads category will be received for the following works up to 2.00 PM, of 27/09/2021 in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWRD Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar which will be opened on the same date, place at 2.15 PM, in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent.

| Sl. No. | Name of work | Tender Amount (in Rs.) (including G.S.T.L.W.C. & S.B) | Earnest Money (in Rs.) (ST,SC, OBC-1% & GEN-2%) | Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.) | Time for completion in days |
|---------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-IV) | 7,66,747.00 | 1%-Rs.7,667/- 2%-Rs.15,335/- | 500/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 2 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-V) | 15,73,539.00 | 1%-Rs.15,735/- 2%-Rs.31,471/- | 1000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 3 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-VIII) | 20,60,118.00 | 1%-Rs.20,601/- 2%-Rs.41,202/- | 1000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 4 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-IX) | 28,53,270.00 | 1%-Rs.28,533/- 2%-Rs.57,065/- | 3000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 5 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-X) | 10,67,384.00 | 1%-Rs.10,674/- 2%-Rs.21,348/- | 1000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 6 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-XI) | 19,71,438.00 | 1%-Rs.19,714/- 2%-Rs.39,429/- | 1000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 7 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-XIII) | 18,83,088.00 | 1%-Rs.18,831/- 2%-Rs.37,662/- | 1000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |
| 8 | Construction of road connectivities of saralpara Model Village under BADP (Central Share) in Kokrajhar District for the year 2017-18 Balance Work) (Group-XIV) | 14,31,570.00 | 1%-Rs.14,316/- 2%-Rs.28,631/- | 1000/- | 60 (Sixty days) |

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to be contractors or their authorized agent up to 12.00 Noon on all working days from 14/09/2021 to 16/09/2021 in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (preferable SBI) Duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, PWRD Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division. The Contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, GSTIN, PAN Card and Labour License along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/opening day same will be received/opened on the next working day.

Note:-

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

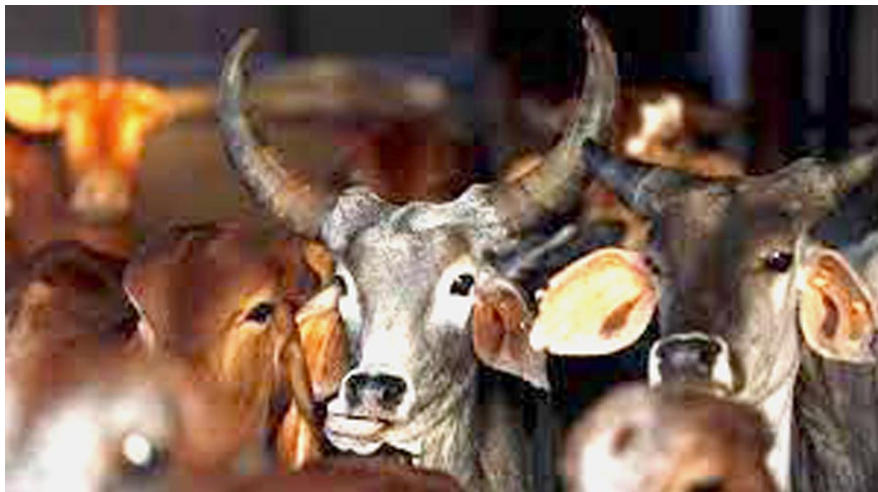
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, PWD
Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division
Kokrajhar

IPR (BTC)-241/2021

The spectre of nuclear war had been lifted

Foreign policy, for better or worse, is always an extension of a nation's domestic politics. The arc of America's war in Afghanistan is a testament to this reality – the story of a superpower that overreached, slowly came to terms with the limits of its capacity to shape events abroad, and withdrew in the wake of raging dysfunction at home. Viewed through this prism, President Joe Biden's decisive yet chaotic withdrawal comes into focus. The story begins with trauma and hubris. On September 11 2001, American power was at its high-water mark. The globalisation of open markets, democratic governance, and the US-led international order had shaped the previous decade. The spectre of nuclear war had been lifted, the ideological debates of the 20th century settled. To Americans, mass violence was something that took place along the periphery of the post-cold war world. And then suddenly, the periphery struck the centres of American power, killing thousands. As a young New Yorker, I saw a plane plough into the World Trade Center and the first tower fall. I smelled the air, acrid from burnt steel and death, for days afterwards. Like most Americans, I assumed my government would retaliate against the people who did this. But President George W Bush's administration had larger ambitions. Speaking days after 9/11 to an audience that included the US Congress and British prime minister, Tony Blair, Bush declared: "Our war on terror begins with al-Qaida, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." Out of this trauma, the American public supported Bush's declaration of a "war on terror" as a kind of blank slate, with details to be filled in by his administration. Most Americans were afraid, wanted to be protected, and were rooting for their government to succeed. Within weeks, Congress granted Bush open-ended powers to wage war, passed the Patriot Act, and set to work reconstructing the US national security apparatus. But rapidly toppling the Taliban and scattering al-Qaida did not meet the ambitions of Bush, who had likened this conflict to the second world war and the cold war. Instead of wiping out al-Qaida's leadership (who escaped into Pakistan) and coming home, the Bush administration decided to build a new Afghan government and then promptly shifted its attention to Iraq – while tarring its political opponents as weak and unpatriotic. The die was cast. The objectives of those early years – to defeat every terrorist group of global reach and also build liberal democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq – appear unfathomable with the distance of 20 years, but they were broadly accepted after September 11, in a climate of American hegemony and post-9/11 fervour. By 2009, when Bush's presidency ended amid the ruins of Iraq and the wreckage of the global financial crisis, it had become clear that those objectives were unachievable, and that American hegemony itself was receding. The Obama presidency, which I was a part of for eight years, was a gradual reckoning with this reality. Paradoxically, the 2009-2011 troops surge in Afghanistan coupled diminished ambitions and increased resources: the US, Obama concluded, could not defeat the Taliban militarily, but needed to create time and space to defeat al-Qaida and build up an Afghan government to fight the Taliban. This conclusion reflected public opinion: in the politics of post-9/11, post-Iraq, post-financial crisis America, there was zero tolerance for terrorist attacks and zero appetite for nation building. This was the view that Biden, then vice-president, represented in the White House situation room – arguing against the surge on the grounds that we had to understand the limits of what could be achieved in Afghanistan. By May 2011, the killing of Osama bin Laden removed what many Americans regarded as the original rationale for the war in Afghanistan, just as the surge was approaching its endpoints. At the same time that our counter-terrorism mission achieved its greatest success, the expansive new counter-insurgency campaign was proving far more difficult than promised, suggesting that Biden's warnings had been prescient. In June 2011, the American drawdown began. Obama's downsized ambitions for the "war on terror" triggered harsh reactions from both the jingoistic right and the US national security establishment. For prominent military leaders, congressional hawks, and thinktank warriors who had set out to achieve these impossible objectives, Obama was insufficiently committed to the missions. To admit otherwise, you would have to accept that the mission itself was flawed – and that was a bridge too far for national security elites shaped by post-1989 American exceptionalism. For the Republican party, which had promised great victories in Iraq and Afghanistan, it was impossible to acknowledge there were any limits to our power; instead, it was easier to shift focus to other perceived threats to the US and American identity, which now came not just from "radical Islam", but from any available Other – be it a black president or immigrants at the southern border. As president, Donald Trump waged war against a shifting cast of enemies at home with far more gusto than he approached Afghanistan. For a time, he maintained an awkward detente with hawkish elements of the US establishment, signing off on a small surge in Afghanistan. His disregard for the Afghan people was initially manifest through increased civilian casualties. After he removed national security advisers like HR McMaster and John Bolton, it morphed into a deal with the Taliban that cut out the Afghan government and set a timeline to withdraw American troops. To the right, national security was tied up with white identity politics at home. To the left, terrorism was more evident in the Capitol insurrection than in distant lands. Trump's withdrawal barely registered in US politics. In this context, there was no way Biden was going to cancel Trump's deal and extend America's presence in Afghanistan. Having long doubted the capacity of the US military to reshape other countries, he was not going to continue a policy premised on that assumption. Given the existential threat to American democracy that clouded his transition into power, Biden presumably felt that the purpose of his presidency was to pursue policies responsive to restive public opinion – from a sweeping domestic agenda to a foreign policy for the middle class. Biden's decision, and the haste with which he carried it out, provoked a firestorm among much of the US national security establishment for several reasons. First, because Biden's logic carried a rebuke of the more expansive aims of the post-9/11 project that had shaped the service, careers, and commentary of so many people.

Muslims can't use liberal arguments to justify communalism on the cow slaughter issue



A judge of the Allahabad High Court recently made an observation that cows, being sacred to Hindus, should be designated as the national animal of India. It trended as news and sparked a heated discussion across social media. That an obiter dictum could be so newsy underscores how contentious the subject of cows is to Indians, both for those who revere it and for those who don't. It is in this backdrop that a reshaping of the Muslim attitude toward cow becomes an ineluctable imperative. In the mainstream religious discourse of Muslims, the absence of sensitivity for Hindu sensibility for cows does not reflect well on the ethics of good neighbourliness. Muslims know it too well that the cow is sacred to Hindus, its slaughter the worst sacrilege, and its meat is an abomination to them. Common sense dictates that one would be respectful of another's sentiments. A cavalier disregard doesn't help cultivate good inter-community relations. The narrative is further vitiated when clever liberal-secular arguments are employed to rationalise deeply ingrained religious prejudices. Liberal arguments should be used for promotion of liberal ethos, not for justification of communalism. To say that the State has no right to check what's on one's plate is a good argument, but doesn't apply to contraband – which beef is – with cow slaughter being prohibited by law in most of India, in 20 out of 28 states, and 6 out of 8 Union Territories. It goes far beyond the so-called cow-belt. Most of these laws banning cow slaughter were enacted in the 1950s, during the high noon of Leftward liberal polity, in accordance with Article 48 of the Constitution that makes protection of cow one of the Directive Principles of State Policy. Constitutionalism being the leitmotif of liberalism, those who raise slogans of swearing by the Constitution would acquit themselves better if they helped prepare a law-abiding citizenry by inculcating in them a respect for existing laws, rather than adducing transgressive philosophical arguments that might instigate them into being on the wrong side of law and sensitivities, but also becoming vulnerable to vigilante violence. When periodic reports of lynching, on suspicion of storing beef or carrying cows for slaughter, were shocking the conscience of the nation, a pertinent point was sorely missing from the condemnatory narrative. The interest of the Muslim minority would be better served if it could be convincingly said that cow slaughter being legally prohibited, and Muslims being a

law-abiding community who would not

 **Najmul Hoda**

insult added to injury. Earlier, D.D.

brook such violations by their members, the allegations are not only implausible but outlandish. Instead, the argument usually peddled is that the State doesn't have a right to peep into one's fridge. Would they say the same if a deer or a peacock, both protected under law, were slaughtered for meat? The ferocious contumacy of the fridge reasoning can imply admission and have deleterious implications for the collective psyche of both the communities. The default response of Muslims shouldn't be victimhood but further engagement. An already skewed discourse is further confounded by pressing history into an egregious rationalisation. The moot point that cow slaughter is banned in much of India is obfuscated by disingenuous citing of historical evidence. Well, historian D.N. Jha's book, *The Myth of the Holy Cow*, could have been right in inferring that in the remote antiquity Indians ate beef. But, so what? Is that more important or the living reality that in the last about 3,000 years, most Indians have held the cow sacred, and no sacrilege is more abominable to them than its slaughter? Another argument pressed into justification for violating the law against cow slaughter is the alleged "hypocrisy" of allowing beef consumption in some states, but not in others. It's simple, in some states, particularly in the northeast, there are no laws for cow protection. It's much the same as some states being dry and some not. This line of reasoning wilfully ignores the crux of the issue. If Hindus don't have the same problem with beef consumption by, say, Christians or some tribes, that's because they just eat it. Unlike the Muslims, they don't carry a theo-political narrative of conquest and subjugation in which cow slaughter had been used as a tool for demoralising a defeated nation. It was

Kosambi, a pioneer of Marxist historiography in India, in his book, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, had suggested, "heavy, dark, sluggish, hardy, fertile, productive with little care, far cleaner than it looks, docile enough to be led by a child, but suspicious of innovations and perfectly capable when roused, of charging a tiger or a locomotive, the buffalo would be a fitting national symbol for India." If similar suggestions about buffalo and cow were to arouse dissimilar reactions, one must explore the reasons thereof. Buffalo, with all its utility and ubiquity, is just another domesticated animal, whereas cow, as the usage suggests, is holy, and its sacredness is to be preserved and protected from sacrilegious slaughter by those in pursuit of a religious ideal of iconoclastic purity achieved through the desecration of sanctities of other communities. The cow has been a perennial bone of contention between Hindus and Muslims since the first invasion of Arabs in the early 8th century CE when the Umayyad general Muhammad bin Qasim conquered Sind and Multan in 712 CE. The issue has been central to the dynamic of Hindu-Muslim relation, predicated on the relative political standing of the two communities. It is pre-modern in origin, and predates the rise of communal politics during the colonial period. Historian Gyanendra Pandey, in his book, *The Construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*, has demonstrated how the issue of cow slaughter formed one of the foundational blocks of contending discourses of communalism – the other emblematic issues being the Urdu-Hindi dispute, and music-before-mosque as the Hindu religious processions insisted on winding through Muslim streets. The problem has had a long lineage, therefore historicising it would place it in perspective, and help

us understand its genesis, and find a solution. Al Biruni (d. 1048), the father of Indology, who came to India in 1017 along with Mahmud of Ghazni during one of his 17 campaigns, and stayed back for about a decade to learn about India, writes in his encyclopaedic *Tarikh al-Hind* that when Muhammad bin Qasim conquered Multan, "...he thought it best to have the idol where it was, but he hung a piece of cow's flesh on its neck by way of mockery". This anecdote typifies how cow slaughter, beside mutilation of idols and desecration of temples, has been essential to the grammar of politics since the inception of Muslim rule in India. It added insult to injury and worked as a psychological tool for demoralising the vanquished. The imperial hubris was best reflected in how the festival of sacrifice universally known as Eid-ul Ad'ha came to be named here as Baqreid – the festival of cow – wherein Baqr (q pronounced from epiglottis) means cow, and eid means festival. That, because of homophony, it's thought to be the festival of goat, is a providential corrective to a pernicious discourse. The situation was further aggravated by theological convolutions of ulema who insisted on cow slaughter, stating that any deference to the Hindu sentiment would be tantamount to sharing in their idolatrous belief. But, unlike today's narrative makers who use liberal idioms and constitutional reasoning to promote communal discourse, there were sensible Muslim rulers who outlawed cow slaughter. The story of the will that Babur left for his son Humayun to forbid cow slaughter is all too known. Howsoever slack the enforcement, cow slaughter remained banned in the Mughal empire from its beginning to end (1526-1857). Later, modernist reformer Sir Syed Ahmad Khan urged Muslims to give up this practice, and still later, the leadership of the Khilafat Movement pleaded the same. Since the issue was deeply embroiled in the interpretation of Islam, it would be appropriate to prohibit cow slaughter under theological sanction insofar as Maslaha (public welfare) is among chief Maqasid (goals) of Sharia, and it is evident that the practice runs contrary to public welfare, particularly of the Muslims. Inasmuch as the existing modern laws are effectively based on Maslaha, and meet the Maqasid of Sharia, cow slaughter shall be prohibited both as a secular and religious duty by the Muslims. They would do well to remember that the more prevalent meaning of Maslaha in India is prudence.

As the UK economy bounces back, do we sceptics need to say we got it wrong?



British capitalism seems to be on a roll. A million job vacancies were advertised in July, a new monthly record. Early signs are that unwinding the furlough scheme, now under way, is not going to cause a sharp rise in unemployment. House prices are rising at the fastest rate since 2004. Public borrowing in July halved compared with last July. Many new companies are being created. Business confidence is rising. The recovery is moving so fast as threats of lockdown recede that the UK on average will get back to pre-pandemic levels of output before the year is out. The chancellor, Rishi Sunak, can indulge his boss's tantrums; his political position could hardly be stronger. Sceptics, pretty much everyone, including me, have been confounded. In fairness, nobody foresaw, or could foresee, the incredible development of effective vaccines and the rapid speed of rollout. Also, more than 7 million people have cascaded out of furlough, using it as it was intended, protecting the economy from what would have been devastation, but returning people to paid work as fast as possible. In the main, employers and employees respected the rules of the game over furlough and lockdown rules. The expectations,

largely on the right, that nothing the state does at scale can work and that the Brits, as freedom-loving libertarians, believe rules are there to be broken proved unfounded. However, beware. British capitalism has not changed its spots. The open questions are whether the government has learned from this success,

 **Will Hutton**

an economic and business ministry of equal standing to the Treasury to mastermind the country through its recovery. Instead, it has a business secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, who has regressed, notwithstanding what some of his officials advise, to advocating a rejuvenated "free market" approach, oblivious to the structural weaknesses that the "free market" has created. What's more, he and the chancellor collude in the fiction that Brexit presents opportunities that trump its obvious costs. Truth-denial, in economics as in defence and security, makes good policy impossible. Mandatory reading in this context is the UK's decisive decade report, the UK Economy 2030 project launched jointly by the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance and the Resolution Foundation. Britain has to invest hugely and cleverly this decade to level up and achieve net zero, it argues, but it has the ball and chain around its economy of Brexit and low

productivity. Yes, there are assets – our universities, our science base and our language – but the scale of what lies ahead, along with the paltriness of current economic institutions and thinking is incredible. So, for example, one of the signs of a dynamic economy is people moving from jobs with few prospects to those with better prospects, but the rate of job movement in the 2010s was the lowest since the 1930s. As for handling change, Kwarteng should note the report's evidence that the Thatcherite 1980s were, in terms of managing wholesale change, an economic debacle that have left long-lasting scars. And even if he has a rethink, it is not clear, declare the authors, that the hollowed-out UK state at national and sub-national level has the capacity to act as it needs to after a decade of austerity. To cap it all, there is private equity's unprecedented raid on Britain, taking over companies as disparate as the food retailer Morrisons and top defence contractors in record numbers, saddling them with debt while offering worthless assurances that they mean nothing but good. Britain confronts grand challenges not only with a hollowed-out state but a hollowed-out private sector. But for all this, there is opportunity. Nobody beyond the over-60s in Tory constituency associations and a few swivel-eyed members of rightwing thinktanks believes all these issues can be handled by the private sector and market alone. Even the Competition and Markets Authority has powerful doubts, calling for a proper investigation into whether the British hi-tech jewel Arm should be transferred from one careless owner, SoftBank (which should never have been allowed to buy it in the first place), to another even more careless and rapacious, Nvidia.

Virgin Galactic sees delay to space mission with Italian Air Force



New York, Sep 11: Virgin Galactic Holdings Inc (SPCE.N) flagged a delay to its first commercial research mission with the Italian Air Force to mid-October due to a potential manufacturing defect. The company also attributed the delay in the mission, named "Unity 23",

to the pending resolution of a probe by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Virgin Galactic said on Friday a third-party supplier warned of a potential manufacturing defect in a component of the flight control system during test flight preparations. "At this point, it

is not yet known whether the defect is present in the company's vehicles and what, if any, repair work may be needed," the company said, adding it was conducting inspections with the vendor. The mission was initially set for late September or early October to carry three paying crew members from the Italian Air Force and the Rome-based government agency National Research Council. The FAA is investigating the flight that took billionaire Richard Branson to space in July, and last week barred SpaceShipTwo flights until the agency approves the final mishap report or determines the issues do not affect public safety.

realme introduces new Youth Flagships with realme 8s 5G, realme 8i along with first-ever realme Pad and realme Bluetooth Speakers

New Delhi, September 11: realme, India's first brand to launch a 5G enabled smartphone and India's fastest-growing technology brand, today unveiled newest additions to its 8 series with realme 8s 5G and realme 8i. The brand also launched its first-ever tablet, the realme Pad, as well as first-ever speakers with realme Cobble Bluetooth Speaker and realme Pocket Bluetooth Speaker. realme 8s 5G expands the 5G portfolio as the world's first smartphone with MediaTek Dimensity 810 5G processor. realme 8i is India's first smartphone to feature MediaTek Helio G96 Processor. With impressive design and features, these two new additions to the realme 8 series will provide users with a combination of good specifications with an immersive display, trendy camera, powerful processors and fast-charging capabilities that can match up to their lifestyle. Realme Pad embodies Ultra Slim and real fun with just 6.9mm

build and an immersive display with trendsetting WUXGA+ technology. It is designed to entertain on the go, to be more accessible for e-learning, work lighter and is suitable for all scenarios. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Madhav Sheth, Vice President, realme and Chief Executive Officer, realme India and Europe said, "The additions of realme 8s 5G and realme 8i to our Number series exemplifies realme's commitment to bring cutting-edge and industry-first products. As a 5G leader, realme is working closely with an ecosystem to level up the user experience and democratize 5G among the youth. realme 8s 5G, sporting the world's first D810 processor will enable the consumers to be future-ready while realme 8i paves the way for an infinitely smooth and powerful experience. "Also, we are thrilled to announce new products as part of our "1+5+T" strategy. Our first-ever



tablet, the realme Pad solidifies our vision to create an extraordinary tech-lifestyle for the youth. With its slim and attractive design, excellent performance and display, the realme Pad will emerge as a key driver of the brand's growth in the personal computing segment. As a holistic brand, realme has also rejuvenated its audio portfolio with trendsetting portable Bluetooth speakers-Cobble & Pocket-allowing consum-

ers to enjoy immersive sound with increased bass power anytime, anywhere. realme will continue to delight users with more trendsetting products and help them enjoy an unparalleled smart living, enhanced by technology. "Said, Mr. Madhav Sheth. The 5G performer, realme 8s 5G, is the world's first smartphone equipped with MediaTek Dimensity 810 5G processor. It is the world's first 6nm process 5G phone in this price segment and comes with a dual 5G dual standby mode. The smartphone also features the Dynamic RAM Expansion technology (DRE), which can add up to 5GB to the existing 8GB RAM, enabling users to enjoy upto 13GB of dynamic memory. Equipped with a 90Hz ultra-smooth display and a large 16.5 cm (6.5") full screen, the smartphone provides a supreme-smooth visual experience. realme 8s 5G,

comes with a 33W Dart charge and a massive 5000mAh battery. It features an Infinite Star Design that adopts the latest texture printing process and superimposes the beam texture to bring out the star-like luster. It also comes with an advanced 64MP nightscape camera to take clear and bright photos even in complex lighting conditions and consists of a 16MP AI Beauty Selfie front camera to take natural and delicate skin selfies. Also, the smartphone comes with 2 Nano SIM cards and 1 MicroSD card at the same time and supports a maximum of 1TB memory expansion. realme 8s 5G is available in two amazing colours - Universe Blue and Universe Purple, and two variants, 6GB+128GB priced at INR 17,999 and 8GB+128GB priced at INR 19,999 respectively. The first sale is scheduled for 13th September, 12:00 PM onwards on realme.com, Flipkart & Mainline channels.

U.S. Treasury, financial industry discuss cryptocurrency 'stablecoins'



Washington, Sep 11: The U.S. Treasury Department met with a number of industry participants this week to quiz them about the risks and benefits posed by stablecoins -- a rapidly growing type of cryptocurrencies, the value of which is pegged to traditional currencies, according to three people with direct knowledge of the meetings. Washington policymakers are alarmed at the rapidly expanding cryptocurrency market which exceeded a record \$2 trillion in April. As of Friday, the market cap of stablecoins stood at roughly \$125 billion, according to industry data site CoinMarketCap. It is unclear which financial regulations apply to these relatively new products. U.S. financial regulators are working to understand the risks and opportunities posed by cryptocurrencies to the traditional U.S. financial system and plan to issue a number of reports on the subject in

coming months, they have said. In July, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the government must move quickly to establish a regulatory framework for stablecoins. In a sign those efforts are gathering pace, Treasury officials this week met with financial industry executives to discuss potential stablecoin regulation, the three sources said. Two of the people said that in meetings this week, one of which took place on Friday, officials asked whether stablecoins would require direct oversight if they become extremely popular. They also discussed how regulators should try to mitigate the risks of too many people trying to cash in their stablecoins at the same time, and whether major stablecoins should be backed by traditional assets. Officials also asked about how stablecoins should be structured, how they could be used, whether the current

regulatory framework is sufficient, and other safety and soundness issues, one of the people said. Treasury officials also met earlier in the week with a group of banks and credit unions to discuss similar issues, another of the people said. Treasury officials appeared to be gathering information and did not share their thinking on how stablecoins should be regulated, this person added. The information gathered at this week's meetings is likely to help shape a broad Treasury report on stablecoins expected in the coming months. In a statement, Treasury spokesman John Rizzo said the department is examining "potential benefits and risks of stablecoins for users, markets, or the financial system." "As this work continues, the Treasury Department is meeting with a broad range of stakeholders, including consumer advocates, members of Congress and market participants," he added. Washington policymakers worry the rise in privately-operated currencies could undermine their control of the financial and monetary systems, increase systemic risks, promote financial crime, and hurt investors. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency are also working on cryptocurrency projects, they have said.

Epic's narrow win in App Store case toughens fight against Google Play rules

Oakland, Calif., Sep 11: Android app makers suing to stop Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL) Google from siphoning up to 30% of their sales received little reassurance about their chances on Friday as a judge allowed a comparable fee charged by Apple Inc (AAPL.O) to stand. Developers including "Fortnite" maker Epic Games in the last year took aim at the two biggest mobile app stores, run by Apple and Google. The critics view the fee as needlessly high, costing developers collectively billions of dollars a year, and a function of the two big tech companies having monopoly power. Google's trial is at least a year away, time both sides could use to hone arguments based on the Apple decision, legal experts said. In a ruling on Friday following a trial between Epic Games and Apple, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers required Apple to let developers tell customers about ways to pay outside of its App Store, leading Apple

shares to fall 3.3%. Alphabet dropped 1.9%. Google's Play store employs rules similar to the ones struck down in the Apple case, limiting developer communications with their customers, and Tom Forte, an analyst at D.A. Davidson, said Google could be at risk, too. He also noted the remaining risk of new regulatory action by lawmakers. But Gonzalez Rogers allowed to stand requirements that developers bemoan even more. Those rules, including that in-app payments be made on Apple's own system, allow the company to collect its 15-30% fee. Apple General Counsel Katherine Adams told reporters that her company was "extremely pleased." Epic Chief Executive Tim Sweeney wrote on Twitter that, "Today's ruling isn't a win for developers or for consumers." Vanderbilt Law School professor Rebecca Haw Allensworth said she agreed Gonzalez Rogers' findings were discouraging for the case against Google, while Valerie Williams, an antitrust partner at law firm Alston & Bird, said Google "will likely be encouraged by the ruling."



Shanghai, Sep 11: Chinese gaming and "metaverse"-related shares skidded, dragged down by an ongoing regulatory squeeze that has engulfed industries ranging from online platforms and entertainment to for-profit tutoring and real estate. In the latest blow to China's online gaming sector, the South China Morning Post reported on Thursday afternoon that Beijing had temporarily suspended approvals of new games, further hitting shares in the likes of Tencent Holdings (0700.HK) and NetEase (9999.HK). Shares in the two companies closed more than 8% and 11% lower respectively. The decision to freeze new

video game approvals was revealed at a Wednesday meeting between Chinese authorities and gaming firms including Tencent Holdings and NetEase, said the report citing unnamed sources briefed on the matter, adding that it was not clear how long the suspension would last. Tencent declined to comment on the gaming approvals while the National Press and Publication Administration, which is responsible for approving game titles, and NetEase did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Stocks in listed gaming companies had already been battered earlier in the day after state news agency Xinhua reported on the same meeting. Xinhua said the meeting aimed to ensure



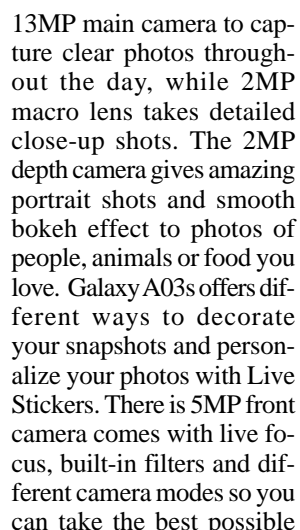
the companies implemented strict new rules to curb gaming addiction among minors, including a ban last month on under-18s playing video games for more than three hours a week, but did not mention the suspension of gaming approvals in the report. Xinhua also said that companies were told to "resolutely curb incorrect tendencies such as focusing 'only on money' and 'only on traffic', and change rules and gameplay designs that induce players to indulge". Both Tencent and NetEase said earlier in the day they would comply with the regulators' requests. "The Chinese government is taking a very serious approach to online gaming and these reported restric-

tions are a step ahead on that program," Kingston Securities executive director Dickie Wong told Reuters. "I think these moves show for investors it is not a good idea to put their money in just one of the internet or technology companies on the mainland." Qi Wang, CEO of MegaTrust Investment (HK), said the regulatory pressure will likely last for years not months. "It's still too early to tell which companies are better positioned to deal with the on-going regulatory scrutiny." Global and domestic investors have been jolted by an on-going regulatory squeeze that has sought to root out some of the perceived excesses of the runaway growth in some of China's new economy sectors in

recent years. Separately on Thursday, Chinese state media cautioned investors against blindly buying Chinese stocks hoping to profit from the metaverse, a virtual shared space based on virtual technologies. The commentary by the official Securities Times follows a recent surge in stocks such as Shenzhen Zhongqingbao Interaction Network (300052.SZ) and Perfect World (002624.SZ) that are perceived as developing the metaverse. Shares in related stocks tumbled after the commentary was published, with Wondershare Technology (300624.SZ) falling by nearly 11% and Goertek (002241.SZ) down by almost 9%. Other regulatory measures have included a crackdown on anticompetitive behaviour among online "platform" companies and seeking greater control of the vast stores of data generated by the industry. The transport ministry also said on Wednesday it would intensify a crackdown on illegal behaviour in the ride-hailing industry and deal with online platforms that are still using non-compliant vehicles and drivers.

Samsung India Launches Galaxy A03s with Big 6.5" Infinity-V Display and 5000mAh Battery and Fingerprint Sensor

Delhi, September 11: Samsung, India's most trusted smartphone brand, today announced the launch of Galaxy A03s. The latest in Samsung's A-series, Galaxy A03s sports stunning 6.5-inch Infinity-V display, 13MP triple rear camera, massive 5000mAh battery, powerful Octa-core MediaTek P35 processor with side fingerprint sensor, haze and matt textured design and host of other innovative features. With Galaxy A03s, Samsung will disrupt the segment with great features. Galaxy A03s will be available in three colours - Black, Blue and White flaunting a haze and matt textured body and is priced at INR 11,499 for 3GB+32GB variant and INR 12,499 for 4GB+64GB variant. Awesome Photography Galaxy A03s is equipped with triple camera setup that lets you take sharp and clear shots. On the rear, Galaxy A03s has



and will allow you to spend more time watching content and less time charging your smartphone. Awesome Performance Powered by the advanced Octa-Core MediaTek Helio P35 processor, Galaxy A03s ensures optimized performance, smooth multitasking and reduced power consumption even while browsing and using multiple apps.

Fed officials' personal dealings stir controversy, call for change

Mexico, Sep 11: Mexico Media reports this week that two of the Federal Reserve's 12 regional bank presidents were active traders has some of the central bank's most vocal critics questioning the rules that allowed them to engage in the transactions in the first place. Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan and Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren made frequent or substantial trades in 2020, the Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg reported earlier this week. The trades occurred during a year in which the central bank took major actions to shore up the economy and swooning financial markets after they were broadsided by the coronavirus pandemic. While the trades were permitted under the Fed system's ethics guidelines, their disclosure prompted some observers and a top lawmaker to flag possible conflicts of interest. "Forget about the individual



"even the appearance of any conflict of interest" and sell all individual stock holdings by Sept. 30, moving the proceeds into cash or passively invested index funds. Both Kaplan and Rosengren said they would not trade on those accounts as long as they are serving as Fed presidents. The changes came after they both faced criticism for transactions made last year, dealings that were first reported by the Wall Street Journal this week. Each has since made his annual financial disclosures public. The documents showed that Kaplan, for instance, bought and sold at least \$18 million in individual stocks in 2020, mostly tech stocks like Apple Inc (AAPL.O) and Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) and energy stocks such as Marathon Petroleum Corp (MPC.N). All of those transactions were reviewed by the Dallas Fed general counsel, said Dallas Fed spokesman James Hoard.

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Financial support enhances

Corporation at Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Guwahati with 10 seats for 10+2 students to produce skilled manpower for Panchakarma therapy in NE region and enhance the employment opportunities in that part of the country. "Career opportunities in the Ayush sector for professionals of all disciplines have increased dramatically during recent years. Moreover, consequent to these efforts, faith in the Ayush systems has been restored among communities worldwide," Sonowal said. He added that Ayush has a great potential to cater to a large number of healthcare needs of people and contribute to the growth and development of this country. Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Science & Technology and Information & Broadcasting in the Government of Assam, Keshab Mahanta, was the guest of honour at the conference. The Ministry of Ayush had earlier this month successfully held a landmark conference of Ayush ministers of all north-eastern states and deliberated upon the developing the infrastructure for popularizing Ayush stream in the region. Today's conference was the next step with experts discussing the education and career opportunities in Ayush. The presentation on 'Career Opportunities, Education in Ayurveda' was made by Vaidya Jayant Yeshwant Deopujari, Chairperson of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM). It was followed by a session on Career opportunity and Exploration of Potential of Ayush in North Eastern States. In this session, Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, Director, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur gave a lecture on 'Education & Career Opportunities in Ayurveda in North Eastern States' and Dr. N. Srikanth, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi spoke on 'Research & Development in North Eastern States India'. There was a special address by Indrani Mahto, Manager, Startup India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, on 'Entrepreneurship in Ayush sector 'Start Up'. Lecture on 'Career Opportunities in Homeopathy; Industrial Perspective in North Eastern States' was given by Dr. Subhas Singh, Director, NIH, Kolkata; lecture on 'Career Opportunities Education in Homeopathy in North Eastern States was given by Dr. Tarkeshwar Jain, Secretary, NCH, New Delhi and 'Research & Development and Public Health in North East India' was given by Dr. Subhash Chaudhary, NIH, Kolkata. Similarly, a lecture on 'Research Education and Career Opportunity in Unani' was given by Prof. Asim Ali Khan, Director General, CCRUM, New Delhi; on 'Research Education and Career Opportunity in Siddha' was given by Prof. Dr. K. Kanakavalli, Director General, CCRS, Chennai; on 'Research Education and Career Opportunity in Sowa-Rigpa' by Dr. Padma Gurmeet, Director, NRIS, Leh and 'Research Education and Career Opportunity in Yoga & Naturopathy' was given by Dr. Raghvendra Rao, Director, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi. This session is followed by a presentation of representatives of Ayush Industries on 'Career opportunity & Entrepreneurship: Industry perspective' which followed an Interactive Session with Ayush Students and Scholars from different areas of North eastern states. About 250 participants, including the officials from the Ministry of Ayush, Ayush Institutes and Research Councils and Ayush Colleges in NE States attended the conference.

Body of missing person

the way to the hospital."The body of the man was identified from the documents found in a bag," a Forest Department official said. The single-engine ferry that sank was headed for Neamatighat from Kamalabari ferry point in Majuli, an 'island' district and Assembly constituency represented by Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. Like most other ferries on the Brahmaputra and other rivers of Assam, it was operating without any adherence to safety guidelines. The State government suspended three Inland Water Transport Department officials after the mishap and banned the plying of all single-engine boats while offering subsidised loans to ferry operators to upgrade their vessels with marine engines and other safety measures.

Assam CM holds meeting

cover all major paddy producing pockets. Dr. Sarma said that the State Government will provide all required logistic support to the FCI including providing adequate storage infrastructures in all the districts. He said that the State government will also allot sufficient lands to FCI for building godowns etc. wherever necessary. He directed the FCS & CA department to provide all necessary support to the central agency in expediting paddy procurement from the farmers of the state. Former Union Minister and Chairman, Assam Food & Civil Supply Corporation Rajen Gohain, Principal Secretary of FCS & CA Department Biswaranjan Samal, FCI Executive Director (HQ) Sudeep Singh and other senior officials of FCS & CA Department and FCI were present during the meeting.

IAF joins rescue forces to trace

vessels could travel between Majuli and Jorhat in the winter season. He directed officials to strictly adhere to safety norms for passengers travelling in ferries and boats and urged them to expedite operations to find two persons, who are missing after the accident. Sonowal visited the family of Dr Bikramjit Baruah at their residence in Jorhat and assured them all support. He then met the injured persons who are being treated at Jorhat Medical College and Hospital and enquired about their health.

Vedanta seeks premium

USD 1.79 per million British thermal unit. The duration of the contract will be 8 years from March 1, 2022, the bid document said. E-bidding for the gas is scheduled to take place on September 30. The government has given freedom to producers to discover a market rate for the gas they produce. Gas producers have used different formulae to discover the price - some used an oil price benchmark, some a gas linked index and Vedanta is seeking a price that is over and above the government-mandated rate for state-owned firms.

Govt Funded Road Technology

invention "TAILOR-MADE COLD BINDER" but also entitles them to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, selling or importing its invention. On earning the honour of product patent, an elated Rajeev Agarwal, Founder & CEO - BitChem, quoted, "BitChem has been continuously educating the road sector on benefits of using its tailor made products." He further added, "We are thankful to the Patent Office to understand our innovation and grant us the patent. This will help us convince various State Road Dept. to use genuine Patented Products for long-lasting roads." He strongly believes that this patent grant will be a major breakthrough to ensure generic use of ColdMix is strictly regulated for use in construction under various PMGSY & PWD roads to support in creating a pollution-free environment for our future generations to live in. BitChem is a reputed new-generation Road Science company into manufacturing Bitumen Emulsions and caters for the best Road Technologies in the construction of Green Roads in the Country based in Guwahati, Assam. Its credibility can be gauged from the awards, coupled with recognition from Hon'ble President of India through CSIR Technology award - 2017 and recent funding received from Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, to set up a state-of-the-art automatic industrial facility in Durgapur, West Bengal. Cold Mix road construction technology is environment friendly leading to zero percent carbon emission and is 2-3 times faster than the conventional technology, as it allows work in all climatic conditions including rain. Since 2008, using its premium quality-high performance Regular Emulsion & BitChem Coldmix®, BitChem has completed more than 8500+ kms of roads under PMGSY & PWD across India to mold a Greener Future ahead through building Pollution-free Nation through its Green Roads Mission. BitChem product comes with brand assurance with a zero percent failure rate with money-back guarantee. BitChem is an SM Group Company, led by Mr. Sarat Kr. Jain, a renowned businessman having served as the Chairman of Federation of Industries & Commerce of Northeast Region (FINER) for 5 years and also as a Board of Directors in International Hospital, Guwahati. SM Group is among the fastest-growing business houses in North East India, popularly known as the most respected and most trusted brands catering to diverse needs and requirements specializing in Steel distribution, Met Coke Manufacturing, Road Science, Roofing sheets, Real Estate, Infrastructure & hospitality.

Bodoland Pig Mission launched

The mission is expected to reach out to all areas" said Pramod Boro. Earlier, in response to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's request, the 'All Assam Pig Farmers Association' on Wednesday met the Chief Minister and submitted their detailed report for the 'Assam Piggery Mission'. The total cost of the project is pegged at Rs 456.42 crore. The project envisages self-sustaining pig production and uplift of the socio-economic condition of the pig farmers in Assam. Thanking the Chief Minister for undertaking the initiative aimed at "the empowerment of 10 Lakh vulnerable small-scale farmers of Assam, the Association was optimistic that this move will generate opportunities for another 10 Lakh people who will be associated with the Pig Industry. "We are extremely grateful to the Chief Minister for his personal interest and passion for the development of this sector, and also the State's economy," the organization's joint secretary, Debraj Swargari, told the media.

Celebrate Durga Puja

had imposed strict curbs for the celebration of Bohag Bihu in April. It is better to celebrate with caution," he added. Appealing to the people to get vaccinated before Puja, he said, "There will be no need for strict curbs if people get fully vaccinated. I am told that some people are staying away from the second shot after the improvement in the Covid situation. There is no vaccine shortage in the state at present. I would appeal to the people to get vaccinated." Biswajit Pegu, Kamrup (Metro) deputy commissioner, said the mechanism to grant permission to organise the Pujas will more or less remain the same like the previous year. "A thorough survey will be conducted before granting permission. There are over 400 puja committees," the DC said.

Serves eviction notice to village adjacent to LGBT airport

Correspondent
Palasbari, Sep 9: The Kamrup administration has served a notice to evacuate 55 bigha land of Kaitasidhi village under Palasbari LAC near the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport. However, the people who own the land clarified that they would not evacuate their land under any circumstance. "We have been served a notice to evacuate 55 bighas, 2 katha and 3.50 lecha land near the Airport. We heard that the Adani group which has been given charge of the Airport for 50 years under a lease agreement by the Government of India wants to do expansion work here. But we want to clarify that we will not leave our land even if we are given adequate compensation", said a local person. Some other people in the area also said that they will not hand over their land to the Adani group. "It may be mentioned here that in 2018, in a meeting with the district administration, we accepted their proposal to give permission to uproot or cut our trees. Since then, they have been cutting our trees. But we will not give our land to them," they said. Some local women also categorically stated that they are ready to become daily wage earners but never give their land.

Memorial meeting held at Jamugurihat

Correspondent
Biswanath Chariali, Sep 11: A memorial meeting in memory of Haribhakta Katowal, an eminent writer and a multilingual poet was organized by Jamugurihat branch of Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha in collaboration with Kathpora village development committee on Friday at Kathpora LPS. The programme began with hoisting of a flag by Neel Bahadur Chetry followed by offering floral tribute in front of the portrait of Katowal by Kubir Singh Karki. Bala Kumari Devi, a retired teacher planted a sapling before the meeting. Tek Bahadur Chetry offered a welcome address on behalf of the reception committee. Guru Prasad Upadhyaya, a veteran writer addressed the gathering as an appointed speaker who had highlighted the life, literary contributions of poet Katowal. Speakers Anjan Baskota, Dr. Tilak Sarma, Dr. Dhundiraj Upadhyaya and Purna Kumar Sarma also recalled the literary contributions of Haribhakta. The main session was followed by a multilingual poetry circle wherein more than twenty poets including Dr. Tilak Sarma, Narad Nirola, Ghanashyam Adhikari, Narayan Sarma, Ashok Sarma, Somnath Khatiwoda read out their self composed poems. Ashok Sarma conducted all the proceedings of the meeting while Lalit Timsina offered vote of thanks. The meeting was also attended by Padma Sarma, Moti Sarma, Homnath pakuwal, Chakrapani Sarma along with others. The memorial

ICDS Project Remote Monigong Circle Celebrates Poshan Mah

Staff Reporter
Aalo, Sep 11: The ICDS Project of remote Monigong Circle in Shi-Yomi District led by CDPO Ojing Talom is celebrating the month long Poshan Mah, 2021 from 1st September to 30th September with a wide range of programmes for women and children. The programme started with Poshan pledge, Poshan Walk, plantation drive in available places in all Anganwadi Centres, awareness is being generated about proper nutrition, encouraging cultivation of vegetables suitable for agro-climatic regions etc. Stress is also being laid to combat moderate acute malnutrition, hand washing technique, stunting in children, taking measurements and weights were carried through anthropometric devices out so far. The CDPO also disclosed that AWWs have been instructed to refer to growth charts of boys and girls for future references. Yoga sessions were also conducted among the target groups and Covid-19 appropriate behavior such as handwashing practices, wearing of masks and social distancing were also demonstrated.

CIA Chief Met Ajit Doval In New Delhi Amid Taliban Government Formation

New Delhi, September 11: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met with US spymaster William Burns in Delhi on Tuesday. The meeting took place on a day when the Taliban announced the names of people who would run Afghanistan, including a man on the UN sanctions list being named as Prime Minister. The details of what Mr Doval and the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) chief discussed are not known, but in the backdrop of the Taliban government formation in Afghanistan, security issues were on top priority. India was among the countries that evacuated their mission staff from Kabul when the Taliban took the Afghan capital three weeks ago. Russia and Pakistan had stayed put. The CIA chief's meeting with Mr Doval would likely have included India's concerns over the developments in Afghanistan. India has said it expects the Taliban not to allow terror groups to operate from its soil to target India, especially former trouble in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Doval is also meeting his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev in Delhi today. Issues relating to China, Pakistan and Afghanistan will be the focus at the meeting, sources have said. India's Ambassador to Russia DB Venkatesh Varma, however, said talks with the Taliban in Doha have not yielded the right results. "...India was not a direct participant in the Doha talks. India was also not part of the Troika Plus mechanism, but as I said, these mechanisms have not yielded the right results. I think one lesson is that it is better that India and Russia work together with respect to Afghanistan. That is the most important lesson for us," Mr Venkatesh said, referring to the Qatar-hosted talks with the Taliban that paved the way for the US pullout from Afghanistan after a 20-year war. Pakistan interfering in Afghanistan's affairs remains a concern for India. Pakistan continues to foment a "culture of violence" at home and across its borders, India said on Tuesday, criticising Islamabad for using the platform of the United Nations for hate speech against India. "A culture of peace is not just an abstract value or principle to be discussed and celebrated in conferences, but needs to be actively built into global relationships between and among member states," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Vidisha Maitra said in the UN General Assembly. "We have witnessed yet another attempt today by the delegation of Pakistan to exploit a UN platform for hate speech against India, even as it continues to foment a culture of violence at home and across its borders. We dismiss and condemn all such efforts," she said. Mullah Mohammad Hassan, the little-known head of the Taliban's leadership council, was named as acting Prime Minister in Afghanistan.

Freedom run organized by NYK, Nagaon

Correspondent
Nagaon, Sep 11: As part of the celebration of Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav on occasion of 75th years of country's independence initiated by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nagaon in association with Ajmal foundation today organized a freedom run in Hojai district. Volunteers to Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nagaon, NSS as well as NCC cadets, college students and other youths leaders joined enthusiastically in the freedom run that started from Ajmal Law College, Hojai. Chandan Buragohain, circle officer, Hojai revenue circle and P Chakraborty, Deputy Director, NYKS flagged off the freedom run. Dr MRH Azad, GM, Ajmal foundation, Dr Dijumoni Sarma, CTO, Rabindranath Tagore University, Colonel (retired) Samir Kanjilal, academic director of Ajmal foundation and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

Muhiram Bora passes away

Correspondent
Nagaon, Sep 11: Retired engineer of public works department, the ex-president of Asom Sut Sanmilan and noted creator of 'Sut Sanghita', a valued book on the community's cultural as well as religious tradition, Muhiram Bora breathed his last on Friday night due to his old age ailments at his residence situated at Nagaon Kasalukhuwa. He was around 93. He left behind his wife, four daughters and a host of relatives. Born in 1928 at Juria Teliagaon village, he finally settled at Shankar Nagar near Nagaon Kasalukhuwa area in the town a few decades ago. He penned more than a dozen of various kinds of books and plays on Maha Bhagavad and also on the origin of Sut community people of Hindu society in India and its parental growth across Indian society. Besides, he was involved in various socio-cultural as well as religious organizations of the district including Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha till his death. It is pertinent to mention that under the leadership of Mohiram Bora, the Asom Sut Sanmilan accelerated its activities in the state and also established it in full fledged. Various local organizations including Nagaon Zila Sahitya Sabha, Nagaon Press Club, district committee of AAJU, Working Journalists Union, Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha, local MLA Rupak Sarma and other dignitaries condoled his demise and also paid homage to him.



'Fragile', 'Concerning for us': What India said at UN on Afghanistan situation

New Delhi, Sept 11: India considers the present situation of Afghanistan as very fragile, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said at the UN Security Council debate of Afghanistan on Thursday. As Afghanistan's neighbour, India was privileged to preside the session last month, Tirumurti said. It is important that the Taliban adhere to its commitment to not allow the use of the Afghan coil for terrorism, including from terror groups designated under Security Council resolution 1267 that lists Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. "The situation in Afghanistan continues to be very fragile. As its immediate neighbour and a friend to its people, the current situation is of direct concern to us," Tirumurti said. "In this context, we reiterate the need for the voices of Afghan women to be heard, aspirations of Afghan children to be realised and the rights of minorities to be protected. We call on humanitarian assistance to be provided urgently and underline the need to provide unhindered access to the UN and other agencies in this regard," he said. On the issue of the interim Cabinet that the Taliban have announced that includes several sanctioned names, Tirumurti stressed India's call for an inclusive dispensation in Afghanistan which represents all sections of Afghan society. "A broad-based, inclusive and representative formation attained through an inclusive negotiated political settlement would gain greater international acceptability and legitimacy," he said. A day after Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, the United Nations Security Council issued a press statement saying that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used to threaten or attack any country. After the blast in Kabul on August 26, the security council issued another statement in which it reiterated its stand and did not mention the name of the Taliban. With the world taking a wait-and-watch stance, the Taliban have announced their interim cabinet. The ministers may take oath on September 11, on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 attack. Reports said several countries including China, Pakistan, Russia, the United States, India, have been invited to take part in the ceremony.

Tamil Nadu Assembly passes resolution urging Centre to repeal CAA, BJP walks out

Chennai, September 11: The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 to protect and ensure unity and communal harmony and uphold the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution. The resolution moved by Chief Minister M K Stalin said the CAA passed by the Parliament in 2019 "is not in tune with the secular principles laid down in our Constitution and also not conducive to the communal harmony that prevails in India. "As per established democratic principles, a nation should be governed taking into consideration the aspirations and concerns of the people belonging to all sections of the society." But it is clearly seen that the CAA was passed in such a way that it does not accord a warm support to the refugees considering their plight, but instead discriminate them according to their religion and their country of origin. "Hence, to "protect and ensure the unity and communal harmony in this country and to uphold the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution of India, this August House resolves to urge the Union government to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019." The main opposition AIADMK's members were not in the House during its passage. They staged a walkout over issues they tried to raise during the zero hour. Leader of the Opposition K Palaniswami told reporters that they could not raise key issues in the House as they did not get the nod from Speaker M Appavu and even some views expressed by them - following permission for a brief while - were later expunged. Condemning this, Palaniswami said, his party staged a walkout. Listing schemes like two wheeler scheme for women beneficiaries, he said the DMK government has "given up" this scheme and one after the other, such welfare schemes of the AIADMK regime were being scuttled, he claimed. Opposing the resolution, the BJP MLAs staged a walkout and later speaking to media, the party's legislature party leader Nainar Nagendran said the CAA has absolutely nothing against Muslim people. "The CM today speaks of communal harmony, but does not even greet people for Hindu festivals including Ganesh Chaturthi and Deepavali," he said.



Novak Djokovic outlasts Alexander Zverev in titanic US Open semi-final

How Emma Raducanu's team combined to steer her to US Open final

London, September 11 : The imperious Novak Djokovic is one win away from a record-setting 21st major singles championship and the first calendar-year grand slam in men's tennis in more than a half-century after rallying from behind for the fourth time in as many matches at the US Open, this time in a punishing five-set semi-final encounter with the fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev. Amid a crackling atmosphere on a cool Friday night at Arthur Ashe Stadium, the best player in the world and top seed in the men's draw overcame another uncertain start against one of the few players on tour capable of outmuscling him from the baseline, winning 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in just over three and a half hours to move to the doorstep of the rarest achievement in his sport. "He plays the best tennis when he needs to, which a lot of players don't," a downcast Zverev said in the aftermath. "There is a reason why he's won 20 grand slams. There's a reason why he's spent the most weeks at world No 1. I think mentally he's the best player to ever play the game. The result moved the top-ranked Djokovic to a perfect 27 wins from 27 matches at major tournaments this season, inching him ever closer to becoming the first men's player to win all four of the sport's bedrock events in the same calendar year since Rod Laver, who swept the lot in 1969 and took in Friday's semi-final twin bill from the President's Box on the stadium's east end. Should the reigning Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon champion lift the US Open trophy on Sunday, he would also break a three-way tie atop the all-time men's grand slam leaderboard with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, both of whom are absent from this year's tournament due to injury. "I know that people would like to hear me talk about it, but there's not much to talk about," said the 34-year-old Djokovic, whose 31st major final appearance equals Federer's all-time mark. "There's only one match left. All in. Let's do it. I'm going to put my heart and my soul and my body and my head into that one. I'm going to treat the next match like it is the last match of my career." Djokovic's fourth straight come-from-behind win at Flushing Meadows - the 10th time during his 27-match unbeaten run in which he dropped the



opening set - assured his place in Sunday's final opposite second-seeded Daniil Medvedev, the in-form Russian who advanced earlier Friday with a straightforward 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over Canada's Félix Auger-Aliassime. Six weeks after Zverev rallied from a set down to spoil Djokovic's bid for a so-called golden slam in the Tokyo Olympic semi-finals, the 24-year-old Hamburg native spent most of Friday's night opening set pinning Djokovic back with flat, heavy groundstrokes deep into the court as both men held serve through the eight games. But after Djokovic double-faulted while facing his second break point serving at 4-all, Zverev was able to comfortably serve out the first set in 36 minutes. Zverev's booming serve and weapons-grade power off both wings make demands that few of Djokovic's opponents have proven capable of asking, but the world No 1 began mixing in spin and slice the rallies in an effort to make things more complicated for his German opponent. The variety paid off when Djokovic broke Zverev immediately to open the second, then again toward the end, to level the affair at one set apiece. The inflection point - of the match and perhaps Djokovic's entire year-long bid for history - came with Zverev serving at 4-5 in the third and his Serbian foe, just perhaps, betraying signs of fatigue. After spending most of the evening getting the better of Djokovic in a series of grueling, pyrrhic exchanges, Zverev flinched in consecutive baseline rallies of 18, 32 and 12 shots to go triple break point down. Zverev saved the first (a taxing 21-shot marathon) and the second (an astonishing 53-shot pitched battle that unfolded over 78 seconds), only for Djokovic to win a 16-shot back-and-forth with an overhand winner to break for a two-sets-to-one lead. The exhilarating sequence brought the crowd of 21,139 spectators to its feet. Unbowed, Zverev broke Djokovic early in the

fourth set with an arresting forehand winner down the line, punctuating a 10-minute game where more than half of the points extended a dozen shots or more. That break held up long enough for the German to serve out the fourth and force a deciding set, marking the first time Djokovic was forced to go the distance in the fortnight. But Zverev, who entered Friday's semi-final on a tailwind of self-belief amid a career-long 16-match win streak that included titles at the Olympics and the Cincinnati Masters, fell behind 15-30, then 30-40, in his opening service game of the fifth set to give Djokovic an early break-point chance. That's when Djokovic slotted a gorgeous passing forehand, set up by a deftly angled drop shot, to settle an exhausting 30-shot rally and break for a 2-0 lead. It got late early from there for Zverev, who scratched out just two more games the rest of the way before sending a backhand into the net on match point after 3hr 34min. "I took him a very long way, I think he will say that himself," he said. "The match could have gone both ways, but it went his way. Very often it does." Djokovic's final obstacle as he closes in on sporting immortality will be Medvedev, marking the fourth US Open men's final of the last quarter-century to feature the top two seeds. The other three all came in the past decade and all featured you know who: No 1 Djokovic over No 2 Nadal in 2011, No 2 Nadal over No 1 Djokovic in 2013 and No 1 Djokovic over No 2 Federer in 2015. "Job is not done," said Djokovic, a three-time US Open champion whose ninth appearance in the final breaks a tie with Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras for most in the professional era. "Excitement is there. Motivation is there, without a doubt. Probably more than ever. But I have one more to go." Earlier Friday, the second-ranked Medvedev elevated his game when it mattered most before coasting to the finish of a straight-sets win over Auger-Aliassime, the 21-year-old from Montreal who was playing in his first major semi-final. Two summers ago, Medvedev pushed Nadal to the limit in a five-set US

Open final of exquisite quality and heightened intensity. Now on Sunday, the 25-year-old Russian and No 2 seed will look to go one step further and break through for his first grand slam title at the site of his nearest miss and most ennobling defeat. "I don't think I played my best today, but I'm really happy to be in the final on Sunday," said Medvedev, who has dropped only one set on his way to the final and won of 14 of his last 15 matches since the start of August. "It's never easy, but I'm happy that I managed to save a lot of physical abilities, physical power and mental power. I don't think anybody is capable of winning a slam after playing, let's say, first three rounds five sets. I doubt this ever happened, so this is important. I'm really happy I managed to make it kind of fast." The 12th-seeded Auger-Aliassime, who is coached by Nadal's uncle, Toni, was the first Canadian man to reach the last four at the US Open in the tournament's 140-year history and the second at any major after Milos Raonic at Wimbledon 2016. While initially betraying no indication of nerve, Auger-Aliassime briefly wobbled serving at 3-all in the first and was broken at love, clearing a path for Medvedev to serve out the opener in 38 minutes. Auger-Aliassime, who shored up his first serve considerably from the outset of the second, appeared on his way to tying the match at one set apiece when he broke Medvedev in the sixth game and backed it up with a love hold for 5-2. But only moments after he squandered two set points on his serve - the second when he dumped a routine forehand volley into the net - Auger-Aliassime was broken once, then a second time at love, allowing Medvedev to wrest a two-sets-to-none lead. By then the mental rigor having to work for



London, September 11 : If Emma Raducanu's surprise run to the fourth round of Wimbledon in July was a life-changing experience, then her journey to a maiden grand slam final at the US Open has ensured that it will never be the same. By defeating Maria Sakkari, the 17th seed, 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday, Raducanu became the first qualifier in history to reach a grand slam final. She has done so in only her fourth tour-level event since she started her full-time professional tennis career after finishing her A-levels in the summer. In the process, her total of 17,000 Instagram followers in June has risen to 600,000 and counting. After starting the year with career earnings of \$35,185, she has earned \$1,250,000 over the past three weeks alone. Emma Raducanu with physio Will Herbert (left), agent Chris Helliar (right) and coach Andrew Richardson at the US Open. Emma Raducanu with physio Will Herbert (left), agent Chris Helliar (right) and coach Andrew Richardson at the US Open. Photograph: Emma

RaducanuWith newfound fame and status come innumerable potential stressors, which Raducanu has attempted to limit by giving her phone away to members of her team: "Honestly I don't really realise what's going on back home because I've just been so focused here, keeping it tight and close with my team," she said on Thursday. Throughout her run, Raducanu has talked about the closeness of her team, a group that has changed since Wimbledon. Raducanu decided to part ways with her coach of two years, Nigel Sears, and return to a familiar face, Andrew Richardson, who had worked with her when she was 11. Sears is one of the most prominent British coaches on the tour but Raducanu said she felt she needed a better fit for her development as she embarked on her first journey and looked to grow from her ranking of 184 after Wimbledon. Raducanu has described Richardson, a 47-year-old former player who is friends with Tim Henman, as a calming influence who provides helpful perspective when she gets too fired up.

Iain Bates, the LTA head of women's tennis, recently spoke about their productive partnership. "If she's uncertain about something, she asks questions and she'll always keep asking questions until she can draw a conclusion in her mind: 'Right, this is what we're doing,'" he said. "And I think it's a job that Andrew particularly is doing very well with her here. It's around speaking to those people that are here to get as much insight as he can. So when he's then talking things through with Emma, he's got the clarity of his opinion and others too in helping her come to that conclusion." Also providing support in her box are Will Herbert, a physio who was in New York to help the entire group of British players at the US Open, and Chris Helliar, her day-to-day agent with IMG. Leon Smith, the LTA head of men's tennis, and Bates are also present. For all the support she has in New York, however, Raducanu has kept her presence scarce away from the courts. She is focused on her daily routines and even during her days off she is primarily spending her time between the tournament grounds and her hotel. "She's keeping herself to herself in the evenings," said Bates. "Whether she's watching Netflix or listening to jazz or whatever she's doing, she's spending a lot of time in the hotel which I think is important here to keep her head in the right place for what she's trying to do."

Wout van Aert grabs brutal stage but Tour of Britain set to go to the wire

London, September 11 : Six days into the Tour of Britain, Wout van Aert landed his third win out of five road race stages,



taking a dragging uphill finish in the shadow of the Angel of the North at Gateshead. Paradoxically, however, in the overall standings the prolific Belgian remained 4sec behind the overnight leader, Ethan Hayter, who finished second to Van Aert in the decisive 10-rider sprint. In a mix of admiration and despair, Hayter glanced at his nemesis as they crossed the line, but although his overnight lead was halved, the 22-year-old had done well to survive a brutal 198 kilometres across the spine of northern England, with the help of his Ineos teammates, and particularly the young Spaniard Carlos Rodríguez, who stayed with him after Van Aert dragged nine riders clear on the final short sharp climb with 14km to the line. The previous 184 kilometres had taken their toll and only an elite group including five of the top seven overall managed to cling on in the Belgian's slipstream: Hayter, the world champion Julian Alaphilippe - who still has a chance of winning, ending the stage only 21sec behind Hayter in the standings - and his teammate Mikkel Honoré plus Israel Start-Up Nation's

Dan Martin and Michael Woods. Alaphilippe's Deceuninck-Quickstep team and the Spanish Movistar squad had attempted to split the race from the moment the peloton left Carlisle and headed south into the hills. After a long series of attacks and counters featuring the WorldTour teams seven riders moved clear, including Mark Cavendish and Tim Declercq of Deceuninck, and Van Aert's Jumbo-Visma teammate George Bennett. With Bennett only 3min 18sec behind overall, the septet were never given more than four minutes' leeway, meaning the pace remained high all day. The escape could have been more threatening, however, as some manoeuvring by Cavendish and Bennett eliminated the most dangerous rider in the move, Mark Donovan of the German team DSM, who was lying ninth overall and was forced to drop back to the peloton; as the race descended eastwards from the north Pennines, Movistar gave chase with DSM and Israel Start-Up Nation to set up a pulsating finale.

Lee Westwood questions late cut for European Ryder Cup qualification



London, September 11 : Lee Westwood has raised concerns over the possible impact of an arduous conclusion to Europe's 2021 Ryder Cup qualification campaign. An excellent finish to his second round at the PGA Championship means Westwood has survived the halfway cut at Wentworth and should now be safe for an automatic berth in Padraig Harrington's team, but the Englishman believes players who "don't need this week" risk being challenged belatedly and needlessly. The Ryder Cup tees off on 24 September at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin. The desire to have form players available for the visiting team means wildcard picks will not be

named until after the European Tour event closes at Wentworth on Sunday evening. The USA captain, Steve Stricker, named his six wildcard picks on Wednesday. The uncertainties attached to that scenario mean a number of players are competing in Surrey with the bigger picture in mind, including Westwood, the most experienced player still seeking to secure his place. The PGA Championship offers enhanced Ryder Cup qualifying points, as it typically boosts field strength. "I'm here to try and win the PGA Championship and Sunday night, if you're in the team, then you start thinking about the Ryder Cup," Westwood said. "There's so many variables as well, with the way we've

Bottas may be ordered to let Hamilton pass him in F1 Italian GP sprint race



London, September 11 : Valtteri Bottas qualified in first place to take the front of the grid for Formula One's second trial of its sprint race format at the Italian Grand Prix, forcing Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton into second place. In the week his Mercedes departure was confirmed, however, any consolation Bottas might have taken from the win was tempered by more ill-

fortune. Bottas had to take a full new power unit beyond Mercedes' allocation before qualifying, and will start from the back of the grid in Sunday's main race regardless of how he performs on Saturday. With Bottas not competing for pole position on Sunday, he could be ordered to let Hamilton pass him in the sprint race, with Max Verstappen in third and drivers' championship points on offer as well as grid position. "You have to do this because it has been so tight," said the Mercedes team principal, Toto Wolff. "Nobody wants to use team

orders because we are all racers and it is ugly, especially if someone puts in a lap like Valtteri did today, completely on merit." We need to see how the race pans out, and if the positions stay like they are, then we will have to make that call. But maybe tomorrow it is more acceptable to do it than other times because there is a point or two at stake, and Valtteri goes all the way back to the grid on Sunday with the engine penalty. "In the first race after Mercedes announced he was to be replaced by Williams' George Russell next season, Bottas found some of the form that has deserted him this season.

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ship and Sunday night, if you're in the team, then you start thinking about the Ryder Cup," Westwood said. "There's so many variables as well, with the way we've set up the qualification this time around. This tournament is heavily loaded compared to everything else we've done, and I think it's something to maybe look at in the future." The 48-year-old added: "I think some of the guys turning up here don't need this week right now, knowing what the Ryder Cup is like. They don't need [it] two weeks before the Ryder Cup. It is going to be draining for a few, and you want to be going into the Ryder Cup fresh. You know there's people right in there, shooting scores where clearly they have got other things on their mind." Westwood's four-under-par aggregate leaves him eight adrift of the halfway

leader, Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat. The key score of the day, though, belonged to Bernd Wiesberger, who produced a 67 to ease into the weekend at six under. The Austrian now has a strong chance of snatching an automatic Ryder Cup place, which could leave Shane Lowry needing a pick. Lowry's 66 and minus-eight total mean he could still alleviate that situation by winning at Wentworth. "Hopefully I don't need a pick on Sunday evening," Lowry said. "I've played some good golf over the last few months. I've put my hand up as much as I could have over the last while, and it's up to Paddy what he wants to do on Sunday evening. But hopefully I don't need that pick, and first and foremost I can go out and do the business this weekend and win the tournament."

Players urge Fifa to change 'deeply discriminatory' women's futsal policy

London, September 11 :

The world's most prominent female futsal players have called on Fifa to end its "deeply discriminatory" approach to the women's game by launching a World Cup to bring parity with the men's Fifa-sanctioned small-sided game. In a letter sent to the Fifa president, Gianni Infantino - seen by the Guardian - the players demand an end to their "marginalisation" and urge

reality. "It's very unfair," Orive, who wrote the letter, told the Guardian. "It's called marginalisation [marginalised] in Spain. Why is it happening? They have no answer. But it also goes against their own rules and ethical principles of governance. In [the Fifa strategy for women's football] 2018, they talked about equality, being inclusive, with men and women no different. But they forget about futsal. With no explanation." The first Fifa

Brazilian six-times best player in the world, Spain's Euro 2019-winning captain, Anita Luján, Iran's two-times AFC women's championship winner Fereshte Karimi and the Portugal and Benfica goalkeeper Ana Catarina. Iran's Karimi, the outstanding player of the tournament in Iran's historic 2015 AFC title victory, told the Guardian the lack of a women's world cup was "the biggest weakness for Fifa", adding: "I hope this



the governing body to make a women's event a priority amid booming popularity of the indoor five-a-side sport played globally by an estimated 60 million people. Citing "deep concern" over "mistreatment and public neglect" of the sport, the letter calls Fifa's refusal to sanction a women's tournament "deeply discriminatory" and says it "violates gender equality". The plea comes on the weekend of the ninth edition of the men's futsal World Cup kicks off in Lithuania, with the 2016 champions, Argentina, five-times winners Brazil and double-champions Spain among the favourites. "We are being discriminated against," said Natalia Orive, a Spanish first division player and president of the Spanish Women's Futsal Association. "That's the key. I don't want to use the word discrimination to be a victim. It's because it's the

men's futsal World Cup took place in 1989. The women's game has grown markedly in the last decade, with Brazil, Spain, Italy and Iran leading the rise towards professionalism. Uefa introduced a women's Euros in 2019, won by Spain, a year after female and male youth futsal replaced football for the first time in the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires. Only 55 of Fifa's 211 member countries have a national women's team, compared with about two-thirds (140) running a men's team. In England, the FA failed to follow through on its vow to create an England women's team and axed its men's team in to cut costs at the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020. Fifa committed to launching a "women's futsal competition" as part of its first strategy for women's football in 2018. The leading futsal players supporting the social media campaign accompanying the request to Fifa include Amandinha, the

gender discrimination in futsal will disappear soon and we women futsal will achieve our dream." A Fifa spokesperson said it was examining "the landscape of women's football competitions - which cover all disciplines including futsal", adding: "The priority is to ensure these new competitions will provide an important platform, not only to retain female participation, but also provide more opportunities for women and girls to play football. The introduction of any new competitions must reflect the overall development landscape." A recent example of this approach and the steps being taken by Fifa specifically in developing competitions in futsal include the introduction of futsal to the Youth Olympic Games programme in 2018, which saw an equal number of men's and women's teams participate.

Dina Asher-Smith sets out hectic 2022 plan to win gold at three competitions

London, September 11 :

Dina Asher-Smith is determined to make up for lost time by going for gold in the world championships, Commonwealth Games and European championships



over a hectic five-week stretch in 2022. With the pandemic decimating the calendar in 2020 and a

hamstring injury robbing her of an Olympic dream in 2021, the British 100m and 200m record holder plans to defend her world 200m title in Eugene in July 2022, compete in the Commonwealth Games in Birming-

August. The news that one of Britain's biggest stars will be competing in the Commonwealth Games will delight organisers and could potentially lead to an extraordinary nine medals in little over a month. However, speaking after finishing her season in Zurich, Asher-Smith said it was too early to say how many events she would enter in 2022. "I won't say what events, or in what capacity, but I would like to do all three," she said. "As we saw this year it all depends on what happens in terms of form and fitness, but I hope to." "I think you will see a few athletes do the same as it is a home Commonwealths and obviously I have a world title and many European titles to retain. But you have to manage it intelligently. "However if I have learnt anything during the pandemic it is that I love racing

and representing myself and the country. It is [about] taking the opportunity. I missed competing so much. You have to be sensible about the choices but I hope to use the opportunities that I can." Asher-Smith's sentiments were echoed by Britain's Keely Hodgkinson, who capped a remarkable first season at senior level by winning the 800m Diamond League title. "Maybe I will do all three next year," said the 19-year-old, whose win in Zurich earned her automatic qualification for the world championships. "I was adding it up and, including the British trials, it's 11 championship races. It's definitely a possibility but I'll see how my body feels. It's exciting. And my aim is to get a gold medal." Meanwhile Sebastian Coe, the president of World Athletics, says he will review the con-

troversial "final three" format in jumping and throwing events after widespread criticism from athletes. Under the current system for the Diamond League competitions, athletes take five attempts before the top three square off in a mini final to decide the winner. The idea is to give more TV prominence to field events, but it has proved almost universally unpopular. Speaking to the Guardian, Coe admitted: "We do need to review this. I'd like to sit down with some of the broadcasters and ask them 'has the format made a difference?' Has this had an impact on the number of people that have been able to watch these events?" It's not uniformly popular, I accept that. But it's now for the athletes and the coaches to come back with something different."

India reacts with stunned silence as final Test against England is called off

London, September 11 :

The reaction from the Indian cricket fraternity to the cancelled - or rescheduled - Old Trafford Test was largely one of stunned silence. Rarely, if ever, has a major cricketing event attracted such quietness from a country of a billion opinions. None of the players or management addressed the media and nor, more tellingly,

did they take to Twitter to have their say, presumably under instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Elsewhere in India, silence stemmed from uncertainty over exactly what had transpired and the fact many were marking the Ganesh festival on Friday, at religious functions or with family. Several former cricketers, usually happy to comment, told the Guardian it was impossible to



do so just yet. "Without knowing exactly what happened, how it happened, who took the call, it would be unfair to say anything at this point," said one former captain who

did not want to be named even for saying just that. The most prominent voice to weigh in on the matter was Sunil Gavaskar, who spoke to Sony Sports, the broadcaster

of the Test in India, and who focused not on the reasons the match was called off, rather on what should happen next, and was in favour of rescheduling. "Yes, I think that would be the correct thing to do," he said, before referencing the Mumbai terrorist attack. "Look, we, in India, should never forget what the England team did in 2008 after the horrific attack, the 26/11. They came back. They would have

been perfectly entitled to say: 'We don't feel safe. We are not coming back.' Don't forget, the gesture of the ECB has to be remembered. "Gavaskar anticipated that the window for the rescheduled Test would come next summer. "It's absolutely apt that the BCCI now says: 'Right, next year we are still coming to England.' I think there will be a little lean period.

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