

The Assam Rising

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladeshi pills

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

Police seized an illegal consignment of around four lakh Bangladeshi oral contraceptive pills in Assam's Dhubri district headquarters on Saturday. One person has been detained, reports Kangan Kalita. The pills, named "Sukhi", are reportedly smuggled through the international border along Assam, said police. The smuggled pills are sold in the interiors of the minority-dominated Dhubri district, close to the Bangladesh border, and also in other nearby districts in lower Assam. Police said the consignment was recovered from the residence of one Samsul Haque, who was running the trade with some suppliers from across the border. They have detained a relative of Samsul for interrogation.

Burmese betelnuts

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

A massive consignment of contraband Burmese betelnuts (Supari) was seized on late Saturday night inside the coaches of an express train at Guwahati's Paltan Bazar railway station. In a joint operation carried out by Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Police Force (RPF) the betelnuts were recovered from three different coaches of the Kachanjunga Express that was outbound to Sealdah from Agartala. It is yet to be confirmed by the officials the weight and cost of the betelnuts and the suspects held in this connection.

Road accidents

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

At least seven people have been killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in Assam, police said on Saturday. Four people were killed and eight others injured when an ambulance collided with a tempo at Baihata Chariali in Kamrup (Rural) district late on Friday night. Two people died on the spot, while two others later succumbed to their injuries at the hospital, a police officer said. The injured people, including the ambulance driver, have been admitted to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital. In another accident, a vehicle hit a motorcycle which in turn hit another vehicle coming from the opposite direction at Amjonga in Dudhnoi police station area of Goalpara district on Friday night, another officer said.

Modi govt proposes 15.6-km twin road tunnel of strategic importance under Brahmaputra



News Desk

Delhi, September 12 :

In what could prove to be an engineering marvel, the Narendra Modi government has proposed a 15.6-km twin-tunnel under the mighty Brahmaputra river, which will not only protect the Kaziranga National Park by bypassing it but also

benefit India strategically by cutting travel time between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Each of the two tunnels will have two lanes for smooth flow of traffic and will be built 22 metres below the river bed. The total length of the project will be approximately 33 km, including the 15.6-km tunnel and 18-km

approach roads to connect to the highway. Owing to its strategic importance, the project has already been endorsed by the Directorate of Military Operations. India has been beefing up its road infrastructure along the borders, including in the Northeast to counter any challenge from neighbouring countries like

China. The proposed project will cost Rs 12,807 crore and is a greenfield alignment to provide a direct link between Gohpur on NH-52 and Numaligarh on NH-37 in Assam. The link, which is part of the 315 km long NH-37 that connects Nagaon to Dibrugarh, will help bypass the Kaziranga belt that falls on this highway stretch. Way back in 2008, when the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the four-laning of NH-37, a decision was taken to have an alternate alignment to bypass Kaziranga National Park. The ministry took time to come up with a new alignment that didn't fall on the way of the park. Senior officials in the road ministry told ThePrint that the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corp. Ltd (NHIDCL), a fully owned company under the

ministry, is preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the twin-tunnel. "NHIDCL has submitted the draft geophysical study to the road ministry and the DPR is in advanced stage of preparation," said a senior ministry official, who didn't want to be named. At a meeting chaired by Road Secretary Giridhar Armane on 1 September, NHIDCL was directed to prepare a draft note for the Cabinet Committee on Security after getting the project endorsed by the Ministry of Defence. Senior road ministry officials told ThePrint that earlier, the Border Roads Organisation had planned another tunnel under the Brahmaputra but since the agency was yet to prepare the

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Assam organisations plan stir against NHPC mega dam



AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

Work on the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower project resumed after being stopped in 2011 following protests amid fears of ecological damage. More than 20 organisations have announced a joint movement against a mega hydropower project being built by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)

on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border. Work on the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project at Gerukamukh was started in 2006 but halted in 2011 following protests amid fears of ecological damage and loss of livelihoods. Construction had resumed more than a year ago during the COVID-19 lockdown. "We have decided on a string of protests including blockade of

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Six persons have been arrested in connection with the ferry accident

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

Six persons have been arrested by the Assam Police in connection with the ferry accident between Assam's Nimati Ghat and Majuli, which left two people dead and scores injured. One person is still missing. Jorhat police have arrested six persons in connection to the ferry accident that took place last Wednesday. Jorhat police registered a criminal case on the orders of the Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. The arrested people

have been identified as Jogen Das, Dhanbar Das, Biju Kumar Das, Jayanta Dutta, Binod Baruah and Babul Neog. Confirming the development, the Superintendent of Jorhat police Ankur Jain said, "We have arrested six persons involved in the movement of the ill-fated ferry on charges of death due to negligence. The investigation is underway." According to the latest statement from Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the ferry "Ma Kamala" was carrying 92 passengers, out of which 89 were rescued, two died

and one person is still missing. On Wednesday, the accident occurred when a private ferry "Ma Kamala" heading to Majuli from Nimati Ghat collided with a ferry "MB Tipkai" - operated by the state's IWT department - coming from the riverine island. The accident claimed the life of a 30-year-old woman teacher. The body of the second victim, Indreshwar Bora, a teacher of Rajgarh High School, was recovered on Saturday from Bhasa Tapu near Umatumuni Island of Biswanath, 100 km

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CM Dr. Sarma reviews Inland Water Transport (IWT)

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

In the aftermath of the boat capsizing incident at Nimatighat in the Brahmaputra, the review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma at the conference room of his office on Saturday evening decided on a series of safety measures as part of Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for plying of vessels between Nimatighat and Majuli and elsewhere in the state. As a part of the SoP, plying of private vessels with single

engine, except those with marine engines with reversible gear will remain suspended. Six government vessels including two Ro-Pax, shall remain in operation between Majuli and Jorhat. One dredger will be used to maintain the channel/gradient for smooth ferry services even in lean season. All 19 private passenger vessels plying between Majuli and Jorhat will be fitted with marine engines with reversible gear at the expense of the government within six months. All passengers will be required to wear life jackets before departure of the vessel. Minimum two



ramps/ temporary jetties will be maintained at each ghats of Majuli and Jorhat for docking and mooring of boats. One Magistrate in Majuli and one in Jorhat will be detailed to be present

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Pak ISI Chief Meets Intelligence Heads of China, Russia; Slams India's Role in 'Promoting Terrorism'

News Desk
New Delhi September 12 :

Pakistan ISI Chief Faiz Hameed on Saturday met with the intelligence chiefs of Russia, China, Iran and Tajikistan to brief them about the Taliban government in Afghanistan and the "new changing order" of the world, sources told. In a meeting hosted by Hameed, he briefed the intelligence representatives of the key countries of the region on the roles of "different players in Kabul". He also spoke to them about the alleged "role India played with previous Afghanistani governments in promoting terrorism", the sources

said. Pakistan has been keen to become a key player in the new regime of Afghanistan. Hameed had earlier visited Kabul over the government formation, and is said to have briefed the officials of this visit, as well. Pakistan also wants to control Afghanistan's economy after the country gained entry into the Afghan army as well as intelligence. On Thursday, Pakistan announced its economic plans for Afghanistan and has decided to conduct bilateral trade with the Taliban in Pakistani rupees. Earlier, the Taliban bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan was in US dollar, and the Afghan currency was powerful.



Through this move, Pakistan's currency will have a hold over Afghan traders and the business community. However, CNN-News18 has reported that a rift between Taliban and Pakistan is indicated according to a fresh audio that has

gone viral. In the audio, that went viral on Facebook on Friday, a Taliban Commander could be heard talking to other Commanders alleging that Pakistan has spoiled their reputation internationally. The rift be

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Bhupendra Patel named next Gujarat CM

News Desk
New Delhi September 12 :

BJP MLA Bhupendra Patel will be the new Gujarat Chief Minister, succeeding Vijay Rupani who resigned on Saturday. The decision was taken on Sunday (September 12) at the BJP legislature meet held in Gandhinagar. BJP had sent Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Pralhad Joshi to Gujarat as the party's central observer to the meeting. Patel's name was proposed by former CM Vijay Rupani. Patel, seen as a protégé of former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, is a BJP



MLA from Ghatlodia constituency. He had won the 2017 Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections defeating Congress candidate Shashikant Patel. He was a part of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the Ahmedabad Urban Development

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Assam Don Bosco University to Offer Scholarships Worth Rs 4 Crore

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 12 :

Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) Vice Chancellor Stephen Mavely said the highest scholarship per course is Rs 4.6 lakh, while the minimum is Rs 30,000. Private educational institute Assam Don Bosco University on Saturday an-



nounced a cumulative scholarship worth Rs 4 crore for 2021-22 for students belonging to all categories. Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) Vice-Chancellor Stephen Mavely said the highest scholarship per course is Rs 4.6 lakh, while the minimum is Rs 30,000. "We have scholarships for all categories of

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Tourists visit a flower farm in Lisai Village of Zho'nyin County in Gannan, northwest China's Gansu Province

Kathryn Paige Harden

'Studies have found genetic variants that correlate with going further in school'

London, September 12 : Kathryn Paige Harden argues how far we go in formal education - and the huge knock-on effects that has on our income, employment and health - is in part down to our genes. Harden is a professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, where she leads a lab using genetic methods to study the roots of social inequality. Her provocative new book is *The Genetic Lottery: Why DNA Matters for Social Equality*. To even talk about whether there might be a genetic element to educational attainment and social inequality breaks a huge social taboo - particularly on the political left, which is where you say your own sympathies lie. The spectre of eugenics looms large, and no one wants to create a honeypot for racists and classists. To be clear, it is scientifically baseless to make any claims about differences between racial groups, including intelligence, and you are not



doing that. But why go here? I wrote this book first for my fellow scientists, who haven't necessarily seen the relevance of genetics for their own work or have been afraid to incorporate it because of these associations. There is a large body of scientific knowledge being ignored lest the eugenics genie be let out of the bottle. But also people are hearing every day about

new genetic discoveries and seeing in their own families and lives that genetics matter. When asked to estimate how much genes influence intelligence, people's answers are not zero. I'm trying to help them make sense of that information in a socially responsible way. If you care about social equality, what do you do with information about genetics? You have been accused of promoting eugenics, including by prominent sociologist Ruha Benjamin, who has written that you are engaging in "savvy slippage between genetic and environmental factors that would make the founders of eugenics proud". Those fears are coming out of a very real place - historically, genetics has been misused. But [eugenics] is literally the opposite of what I'm advocating. The core idea of eugenics is that there is a hierarchy of people who are inferior or superior that is rooted in biology and that inequalities are justified on that basis. Mine is an anti-eugenics approach seeking to use our knowledge of genetic science to build policies and social interventions that create more social equality. Sweeping genetic differences between people under the rug does not make the genome, as a systemic force causing inequality, go away. That genetic and environmental factors are braided together at every level is simply a description of reality. It starts with a statistical exercise in correlation called a genome wide association study (GWAS). That takes many hundreds of thousands of people with similar genetic ancestry and measures tiny genetic differences - of which

there are millions - scattered throughout their entire DNA sequences. It then looks to see which of those variants correlates with their number of years of schooling. We then take the results and - for a new person's genetic sequence - add up that information to produce a single number, a polygenic score, that predicts how far they will go in school.

Norway votes - but is Europe's biggest oil giant ready to go green?

London, September 12: Norway goes to the polls on Monday in parliamentary elections that are forcing western Europe's largest oil and gas producer to confront its environmental contradictions. Climate issues have dominated the campaigning since August, when the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its starkest warning yet that global heating is dangerously close to spiralling out of control. The report gave an instant boost to parties calling for curbs on drilling: the country's Green party - which wants an immediate halt to oil and gas exploration, and no further production at all after 2035 - saw membership surge by nearly a third. "The International Energy Agency's Net Zero report in May had already made it plain that there was no room for oil and gas, and so the IPCC report really hit home," said Arild Hermstad, the Greens' deputy leader. "This really is the climate election." But while polls predict the centre-left opposition will oust the Conservative-led coalition that has ruled Norway for eight years, the fate of the industry that has made Norway one of Europe's most prosperous nations is far from sealed. The country may be a leading proponent of green energy, but fossil fuels still account for 40% of its exports. The oil and gas industry employs more than 200,000 people - about 7% of the total workforce - and through it the country has built up the world's largest



sovereign wealth fund, worth £1tn. Pressure is mounting on Norway to change by emulating neighbouring Denmark, which is ending fossil fuel exploration and aims to halt all production by 2050. A UN human rights council report on Norway last year was explicit, calling on the country to "prohibit further exploration for fossil fuels, reject further expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, and develop a just transition strategy for workers and communities". But the message is a hard one to sell. "It will be a massive job to move Norway out of the oil industry," Hermstad said. "People worry for their work, for their standard of living. As long as the Conservatives are guaranteeing that oil jobs will continue, those calling for an end to drilling look like the threat." Norway's main centre-right and centre-left parties, the

Conservatives and opposition Labour, are in broad agreement that production should continue past 2050, arguing that the green transition will take time, and oil revenues can help fund it. Wrecking Norway's economy will not help, they argue, and if Norway stops producing, other countries will step into the gap. "They actually argue that because we produce cleanly, it will be better for the environment for Norway to continue," Hermstad said. "It's not true. But people like to hear it." Nonetheless, the Greens could find themselves in government: the rightwing coalition of prime minister Erna Solberg is forecast to lose, but the margin of the left's predicted victory is unsure, and a Labour-led coalition could need the support of one or more smaller parties to reach a majority of 85 seats. Actor Harrison Ford speaking on the first day of

the IUCN's world conservation congress in Marseille, France, 3 September 2021. Labour, led by former foreign minister Jonas Gahr Store, is tipped to be the largest party with a projected 46 MPs, but it too is set to lose seats - leaving its preferred coalition, with the middle-of-the-road Centre party and the social democrat Socialist Left party with only the slimmest possible majority. That could see the Greens, on target for eight seats, or the far-left Red party enter government, potentially giving the environmentalists crucial leverage in a left-leaning coalition that would be deeply divided over fossil fuel policy. Labour has said it would not form a coalition with any party demanding a halt to all exploration or production. But its key allies disagree on the issue, with the Centre party backing continued exploration and the Socialist Left opposing it. Some kind of deal, the Greens hope, will have to be brokered. Much will depend on whether the smaller parties pass Norway's so-called vote-leveling threshold, which rewards parties that win more than 4% of the vote nationwide but not many seats outright. It will be hard for Norway to give up its oil and gas addiction. Hermstad said: "In a debate last week, I asked the Conservative candidate when would be their preferred date to end production. He said: 'In about 300 years' time.'"

Taliban raise flag over presidential palace on 9/11 anniversary as brother of resistance leader slain

Kabul, September 12: The Taliban raised their flag over the Afghan presidential palace on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as news emerged that the regime's fighters had killed the brother of the country's former vice-president at a checkpoint in Panjshir province. Rohullah Azizi, the brother of former vice-president and anti-Taliban resistance leader Amrullah Saleh, was travelling in his car on Thursday when he and his driver were shot dead at a Taliban checkpoint, his nephew said on Saturday. Shuresh Saleh said on Saturday that it was unclear where his uncle, an anti-Taliban fighter, was headed when the Taliban caught him. He said phones were not working in the area. A message left with a Taliban spokesman on Saturday was not immediately returned. Amrullah Saleh has declared himself the legitimate acting president of Afghanistan, and has been leading forces resisting the Taliban in Panjshir. Afghanistan's new rulers have said they are in control of Panjshir but this is disputed by the National Resistance Front, which says it is continuing to fight back. Videos circulating on social media

purportedly show the Taliban opening fire on anti-Taliban fighters arrested in Panjshir. As the US and the world marked the anniversary of the September 11 attacks on Saturday, the Taliban's flag-raising ceremony marked the official start of the all-male, all-Taliban government, a spokesman said. The white banner bearing a Quranic verse was hoisted by Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, the prime minister of the Taliban interim government, said Ahmadullah Muttapi, multimedia branch chief of the Taliban's cultural commission. The milestone anniversary came just weeks after the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the return to power of the Taliban, which had sheltered the al-Qaida terror network founded by Osama bin Laden that carried out the attacks. The US president, Joe Biden, speaking unexpectedly during a visit to the Pennsylvania site of one of the 9/11 plane crashes on Saturday, again defended the widely criticised withdrawal, saying the US could not invade every country where al-Qaida is present. "Could al-Qaida come back [in Afghanistan]?" he asked



in an exchange with reporters outside a Shanksville fire station. "Yeah. But guess what, it's already back other places." What's the strategy? Every place where al-Qaida is, we're going to invade and have troops stay in? C'mon." Biden said it had always been a mistake to think Afghanistan could be meaningfully united, and that American forces had achieved their central mission when a special forces team killed the al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden on 2 May 2011 in a compound in Pakistan. Veiled students hold Taliban flags as they

listen a speaker before a pro-Taliban rally at the Shaheed Rabbani Education University in Kabul on 11 September. On Saturday the Taliban orchestrated a march of veiled women that filled an auditorium at Kabul University's education centre in a well-choreographed snub to the past 20 years of western efforts to empower women. In reality the Taliban have begun issuing harsh edicts that have hit women hardest, such as banning women's sports. They have also used violence to stop protests where women have demanded equal rights.

Al Qaeda leader Al-Zawahiri, rumoured to be dead, surfaces in new video on 9/11 anniversary

New Delhi, September 12 : Twenty years after the ghastly terror attack on the US, Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, rumoured to be dead, has surfaced in a video released on the 9/11 anniversary. US-based SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks the online activity of jihadist groups, reported that Zawahiri spoke on a number of issues. Rita Katz, SITE's Director tweeted, "Amid rumours of his death, Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri shown in a new 60-minute video, this time offering some evidence that he is not dead - particularly, reference to events after December when rumours of death surfaced." In the video, Zawahiri talked about a raid on a Russian military base by the Al-Qaeda-aligned Hurras al-Deen in Syria, which it claimed on January 1. The clip introduces Zawahiri with "May Allah Protect Him." The video also uses clips from Taliban media, showing its fighters. "Yet another signal of the importance of the Taliban in the global jihadist movement's narrative since 9/11, and how the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan is also Al-Qaeda's victory," tweeted Katz. As per Katz, pro-Al Qaeda media groups are outpouring with 9/11 celebrations and incitements: posters, videos, hashtags, etc. It is a very organized and thoroughly prepped campaign - nothing like what I've seen in previous years. Moreover,

Al Qaeda official media wing as-Sahab announced a new forthcoming release, which seems to be a video, expected to be released today. This followed a release of a book by Zawahiri. As-Sahab releases part one of a book series by him with an introduction dated April 2021. The 852-page



installment gives dedication to killed operatives. While the Taliban who have taken over Afghanistan may be donning a friendly face for Western audiences, their intrinsic bonds with Al-Qaeda persists. Al-Qaeda has made it clear that for them, the new Islamic Emirate is a victory and they're beneficiaries of the spoils. Zawahiri succeeded Osama Bin Laden as the chief of the group after Laden was hunted down by US SEAL forces in Jalalabad in Pakistan. Intelligence agencies have, as of yet, offered no proof or solid assessments that Zawahiri is dead, leaving the question of his current status in the air.

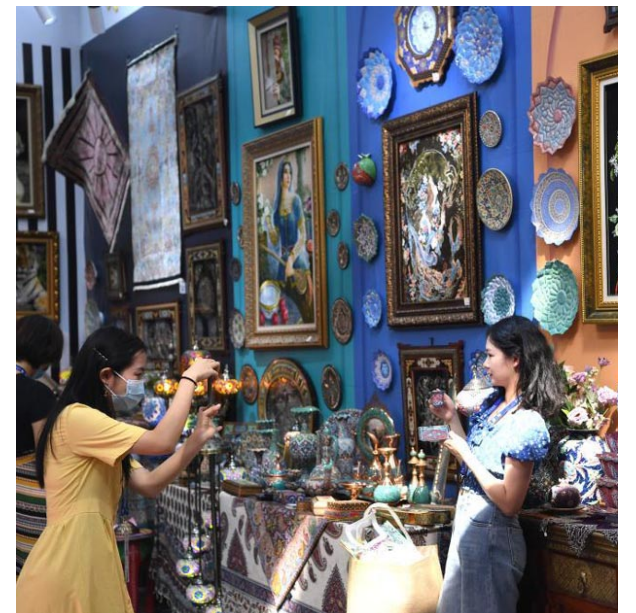


PM Narendra Modi writes heartfelt letter to Akshay Kumar after his mother's demise

New Delhi, September 12 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar's mother Aruna Bhatia's death with a heartwarming letter on Sunday (September 12). The 'Bell Bottom' actor shared a picture of the letter on his social media handles. In the letter, PM Modi lauded

Akshay Kumar for the hard work he put into achieving such a successful career in the film industry. He credited the actor's good values to his parents, especially his late mother. He wrote, "She ensured you

remained kind, compassionate and humble at all times. She also instilled a spirit of service in you, seen repeatedly through your philanthropic initiatives and eagerness to give back to society." Along with the letter, Akshay penned down a thank you note to PM Modi in the caption. Here's what he wrote "Humbled by condolence messages on mom's passing, thankful to all. Grateful to hon'ble PM for this amazing gesture to take out time and express warm feelings for me and my late parents. These comforting words will stay with me forever. Jai Ambe." Akshay Kumar's mother, Aruna Bhatia left this world for her heavenly abode on September 8, 2021. The exact cause of her death is still unknown, although she was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Hiranandani Hospital in Mumbai a few days back. Her last rites were performed on the same day in the afternoon at Pawan Hans Crematorium in suburban Mumbai. Many Bollywood big shots including Rohit Shetty, Riteish Deshmukh, Sajid Khan, Bhushan Kumar and Ramesh Taurani among many others paid their last respects. Inconsolable Akshay with his wife Twinkle Khanna, her cousin Karan Kapadia were seen at the funeral. Several celebrities such as Ajay Devgn, Salman Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Dia Mirza, Vinu Dara Singh among others extended condolences and mourned the demise of Akshay's mother.



Visitors take photos at the booth of Iran at the 18th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang

Union Minister Arjun Munda Discusses Progress of Schemes Implemented in Tribal Areas of Assam

STAFFREPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 12: Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda today had a discussion on the development of the tribal areas in Assam with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Senior Cabinet Ministers of the Assam Government and officials of the Tribal Affairs department were present at the review meeting held at the State Guest House here today. Munda also presented the Van Dhan Award 2020-2021 to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Tribal Affairs Ministry has awarded the Van Dhan National Award 2021-22 to TRISSAM of Assam in the category of Collaborative Initiative for co branding in Van Dhan Yojana. While addressing the media people, Munda said that his two-day visit is intended to review the progress of the tribal areas and the schemes implemented for development of the tribal population of the state and the region. The Minister stated that the key points of the discussion included ways to promote the artifacts and artisans of the tribal areas of Assam, ensuring quality education for the children from these areas, Eklavya Model education, and the overall implementation of the schemes in these areas. Earlier in August, Chief Minister of Assam had met the TRIFED team in New Delhi to chalk out plans for expanding tribal development in the state and defining the steps for the way forward. These future plans to take tribal

development to the next level were also showcased and discussed during this meeting. "There should be a development programme through which the entire Northeast region can progress. It has to be in a way that the entire region can be presented as a development model. The gateway to Northeast is Assam and this is a very important state. We have discussed the tribal areas and the programmes that have been carried out in these areas with the Chief Minister and Senior Officers of the state", he added. The Union Tribal Affairs Minister appreciated Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's efforts to lead the state in the development stage. "Assam is moving forward under the leadership of PM Modi and I am happy that Assam is developing under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma," he said, adding that the State and Centre have been working in close coordination to achieve the target and promote the tribal artisans on a national as well as international level. Munda also said that his ministry is trying to add value to the existing traditional system and lifestyle of the tribal people and taking the artisans and their work to the national and global levels. He also added, "Van Dhan can be a game changer for promoting Tribal Livelihoods and enterprises in Assam while Eklavya Vidyalayas will impart uniform and high quality education to tribal children. We are also trying to ensure that the children receive quality education and participate in the competitive



exams. We want more and more candidates from the tribal areas to appear for the national level exams. The Eklavya Model is in discussion as of now and we will further discuss these with the Centre,". Located in North-eastern India, Assam has a substantial tribal population, with 3,308,570 forest dwellers who constitute 12.4% of the total population. The 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' has come as a beacon of change in the past two years in this state. Conceptualized and implemented by TRIFED in association with State Government Agencies across 21 states of the country, the scheme has emerged as a source of great relief for tribal gatherers injecting more than Rs

3000 crores directly in the tribal economy. The State of Assam has utilized the MSP for MFP scheme wherein the total procurement utilized the Govt. The India fund is of 58.56 MT which is worth Rs. 37.39 Lakhs. Under the Van Dhan Scheme a total of 1,920 VD SHG have been sanctioned which are subsumed into 128 VDVK Clusters. This is directly benefiting 37,786 forest tribal gatherers. The total amount sanctioned for operationalization of these VDVKs is Rs. 19.20 Crores. Arjun Munda is on a two-day visit to Assam to review the progress of implementation of the Minor Forest Produce (MFP), Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) and TRIFOOD programmes, which have been put in place for the empowerment of the tribals in the state and region. Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED and senior officials of TRIFED have

also accompanied Munda. Among the many activities planned are two workshops/conferences - the Voice of North East Janatiya Leader Conference on the first day and a Van Dhan Workshop conducted in IIE on the second day. Such a review, monitoring and implementation of the programmes at ground level is being planned for all states so that the impact in generating income for the tribal people and empowering them can be expedited. The ultimate aim of these programmes, implemented by TRIFED across the country, is to bring about a complete transformation of tribal lives and livelihoods across the country and progress towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Year long golden jubilee celebration of Khagarijan college gets underway

Correspondent

Nagaon, Sept 12: The year long celebration of golden jubilee of the leading institution of higher education of the district - Nagaon Khagarijan college has been started with a two day programme from today onwards at the college premise. 50 prominent dignitaries of various fields started the celebration by unfurling the flags of the institution. Hoisting the flag of the institution, the local MLA and the president of golden jubilee celebration committee, Rupak Sarma said that after celebrating golden jubilee, diamond jubilee by a slew of institutions of higher

education in the town, Khagarijan college too went ahead to celebrate golden jubilee from today onwards and it was a glorious moment for the educational institutions of the district. Referring to the cultural growths as well as the history of literature, art and culture of the district, Sarma said that Nagaon had a glorious history in the fields of art, culture and literature and the continuity of all those art, culture and literature was still undoubtedly going on since Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva. Dr. Ramesh Nath, principal of the college, Dr. Dilip Sarma, President governing body, Girindra Kr Boruah,

Upendra Borkatoki, Lutfur Rahman, Dr Surajit Kr Bhagawati participated in the opening ceremony of golden jubilee programme today and wished the celebration to be a successful one. As part of the celebration of the opening ceremony, a lecture will be delivered respectively by vice chancellor of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Vishwavidyalaya, Dr. Hitesh Deka and IAS officer Aronyak Saikia at 11am tomorrow at the college auditorium. The programme will be chaired by the president of the college management committee Dr Dilip Sarma and will be anchored by Dr Ramesh Nath.

Assam Extends "Disturbed Area" Status Of State For Another Six Months

Staff Reporter

Guwahati, September 12: Assam has further extended the existing "disturbed area" status of the state for another six months from August 28 under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA). "The Government of Assam in the exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 has declared the entire State of Assam as "Disturbed Area" up to six months with effect from 28-08-2021 unless withdrawn earlier," said an official statement. The government press release did not cite any particular rea-

son for the extension. The AFSPA was first imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after review by the state government. In 1990, AFSPA came into force in Assam due to the heavy insurgency activities that killed many people. Kidnapping and extortion were common during those days. Security forces conducted major operations against the groups in those days to neutralise the rebel outfit. In the Northeast, the AFSPA is in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (excluding Imphal Municipal Council Area), Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations of districts in Arunachal Pradesh bordering Assam. The AFSPA was introduced in the north-eastern states to curb insurgency. It allows the armed forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". The armed forces can also restrict the gathering of five or more persons in an area. They can warn a person for breaking a law and open fire or use force in case of non-compliance. Civil society groups and rights activists in the region have been demanding withdrawal of the allegedly "draconian" law.

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Disturbed Area: AFSPA extends for another 6 months in Assam

Abhijit Chaliha

Guwahati, Sept 12: The Assam government extended the "Disturbed Area" status of the state for another six months from August 28 under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), according to an official statement issued on Saturday. "The Government of Assam in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 has declared the entire State of Assam as "Disturbed Area" up to six

months with effect from August 28, 2021 unless withdrawn earlier," the statement said. However, the statement did not mention any reason for the extension of the AFSPA in the state. Earlier, in February, ahead of the assembly elections in the state, Assam governor Jagdish Mukhi had declared the entire state as a 'Disturbed Area' for six months starting February 27. "As per powers conferred under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, the Governor of Assam has de-

clared the entire state of Assam as 'disturbed area' up to six months beyond February 27, 2021, unless withdrawn earlier," stated the earlier press release issued by the state government. Recently, suspected militants had gunned down five people and torched several trucks in Assam's Dima Hasao district and the latest extension is believed to have been taken following the incident. The AFSPA was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a

review by the state government. In the North East, the AFSPA is in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (excluding Imphal Municipal Council Area), Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations of districts in Arunachal Pradesh bordering Assam. Civil society groups and rights activists in the region have been demanding the withdrawal of the alleged 'draconian' law from the northeastern states where it has been imposed.

Milanjyoti club felicitated meritorious students

Correspondent

Udalguri, Sept 12: For the last 9 years, Kalbari Milanjyoti club has been felicitating all the students who passed in the High School Leaving Examination, Higher Secondary Examination and Graduation Examination every year from Kalbari village of Udalguri District under Tangla Police Station. The Kalbari Milanjyoti club was not able to organize the felicitation program like in other years due to the terror caused by the Corona pandemic all over the world, though the ninth felicitation program was organised in meagre. Dulu Rabha, President of Kalbari Milanjyoti club, said that this felicitation program is organized every year to encourage the new generation students of Kalbari village. Ganesh



Sarania, headmaster of Mougona Milan High School, attended the felicitation program organized by Kalbari Milanjyoti club as a chief guest. Sarania says in the context of the speech that the club is an organisation to make a better edition of a society. The Kalbari Milanjyoti club has given a lot of importance to the educational aspect of Kalbari village. On the

other hand, Sarania gives a hint on how to give primary education to children at home by the parents. Delivered an important lecture on why all students should receive education and how they can be developed as a good citizen and well-to-do person in the future. It is also mentioned that in the year 2021, 8 students from Kalbari village passed the HSLC Examination and HS

Examination and in the year 2020, a student graduated from science stream felicitated by Kalbari Milanjyoti club. Chandana Rabha, Lecturer in Education of Bhergaon College, Gopal Rabha, adviser of Kalbari Milanjyoti club, Maghuwa Rabha, Ghanakanta Rabha, all the incumbents of Milanjyoti club and people of Kalbari participated the ninth felicitation program.

STAFFREPORTER

Aalo, Sept 12: The Francis De Sales College conducted its inauguration of Academic Year 2021-2022 themed "Holistic Development" amid prayers after a long lay off due to Covid-19 on September 11 last. Fr. Vijoy, superior of campus lighted the lamp of learning and exhorted all faculty members and student community to struggle hard to make up the time which were lost due to the spread



of Covid-19 in the district. Dr. Fr. Jose Karipadath, Principal administered the Oath to all newly appointed S.W.O.

members and encouraged them to work relentlessly for the growth and development of the institution stating that

not much of time is left for them to cover up the syllabus in time as per time frame given by the university.

Blood donation camp at Azara PHC



Correspondent Palashbari, Sept 12: Azara Block PHC (BPHC) in association with the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital organised a blood donation camp on its premises

where over 50 people donated blood on Saturday. Inaugurating the camp, West Guwahati MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita expressed his gratitude to the donors for their ser-

vices to humanity. It is a great service to God if someone's blood can save others life, he said. The camp was conducted by Dr. DJ Barua, SDM & HO, Azara BPHC.

One dies at Gamiripal

Correspondent

Biswanath Chari, Sept 12: An emerging orator; anchor and a social worker of Gamiripal area Gopal Kafle (47) breathed his last in the early hours of Sunday at Tezpur Medical College & Hospital. He was admitted to TMC&H on September 11 as he was suffering from diarrhea related ailments but breathed his last in the wee hours on Sunday. Unmarried Kafle was closely associated with many socio-cultural organizations of the Gamiripal area including Gamiripal village development committee, Gamiripal Sporting Club etc. His untimely demise was widely mourned by various organizations here.

News Desk New Delhi, September 12: The Lambda strain of the coronavirus could be vaccine resistant, a recent study in Japan revealed. It also claims that the C.37 variant may be more infectious like the Delta variant. The researchers pointed out Lambda has been classified as a Variant of Interest (VOI) and not a Variant of Concern (VOC),

and so people may not consider it as a threat. In a worrying sign, the study notes that the Lambda strain may not be contained by vaccines. The report appeared on bioRxiv on July 28 and the study awaits peer review prior to getting published. The preprint study, shows that the Lambda variant is capable of bypassing antibodies that can fight off

the virus. Researchers said that multiple mutations in spike protein, like those found in Lambda and other variants, are more resistant to antibodies in vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. "Notably, the vaccination rate in Chile is relatively high, the percentage of the people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine was nearly 60%," the authors

wrote. "Nevertheless, a big COVID-19 surge has occurred in Chile suggesting that the Lambda variant is proficient in escaping the antiviral immunity elicited by vaccination," they warn. The Lambda mutation has been found in 26 countries and substantial outbreaks have been reported in Chile, Peru, Argentina and Ecuador and several other South American nations.

THE ASSAM RISING

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The winter Covid plan

All the signs are that Boris Johnson will this week unveil a winter plan for Covid. Already, coronavirus deaths are running at around 1,000 a week, and the numbers of hospital admissions are growing slowly but steadily. Staff are exhausted and the outlook for the autumn and winter cannot be regarded as anything other than unsettled, uncertain and potentially very dangerous. The government and its senior officials claim Covid should be regarded as similar to influenza and that we have to "learn to live with it". This worryingly persistent and flawed approach ignores the hazardous and evolving nature of the virus. Perhaps the worst manifestation is the UK's three-month delay in using the approved vaccines to protect children aged 12 to 15. Last week, Dr Anthony Fauci, the chief medical adviser to President Biden, gave a lecture to a UK public health society. He strongly backed the US policy of fully vaccinating young people for three reasons. First, children spread the virus; second, we see cases of severe Covid disease in the young; and third, we don't know the long-term effects of infection in children. With European regulatory approval for a vaccine for children aged five to 11 expected next month, the government will soon face another decision-making challenge. The delay in vaccinating young people is all the more surprising given that the government and their advisers have put all of their eggs into the vaccination basket. The complete lack of attention to preventive measures is shocking. We know that the virus is airborne, yet ventilation is woefully neglected - despite the excellent scientific advice provided to the government by SAGE experts. The government has been warned explicitly that the quality of ventilation in buildings across the UK is unknown and that there's evidence that a wide range of premises are not adequately ventilated, particularly in winter. Yet children and adults are being sent back to schools, colleges and enclosed workplaces without those spaces being adequately assessed. The law is unambiguous. Every enclosed workplace must be ventilated by a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified air. The Sars-CoV-2 virus has de facto changed the definition of fresh or purified air. As other countries are doing, the government should respond to that altered reality and fund an urgent programme of improving workplaces before winter arrives. Trade unions and professional bodies of every kind should be making it clear that preventing people from being infected through contaminated air is essential. Some groups are already collecting instances of non-mitigation with a view to future legal action. Similarly, our knowledge of airborne transmission should be driving a change in how we use face masks. In the early days of the pandemic, because there was a shortage of masks and we thought droplets spread through coughing and sneezing were a crucial means of transmission, crudely constructed three-layer face coverings were the norm. We now know that airborne transmission is the major problem, but the public has not been told that we need to shift to the use of properly manufactured masks. We also need to halt much of the effort put into decontaminating surfaces and objects. Surfaces are not a significant means of transmission. The cleaning might acknowledge the virus but it is misplaced and has been dubbed "hygiene theatre". Startling, too, is the inadequacy of public communications on Covid-19. All too often, messaging has been aimed at transferring responsibility to individuals. Pointing the finger at people who are obese, reluctant to be vaccinated or unlucky enough to have severe underlying conditions and telling them to be cautious is no substitute for what has been missing all along - an effective strategy for getting the virus under control. The developed countries that have controlled the virus, thus saving lives, have also safeguarded their economies. The UK government seems set on continuing its bumbling and hesitant approach while engaging in a significant restructuring of the NHS and what remains of the public health system. The failings to communicate clear and consistent messages with appropriate public health content reflects the weakness of expert public health leadership at the centre of government and the tendency of the Conservative leadership to regard anything to do with public health as being a reflection of the "nanny state". The negative effect of the decline in the influence of public health doctors within government should not be underestimated. The post of chief medical officer as lead adviser to government on health was created in the mid-1800s. A public health physician - a medical doctor, trained and experienced in population health - has always, until recently, occupied the post. In the past decade, the public health orientation of the post has been diminished by the appointment of doctors with specialist training in clinical medicine but not in public health medicine. This change helps to explain why preventive measures to halt Covid-19 have been inadequate and why the government response has frequently been orientated towards protecting the NHS rather than the population. Covid news as it happened: case rates rise in 92% of UK's local areas; Greece introduces fines for issuing fake vaccination certificates. Further, it is clear that the government's plan will be focused on the domestic. The inward-looking approach to Covid has been shocking and the refusal to learn from the experience of other countries is remarkable in a nation that has been boasting of opening itself up to the world. The move towards universal booster doses of vaccine or adopting a three-dose vaccination regime will put greater pressure on supplies. The promises of the developed world to share vaccines with developing countries will be dented significantly by the requirement for 50% more vaccine than planned initially. The UK and the EU have shamefully opposed international demands for a patent waiver to enable stepped-up vaccine production globally. Covid-19 vaccines will become the most profitable pharmaceutical product of all time.

Men are inventing new excuses for killing women and judges are falling for them

Although it takes some ingenuity to kill a woman and face no penalty whatsoever, the justice system continues to ensure that, for the right killing, in the right circumstances, the punishment - given the right judge - could still be a fraction of what you might expect. Earlier this year, for instance, the five-year term for a man who blamed strangling his wife, Ruth Williams, on lockdown difficulties, confirmed that being married to your victim may actively - perhaps counterintuitively - heighten judicial compassion. Judge Paul Thomas thought Anthony Williams's mental state must have been severely affected, though this was contradicted by a psychiatrist. The court of appeal refused to increase the sentence. A shorter or sporadic relationship with the victim also offers hope. In May, Warren Coulton came before Judge Simon Picken for the manslaughter of Claire Wright. She had been asphyxiated in an episode of bondage during which her reluctance was recorded. Coulton, not seeking medical help, left her body for discovery by hotel staff. He got six years. Yet more mercifully, you might think, Sam Pybus was last week sentenced to four years eight months for killing his intermittent sexual partner, Sophie Moss. She was 33, the mother of children aged five and six. In a victim statement, her brother James said: "We will never be able to shake the belief that whatever the nature of their relationship, and her role in it, that she was a victim, taken advantage of and exploited, and was subjected to an entirely avoidable and infinitely tragic end."

Its impact on the judge is presumably reflected in his sentencing. Pybus, who was married, had driven to see Moss after drinking 24 bottles of lager, strangled her when they were having sex and, after finding her dead, waited in his car for 15 minutes before driving to a police station. Paramedics, when they were finally called, could not resuscitate her. Pybus claimed the choking had been consensual and that he did not remember killing Moss; the Crown Prosecution Service found there was insufficient evidence to prove he intended

wards men who hurt or kill female partners, is how Judge Paul Watson settled on a four-year sentence. You could easily conclude that unprovable claims about women's sexual behaviour can still offset, at least in the average judicial mind, male culpability for extreme violence, callousness and recklessness. The four-year sentence is less, it has been pointed out, than Moss's killer might have received for

Catherine Bennett

causing death by dangerous driving. It is shorter than those recently imposed on men for accidentally killing other men in pub fights. In fact, if the gov-

consider whether the sentence was unduly lenient. The sentence fails, she wrote, to reflect the gravity of Moss's killing and the criminal's "cynical shifting of the responsibility from himself to her", while sending out "the message that killing your girlfriend during sex is a minor matter". The attorney general has confirmed that the sentence will be reviewed. That this should be required so soon after politicians from across parties attempted to halt, via changes to the new Domestic Abuse Act, increasing defendant recourse to "rough sex" claims, suggests celebration over this victory may have been premature. In fact, although Pybus killed Moss before the act took effect, it is unclear it would have made any difference, it being already established that a person cannot consent to their serious harm or killing. Nor can the wish for murder charges in such cases make this happen if the prosecution can't prove intent. Also unaffected by the Domestic Abuse Act, Pybus's short sentence constitutes, as Harman says, an actively harmful, trivialising statement on male violence against women. If it is not increased, maybe it, rather than government's restatement of existing law, should be understood as the official response to demands for justice by the admirable campaigning group We Can't Consent to This. Nothing, anyway, from the Pybus judge, seems likely to diminish the popularity of "rough sex" as just the latest euphemism whereby a case of male

violence can be portrayed as something other than part of a relentless, gendered pattern. Women may sometimes agree to participate in the risky, coercive sex now depicted in mainstream pornography: they are the only ones who seem to die in it. In her important new book, *Feminism for Women*, Julie Bindel argues that old-style sexual assault is now dressed up by men as "sex-positive" experimentation. It spares them, she says, "the cognitive dissonance of apparently believing that 'consent matters' while proceeding on the basis that 'no means convince me'". Pybus's short sentence, which took into account expressions of "genuine" remorse, and an early guilty plea, could be seen as just a different expression of the misogyny that has encouraged defendant allusions to "rough" - as in potentially lethal to women - sex. Certainly, it also contributes to a culture deeply desensitised to the culling of women by male partners. Although less so, it turns out, to its rare opposite. Justice for Women draws attention to Emma-Jayne Magson's recent minimum 17-year sentence for the murder of her abusive boyfriend, who was - like the women above - deprived of medical attention. The judge, Jeremy Baker, regretted her lack of remorse. Many of us feel the same way, funnily enough, about judicial behaviour over the years. Are any judges even a tiny bit sorry for the way their colleagues have indulged male violence against women? Right up to last week? It's not too late to ask for it to be taken into account.



to kill her. A manslaughter conviction still carries a possible life sentence. As Harriet Harman says, the four-year sentence for Sam Pybus sends out 'the message that killing your girlfriend during sex is a minor matter'. What remains bewildering, even given the grand judicial tradition of sympathy to-

ernment fulfils its eye-catching scheme to treat pet abduction as an especially harmful property crime, which already carries a maximum seven-year term, the sentence could be dramatically less than a thief soon receives for taking somebody's cockpoo. Harriet Harman has asked the attorney general to

These strange times have made us experts in loss and loneliness

Loneliness, loss and regret," said a headline last week, "what getting old really feels like." Psychologist Sam Carr and a team at the University of Bath have conducted 80 interviews for The Loneliness Project. Many feature men and women whose lifetime partner has died, as part of "a large-scale, in-depth exploration of how older people experience loneliness and what it means for them". On the whole, it seems, when you mine the final decades, it's grim. We know from myriads of research that loneliness and loss, accompanied by decreasing physical abilities, undercuts happiness, triggers depression, exacerbates heart attacks and paralyses social skills - to mention only a few of the impacts on the human body and soul. Yet, into the second year of the pandemic, isn't that what so many of us have experienced, regardless of how many years we have clocked up? Minimal engagement with others, hugely diminished resources and, for many, unexpected and searing bereavements, traditionally regarded as the markers of ageing, have become a shared experience. So, paradoxically, out of so much loss and heartbreak, have we, perhaps, acquired increased understanding and empathy for what it means to adjust to what we can't control - one of the main elements of reaching the final years of life? Can we more easily imagine a better way to live? To be able to imagine (reinforced by necessity) that alternatives are possible is, perhaps, the one benevolent gift that the pandemic might have bestowed on us - but only if that gift is maximised before it is destroyed by a return to what is deemed as "normal". The writer and human rights activist Arundhati Roy has written that the pandemic has offered a disruption, an opportunity, to "walk

through [the portal] lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it". Last week, Sophia Parker started a newly created job to do just that. She is the emerging futures director at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a "social change organisation". It's a job title easily mocked but, after the experience of the pandemic and, with it, a rapidly growing collective awareness of the daunting consequences of climate change, rapid technological developments and much longer life expectancy, it has its logic. The aim is not to 'do good' in the Victorian sense but to show how re-use and connection can replace extraction, consumption and individualism. An emerging future is already visible in activities on the fringes of society and, as personified in the footballer Marcus Rashford, centre pitch. In a seminal blog that lifts the spirits, Parker writes: "We are facing a set of social evils that we seem unable to tame with the resources and tactics we used in the past." She wants the "hidden wiring", the systems and structures that entomb what we regard as "normal" and treated as fixed and immutable, to be exposed. They include ownership and how that is shared across society, and capital and assets and how they flow between people. She argues that, together with hope, "imagination seems to be an essential muscle we need to build if we are to escape the gravitational pull of the status quo". Parker is the founder of Little Village, set up in London in 2016. Operating like a food bank, it provides clothes, toys and equipment for babies and children up to the age of five. Similar baby banks, now across the country, fill a chasm the government should be ashamed of. Like all innovations, once established, it seems such an obvious idea, why

wasn't it created earlier? Often, it's because the ingredients required have yet to come together. For Meals on Wheels, for instance, it was the impact

Yvonne Roberts

of an ageing population and the rise in car ownership. Little Village is a charity but Parker's aim, apart from providing what des-

a bolt cutter to much of society's hardwiring. What is required now, Mulgan writes, is "a dynamic way of thinking that grasps tensions and contradictions rather than wishing them away". The Loneliness Project appears to be trying to think dynamically about ageing. It is partnering with Guild Living, which builds retirement communities, in "campus-style

But we have to have a go. The late writer and visionary Ursula K Le Guin wrote: "The exercise of imagination is dangerous to those who profit from the way things are because it has the power to show that the way things are is not permanent, not universal, not necessary". Post-pandemic, dare the future be bright?



... No one pretends that seeding a different perception of what is "normal" is easy - but the pandemic has already taken a bolt cutter to much of society's hardwiring. What is required now, Mulgan writes, is "a dynamic way of thinking that grasps tensions and contradictions rather than wishing them away" ...

perate parents require and others are able to give, is not to "do good" in the Victorian sense but to demonstrate how "re-use, community and connection" can replace "extraction, consumption and individualism". It's a glimpse of a different kind of society, which prioritises equality, relationships and the value of care. Many are now at work attempting to visualise and bring about a fairer society that redesigns the 20th-century welfare state based on free female labour. They include my former boss, Sir Geoff Mulgan, professor of collective intelligence, public policy and social innovation at University College London. No one pretends that seeding a different perception of what is "normal" is easy - but the pandemic has already taken

environments" at the centres of towns, for those with sufficient income attracted to living with people their own age or older who are keen to "never stop starting". A similar plush establishment has opened near my home in London, in a borough dominated by the young. It undoubtedly suits some. For others, it comes close to being the kiss of death. Arguably, wouldn't it be so much more imaginative if the burgeoning industry of senior upmarket residences offered the choice (available in Scandinavia and a few places in Britain) of life lived intergenerationally? Parker acknowledges that attempting to find a better way to look after the planet and people's wellbeing now and in the future, is, "disorientating, confusing, messy".

Guwahati, Sep 12: Medica Cancer Hospital has introduced a high-end radiotherapy machine Halcyon with Image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT) & Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), to its considerable bouquet of advanced services offered. With cancer incidence rates at double the national average, calling North-East

Medica Cancer Hospital dedicates Halcyon machine for advanced cancer treatment

tively hits a close second, with a population of just about 20 lakhs, and almost 1,300 reported cases of cancer every year. Reports suggests that in North-

further avoided or minimised, which is of great benefit in cases such as cancer of the head and neck, prostate, lungs etc. The precisely delivered ra-

here so that people from this region and nearby neighbouring states do not have to travel to other states for treatment. We shall offer all these treatment at an affordable cost which will be beneficial for the people." Dr Alok Roy, Chairman Medica Group of Hospitals & Chair FICCI health Services Committee, averred, "Medica Group of Hospitals, has always been the forerunner when it comes to advancement of technology. At Medica Cancer Hospital, we have always been a leader in enhancing cancer treatment in North-East and rest of India and have consistently remained a trailblazer in delivering state-of-the-art healthcare to our patients not only from India but also our neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The Halcyon Radiation Therapy system is designed around the patient with the assurance of

an enhanced connection, that allows our oncology team to deliver exceptional treatment with increased efficiency in a less intimidating environment that is comfortable and reassuring to the patients." Dr Alok Roy also stated, "The health infrastructure in most of the North-Eastern states and our neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar are not so well equipped to treat this caseload, which forces patients to travel long distances for treatment. Cancer care facilities are limited to a handful of major cities, and patients need to make long, arduous journeys to tertiary care facilities for proper diagnosis or medical care. In addition to specialised medical care, cancer patients need clean surroundings to avoid secondary infections, to which they are prone because their immune systems are compromised by treat-

ments such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy. These are not always and readily available. On behalf of Medica Cancer Hospital, I will urge the citizens not to neglect cancer and get the treatment as early as possible before it gets too late." The Halcyon system has multiple benefits including automated treatment, comfort for the patient, ease of use for the oncology team, and accelerated installation timeframe with shortening of time from installation to first treatment without sacrificing quality. The system simplifies and enhances every aspect of the radiation therapy process, with image-guidance and intensity-modulation radiotherapy (IMRT) that improves patient comfort. With a streamlined workflow, the Halcyon system requires just nine steps from the start to the end of treatment compared to up to more than 30 steps with

older technologies. The improved workflow increases the efficiency. Standardized workflows are easy to master, so clinicians can spend more time with patients. An integrated intercom enables immediate and clear communication between the therapist and the patient. The quiet system with smooth motion and easy access keeps patients relaxed and focused. The 100 cm. diameter bore with integrated ambient lighting prevents claustrophobia. The unique and innovative design of the Halcyon system allows clinicians to treat patients quickly and minimize motion, which is extremely important when treating patients with pelvic tumours such as prostate cancer and cervical cancer. The short treatment times could also eliminate the need for breath holds traditionally required during breast, esophageal and lung cancer treatments. Medica Cancer

Hospital, the solo Cancer hospital in the North-East region comprising North Bengal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal and East Bihar is a 50-bed hospital situated a mere 14kms from the heart of Siliguri. The advanced cancer care hospital has been able to successfully fill a huge void in the healthcare facility of this region where state-of-the-art Radiation Therapy, as a part of comprehensive cancer treatment, was lacking. The services offered here include Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Medical Oncology, with 24x7 availability of Specialists. Medica Group of Hospitals, one of the major and fast-growing chains of hospitals in Eastern India today, has built and managed numerous healthcare facilities across the Eastern region over the past few years. The healthcare chain launched its operations with Medica North Bengal Clinic (MNBC) in Siliguri in 2008 and soon followed up with its flagship Hospital - Medica Superspecialty Hospital (MSH) - in Kolkata in 2010. The group has footprints in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, and Assam.



India 'the cancer capital' is no longer an exaggeration. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the national average of reported cancer incidences is 80-110 cases per lakh population, this number varies between 150-200 cases per lakh in the North-East. Within the region, specific districts such as Aizawl (Mizoram) and Papumpare (Arunachal Pradesh) have reported the highest age-adjusted cancer incidence rates within this regional belt. Aside from these regions, the state of Nagaland collec-

Eastern region one in four men and one in five women, respectively, are expected to get cancer. To mitigate this lack of proper cancer treatment, Medica Cancer Hospital has implemented multiple advanced technologies and the latest inclusion of Halcyon makes them the best state-of-the-art treatment centre for cancer not only in North-East India but also the neighbouring countries. The Halcyon Radiation Therapy system's targeted therapy ensures that damage to healthy tissues surrounding the tumour can be

diation with a tight focus prevents damage to healthy tissues and hence reduces side effects of cancer treatment. The advanced system also ensures completion of treatment in fewer steps as compared to the older radiation therapy system. Through use of intelligent automation, it reduces the treatment time and makes the therapy more comfortable for the patient. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sourav Dutta, Director Medica Cancer Hospitals, said "Medica shall bring latest technologies in our cancer hospital

Twenty years after 9/11, one of the last U.S. Marines killed in Afghanistan comes home

Lawrence, September 12: U.S. Marine Sergeant Johnny Rosario returned to her hometown in Massachusetts in a casket on Saturday, one of the last American service members killed in Afghanistan during a war set in motion exactly two decades ago by the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Several hundred people gathered near the Farrah Funeral Home in Lawrence, Mass., where Rosario's remains arrived in a black hearse with a police motorcycle escort. Marines in dress uniform carried the casket into the funeral home, as veterans in the crowd, some of whom had not worn a uniform in years, snapped to attention. "We came out because she is a hero to us," said Mary Beth Chosse, who waited for several hours with her 12-year-old son, Gavin. Chosse's older son is a Marine on active duty. "Sergeant Rosario's sacrifice and bravery should always be remembered." Rosario, 25, was among 13 U.S. service members killed in an Aug. 26 suicide bombing outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan's capital Kabul. She was helping to screen evacuees at a checkpoint at the airport's Abbey Gate when the bomb ripped through a crowd. Scores of

Afghans also were killed in the attack. The last U.S. troops left Afghanistan four days later. About 7,100 U.S. military personnel have been killed in conflicts tied to the Sept. 11 attacks, with about 2,500 of those deaths happening in Afghanistan, according to the Costs of War project at Brown University's Watson Institute. The financial cost of those conflicts runs to nearly \$6 trillion, according to the project. Like many Americans, Sheila Arias, 41, remembers Sept. 11, 2001 in vivid detail. She was at a hair salon in Lawrence when she watched the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center collapse after al Qaeda hijackers seized control of two airplanes and crashed them into the buildings. Hijacked airplanes would also crash into the Pentagon outside Washington and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Arias soon after enlisted in the U.S. Army, leaving a comfortable, steady job as a clerk in Lawrence's water department to join the military effort to root out al Qaeda. "There was no question that I had to serve," Arias said. "I'm sure Johnny Rosario felt the same way." Rosario, who was 5-years-old when the attacks occurred, would begin her service years

later, when the United States was already deeply involved in Afghanistan. Shortly after graduating from high school in 2014, she enlisted and landed

ing and reconciling some \$400,000 worth of open supply requisitions. On Saturday, a group of her friends from Lawrence High School huddled near the

community, Rosario's roots extend to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, said William Lantigua, a former mayor of the city who knows her family.



with the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Eventually she would become a supply chief, a role usually held by a more senior non-commissioned officer, according to the Marines, and volunteered to be a member of the female engagement team to interact with Afghan women, barred by local custom from talking to male strangers. Just three months before her death, she was recognized with an award for her attention to detail and expertise in track-

steps of the funeral home. Wearing black face masks, they spoke of Rosario's desire to serve her country, take college courses and financially support her family. One of the women, who like the others declined to give her name, cradled a framed picture of Rosario in a formal gown. "I can't talk. I would just cry," the woman said. Like many residents in Lawrence, a working-class city about 30 miles (48 km) north of Boston with a strong Hispanic

Rosario is survived by her mother and a younger sister. On Saturday, Maria Ogando joined the crowd gathered to pay tribute to Rosario after driving an hour from Worcester, Massachusetts with her family. Her daughter, 9-year-old Kayla, wore a T-shirt with Rosario's full name on the back. "She is a hero and it is very sad for me to see her pass away," Kayla said. "But I will always remember her name and what she did for our country."

Thums Up partners with Jasprit Bumrah

New Delhi, September 12: Thums Up, Coca-Cola India's home-grown brand, has partnered with ICC (International Cricket Council) as an exclusive non-alcoholic beverage partner. After celebrating real heroism with #PalatDe and #TaanePalatDe campaigns at Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games 2020, Thums Up continues to narrate stories of strength, resilience and heroism through its association with ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the Indian fast bowler - Jasprit Bumrah. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will take place in UAE and Oman from 17 October till 14 November. The Coca-Cola Company has a long history of sponsoring major sporting events around the world. The Coca-Cola Company has an eight-decade long association with Olympics, four decades with the FIFA and nearly 25 years with World Cup Rugby. These associations with sporting events underscore the company's philosophy of endeavoring to be a part of the joyous moments and occasions of its consumers. Announcing the partnership, Arnab Roy, Vice President and Head-Marketing, Coca-Cola India and SouthWest Asia said, "Cricket is a shared passion and one of the most popular sports connecting over a billion Indian fans, across gender, generations and cultures. In-line with our history of partnering with global sporting events and our association with the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics 2020, our strategic partnership with ICC, reinforces our commitment to refresh viewers and enhance their entertainment experiences. The brand continues to pay an ode to the hard work, determination and overcoming of multiple challenges by our players to represent India at such prestigious sporting events. We are proud to welcome Jasprit Bumrah, one of the best fast bowlers in the world, to the Thums Up family. His struggles and life journey embodies the spirit of the brand and will resonate with

sports fans around the world." Speaking about the partnership, Jasprit Bumrah, said, "I am absolutely delighted to be associated with Thums Up and providing a platform to players to share their journeys and give the nation a chance to celebrate their achievements and uplift their spirits. The brand is focused on associating with global sporting events and saluting the strength and heroism of real people - the players. I believe this is an ideal partnership that brings out the natural connect with cricket fans and showcases the resilience and hard work that players coming from varied backgrounds, put in to overcome their challenges and represent our country." Through this campaign, Thums Up aims to showcase the arduous journey of Jasprit Bumrah, who against all odds and undesirable opinions, stays committed and rises up to the occasion, by becoming one of the best bowlers in the world. The campaign also features a similar video which showcases the story of Mohammed Siraj, the Indian fast bowler. It includes a series of videos

Nayak, Chief Creative Officer, Ogilvy India said, "We love cricket and we admire the grit, hard work and determination of our players, who overcome everything to play for the country. After Olympics and Paralympics, in the third instalment of the #PalatDe campaign, we will be celebrating the victories of our cricketing heroes over their naysayers." The ICC is the global governing body for cricket. Representing 106 members, the ICC governs and administers the game and is responsible for the staging of major international tournaments including the ICC Men's World Cup and Women's World Cup and the ICC Men's and Women's T20 World Cups as well as all associated qualifying events. The ICC presides over the ICC Code of Conduct which sets the professional standards of discipline for international cricket, playing conditions, bowling reviews and other ICC regulations. The Laws of the game remain under the auspices of the MCC. The ICC also appoints the umpires and referees that officiate at all sanctioned Test matches, One Day International and Twenty20 Internationals. Through the



and related visuals for digital and social media to keep the audiences connected with the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The campaign will also give viewers a chance to meet Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj along with chances to win other exciting prizes. The video campaign effectively aligns with Thums Up's brand message of 'real heroism', resilience and strength against the backdrop of the inspirational tagline - Apni Pace Se, India Ka Game #PalatDe. Suresh

Anti-Corruption Unit it coordinates action against corruption and match fixing. The ICC Development department works with Associate Members to improve the quality of international cricket, build better cricket systems, get more people playing cricket and grow the game. Coca-Cola in India is one of the country's leading beverage companies, offering a range of healthy, safe, high-quality, refreshing beverage options to consumers.

Centre wants EV maker to start production in India before asking for tax sops

New Delhi, Sep 12: Tesla is striving hard to make an entry into India's automobile market. However, the carmaker recently urged the government to lower the import rates on electric vehicles. The plan was simple - first to import and test the appetite of Indian auto-owners for Tesla vehicles before starting production locally. However, in what could be a shocker for Tesla, the heavy industries ministry has reportedly asked US-based electric car major to first start

manufacturing its iconic electric vehicles in India before any tax concessions can be considered, according to a PTI report which quoted unnamed government sources. Currently, the Centre is not offering any concessions for the import of fuel-based or electric vehicles. Moreover, the government is reported to be of the view that giving such concessions will not send a good signal to other companies that have invested billions of dollars in India. Currently, the cars that

are imported in India as completely built units (CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60 per cent to 100 per cent. The tax depends on the engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value. Tesla had asked the government to lower the taxes on the import of electric vehicles (EVs) in India. Previous reports had suggested that the Centre was willing to offer sops on the import of electric vehicles. Also Read: DHFL insolvency case: Here's why RBI's IBC route



didn't work well for the lender. Meanwhile, Tesla has recently passed the homologation stage for all the four mod-

els/variants it had sought approval for in India, which basically means they are ready for launch in the country.

Yahoo appointed CEO Jim Lanzone

New Delhi, Sep 12: Tinder CEO Jim Lanzone was named as the new CEO of Yahoo. His appointment comes days after Apollo global management Inc. Completed its purchase of Verizon media. \$5 billion acquisition of shares in the media was completed on September 1st. After

which Apollo renamed it Yahoo after Verizon's iconic digital brand. Other brands under Verizon Media are AOL, Markers, Ryt, Flurry and TechCrunch. Apollo is planning to grow its offering like Yahoo Finance and Yahoo Sports through various initiatives like subscription

as well as focusing on advertising and e-commerce platforms. Rennate Naybrog, Tinder general manager in Europe, Middle East and Africa Region will be replacing Lanzon as Tinder's CEO. She will also be the first woman to take that job since the company's inception in 2012.

Yahoo.com, which competes with more recent albeit bigger players including Google and Facebook, is among the top five most visited websites in the United States and among top 20 in the world, according to Alexa Internet, a web traffic analysis firm. Also

Read: DHFL insolvency case: Here's why RBI's IBC route didn't work well for the lender. Lanzone replaces Guru Gowrappan, who led Verizon's media business since 2018 and has now been named senior adviser to Apollo's private equity business.

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CM Dr. Sarma reviews Inland Water Transport (IWT)

during departure and arrival of the ferries. The magistrate will submit the daily report to the concerned DC. Ticket will be issued to every passenger and his name, address and contract number will be maintained in the register before boarding the vessel. In order to avoid conflict of interest and other difficulties, the fuel for vessels will be made free from the ceiling by the Finance Department. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Majuli and Jorhat will frequently visit and inspect the arrangement made at the Ghats. Director, IWT and other senior officials of IWT and Transport Dept will regularly visit the Ghat to ensure that the ferry services are operating smoothly. Basic amenities like toilet, drinking water, waiting area shed etc. shall be provided at each ghat. Safety audit shall be carried out for vessels by competent IWT Officials before being put to use. The vessels shall be inspected for their overall fitness, availability of firefighting and lifesaving equipment, competency of crew members etc. These certifications shall be recorded in the surveyor declaration form before issuing survey certificate and registration certificate. Safety announcements are given by the master of the ferry through a loud hailer on the do's and don'ts, emergency procedure, procedure for wearing a life jacket, handling of life-buoy etc. Written script will be provided and promulgated by IWT. There should be one life-buoy ring against four passengers. The life-buoys should have a rope attached having at least 30 feet length. These to be kept on the guard rails for immediate throwing towards people in the water. Vessels should be equipped with the loud hailer, siren, aldis light, whistle, cell phone etc. Reliable communication network should be maintained between the master and in-charge of the ghat and they should regularly remain in contact over phone. SIM cards will be provided by the government to the master and in-charge of the ghat. PA systems should be used to make passenger safety related announcements at the ghats and inside the vessels. First aid boxes should be available on the vessels. Every boat should have a minimum of two anchors with flexible manila rope and more than 10 percent of the strands of each rope which should not be damaged. There should be one CO 2 and one foam type fire extinguisher in the engine room space. Suitable anchoring equipment to be available on board, such as anchor, cables, ropes etc. to prevent drifting of vessels during calm weather in general and cyclonic conditions in particular. Training of all the masters and crew to be undertaken on the basic navigation stability, related rules in the water, firefighting, emergency operation etc. One SDRF team will be stationed at Majuli and it will be kept in readiness to respond to any emergent situation. Each vessel must have a signboard prominently displaying the load capacity of passengers, bicycle, motorcycle, car, truck and other permissible items etc. Overloading should not be allowed under any circumstances. Master (In-charge of the Boat) of passenger ferry will not be allowed to be changed without prior approval of competent authority of the IWT. Medical camps will be set up at the ghats and ANM will be detailed with necessary medicines etc. Moreover, besides the above, the meeting also decided on a series of measures to streamline ferry service and enhance the safety across the state. Government will provide marine engines to 850 private passenger vessels, free of cost, that have applied under the Jibondinga Scheme. Marine Engine will be fitted after a survey of the fitness of the boat by the surveyor appointed by DIWT Assam. DIWTA in consultation with DC concerned will assess the requirement for more than one ramp /temporary jetties at each Ghat and arrange to construct accordingly. DC, DIWTA and other senior officers will frequently visit and inspect the arrangements made at the ghats to ensure that the ferry services are operating smoothly. Principal Secretary Transport Dr. KK Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Commissioner Transport Adil Khan and other senior officers of transport department were present at the meeting.

Modi govt proposes 15.6-km twin

DPR, it was decided that NHIDCL should go ahead with its proposed project as its DPR was in advanced stage of preparation.If the project gets cleared, it will be the second twin-tunnel that will be constructed under a river in India. Another twin-tunnel project, though not a road tunnel, is currently underway in Kolkata - a 10.8-km stretch of the East-West metro corridor under the Howrah.The proposed four-lane tunnel under the Brahmaputra river will be constructed using tunnel boring machines. It is expected to be completed in two years after work starts.The tunnels will have an electrical substation, sensors and CCTVs to monitor vehicular movement. "Both the tunnels will be inter-connected to help in evacuation in case of an accident or any other emergency," an NHIDCL official said on condition of anonymity.Originally, NHIDCL had proposed to build a four-lane bridge across the Brahmaputra to link Gohpur and Numaligarh. "But in 2019, it was decided to construct a twin tube tunnel because it was considered to be strategically more useful in case of war or any other external exigencies," said a second road ministry official who didn't wish to be named. Currently, there are five bridges across the Brahmaputra while one more is under construction and another is being planned.As of now, it takes approximately six hours to cover the nearly 223-km distance from Numaligarh to Gohpur. There is a two-lane road adjacent to the Kaziranga wildlife sanctuary, which is prone to massive traffic congestion. It is also a circuitous route leading to longer travel time.However, NHIDCL officials said that once the greenfield alignment under the river is completed, the distance between Numaligarh and Gohpur will reduce to 35 km and it will take under an hour to cover the stretch."The road project will improve connectivity between the north and south side of Brahmaputra and will result in greater economic development in the region," added the NHIDCL official quoted above.

Six persons have been arrested in

downstream.Meanwhile, search and rescue operations for the last missing person are underway by a team of NDRF and SDRF.

Assam organisations plan stir against

the project site against the NHPC from September 20. So far, 22 organisations have expressed support," Asom Jatibabadi Yuba Chhatra Parishad (AJYCP) leader Palash Changmai said. The AJYCP on Saturday organised a public meeting where geological and hydrological experts underlined the threat to areas downstream of the NHPC project. Leaders of the 22 organisations such as All Assam Students' Union and All Assam Adivasi Students' Association attended the meeting. According to the AJYCP, work on the project was resumed without consulting 965 villages across four districts downstream of the project, as has been agreed upon in 2014. These districts are Biswanath, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Majuli.Because of the delay in completion, the NHPC has been losing an estimated ?10 crore per day on the project estimated to cost ?20,000 crore on completion.

Assam Don Bosco University to

students. A range of financial assistance is offered depending on merit, economic background and reservation status," he told reporters. "As co-curricular activities are hugely encouraged by us, we will offer scholarships worth Rs 10.4 lakh under the sports quota, and provide scholarships to talented students under the cultural quota, too," he said.The vice-chancellor said usually 1,300-1,400 students, including those for online courses, avail the assistance. The ADBU covers all its 45 courses in various streams under the scholarship programme, which will be funded by a mix of internal reserve, industry tie-ups and government contributions, Mavely said.On placements of students, he said the varsity has a record of 74 per cent recruitment, while it has supported new ventures across the northeast by putting in Rs 22 crore through the incubation cell. Earlier, another private institute Assam down town University (AdtU) launched its maiden scholarship programme of up to Rs 1 crore for meritorious students from humble backgrounds across the country.

Pak ISI Chief Meets Intelligence

tween the Taliban and the Pakistan is considered to be on the recent cabinet formation in Afghanistan where the ISI chief proposed names from Haqqani and Quetta shura. The Taliban commander is heard saying that Faiz Hameed, the Punjabi General has created major problem for them.The headline Islamists retook power on August 15, after a lightning offensive that capitalised on the chaotic last weeks of the 20-year US-led occupation that followed the 2001 attacks. While speculation was rife that the Taliban may use the September 11 anniversary to swear in their new government, but the day unfolded without formal recognition.According to a report by Reuters, Russia had said on Friday it would not take part in any way in the Taliban government's inauguration ceremony. Meanwhile, China has been keen to play a part in the new Afghan regime. Ahead of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, China had hosted top Taliban leaders led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the group's chief negotiator. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi had said during the Taliban delegation's July visit to Tianjin that the "Taliban are a pivotal military and political force in Afghanistan".Pakistan and China have both geopolitical and economic gains from playing their hands in the new Afghan regime. Reports state how Pakistan-based terrorist organisations Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba have increased attempts to push recruits into Jammu and Kashmir, taking advantage of a shift in international focus on Afghanistan and a buzz over "victories" of Islamist forces. Also, terror launchpads near the border have reopened, and infiltration has increased, with agencies warning that this could indicate an attempt by Pakistan to exploit Afghanistan's advancements.As soon as the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in the third week of August, the leader of Pakistan's Jaish-e-Mohammed, Maulana Masood Azhar, went to Kandahar to ask for cooperation in fomenting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, India Today had reported, quoting sources.The Taliban's survival will be heavily reliant on China's economic and political support. Pakistan is in a major economic crisis and will be unable to assist with Afghan reconstruction. Western governments will be hesitant to grant unconditional development support. In exchange for access to Afghan mineral riches, China, on the other side, can invest significant economic resources.Furthermore, China has made significant investments in Pakistan and Central Asian Republics under the auspices of the BRI. Relations between China and Iran are also improving. Overall, China has economic clout with all of Afghanistan's neighbours. As a result, China can persuade Afghanistan's neighbours to work with the Taliban leadership.

Centre will provide financial as

among people and people get to know about its various facilities. He has played a huge role in popularising Yoga globally over the last few years. I wish that we all are able to fulfil the Prime Minister vision in the North-East."Sonowal attended a conference on 'Diverse and Fulfilling Career Paths in AYUSH Systems Education, Entrepreneurship and Employment Focus on North-Eastern States'.This conference was attended by officials from Ayush Ministry and various other Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa institutes from all over India.

Bhupendra Patel named next Gujarat

opment Authority. Commenting on his successor, Rupani said, "Bhupendra Patel is capable. We believe BJP will win the upcoming elections in the state under his leadership."Union Minister and BJP leader Bhupender Yadav told reporters that the leaders will meet the Gujarat Governor at 6 pm today. "We will be going to the Raj Bhavan at 6 pm. We will be meeting the governor regarding the appointment of the new Gujarat CM," ANI quoted him as saying. In a surprise move, Vijay Rupani had met state Governor Acharya Devvrat and tendered his resignation as Gujarat CM on Saturday. "To further develop the state, with new energy and power, I have decided to resign as Chief Minister," he told the reporters. With his resignation, Rupani became the fourth BJP's chief minister to be replaced in the last six months. Earlier, Trivendra Singh Rawat and Tirath Singh Rawat in Uttarakhand and BS Yediyurappa in Karnataka were replaced from the CM posts. The names of Gujarat Deputy CM Nitin Patel, state agriculture minister RC Faldu, Union ministers Purshottam Rupala and Mansukh Mandaviya were doing rounds as successors of Rupani. "Names of Patel, Faldu, Rupala and Mandaviya are being discussed. But it is impossible to say who will be the chief minister as the decision will be taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," a BJP leader had told.

Covishield vaccine side-effects: 4 new side-effects discovered with the Astrazeneca COVID shot

New Delhi, September 12 : Side-effects associated with COVID-19 vaccine shots have been widely discussed ever since the vaccines were first pushed into usage. With the Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine particularly, side-effects have been a little concerning, with preliminary reports indicating a likelihood of the vaccine causing rare neurological complications and a risk of blood clotting disorders as well.While the vaccine, backed by a traditionally-used, safer vaccine technology, instructs the immune cells to cause mild 'flu-like' reactions in most cases, post-vaccination side-effects with the vaccine, which, marked for use in India as Covishield can also play out differently for every individual. Now, newer reports have highlighted that the vaccine can also cause a host of different symptoms which need to be looked for. With booster vaccine shots also being considered for use, knowing, and being aware of possible side-effects can help a person weigh their risks as well. With more people continue to be jabbed, newer side-effects are also coming into play:Although not a classically-defined side-effect associated with the vaccine, a few reports have found out that getting the COVID-19 jab can make some experience a level of pain in their legs, and arms. While it's not uncommon to experience a little pain and discomfort in the arm that you have received the vaccine shot in (local side-effect), leg pain could stem from muscle pain, which is a side-effect that is associated with most vaccines. The leg pain and tiredness can strike in both legs, along with joint pain and tiredness. If the pain persists in a single leg, clinical advice may be needed.While vaccines are known to cause flu-like symptoms (such as a fever, chills and body pain), according to European Medical Authorities, viral influenza-like symptoms, which could cause certain symptoms that affect the nose and the throat have been also found to afflict some people. It may not happen with everyone, but can be a side-effect to watch for. Therefore, if you do happen to develop a fever, chills, muscle pain, sneezing or some level of congestion, it may be taken to be a COVID-19 vaccine side-effect right now. Earlier studies have also indicated that sneezing is a rare side-effect felt by those vaccinated beneficiaries who may have had COVID-19 before.Experiencing nausea, abdominal cramps can too be two side-effects that can strike after vaccination. While these digestive symptoms have been previously noted with other COVID vaccines, authorities have now found that these side-effects can also be common with Covishield, or Astrazeneca vaccine. One can feel a certain discomfort, queasiness or an urge to vomit after getting the vaccine shot. This side-effect is also more likely to occur with the first vaccine dose, rather than the second one.Some beneficiaries also report being unable to eat well, or feeling a sense of losing their appetite for a couple of days after being vaccinated with the Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine dose. A loss or experiencing a change in appetite is also common with a lot of flu-like illnesses as well as COVID-19, so make sure you keep yourself well-fed and minimize the intensity of the side-effects.While certain side-effects like blood clots, seizures, intense headaches and allergic reactions can be alarming signs post-vaccination, the newer side-effects may not be adverse side-effects, and are more likely to be an extension of flu-like side-effects noted with the administration of Covishield vaccine.

Govt cuts import taxes on vegetable oils to calm prices

New Delhi, September 12 : The base import tax on crude palm oil has been slashed to 2.5 percent from 10 percent, while the tax on crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5 percent from 7.5 percent, the government said in a notification late on Friday.India has cut base import taxes on palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil, a government order showed, as the world's biggest vegetable oil buyer tries to cool near-record price rises.The reduction in taxes

could bring down prices of the edible oils in India and boost consumption, effectively increasing overseas buying by the south Asian country.The base import tax on crude palm oil has been slashed to 2.5 percent from 10 percent, while the tax on crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5 percent from 7.5 percent, the government said in a notification late on Friday. The base import tax on refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil cut to

32.5 percent from 37.5 percent.After the cuts, crude palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil imports will be subject to a 24.75 percent tax in total, including a 2.5 percent base import duty and other taxes, while refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil would carry a 35.75 percent tax in total.India fulfils more than two-thirds of its edible oil demand through imports and has been struggling to contain a rally in local oil prices for the last few months.

Idea of India and Bharat : An exchange between Shashi Tharoor and J Sai Deepak

Chennai, September 12 : It was an enlightening exchange of ideas, ideologies, belief systems and facts like no other - renowned Author, former International Diplomat and Parliamentarian Dr. Shashi Tharoor on one end and famed Supreme Court Advocate, Best-selling Author on debut J Sai Deepak on the other. In Chennai to launch his latest book, 'The Battle of Belonging', Dr. Tharoor took part in a discussion with J Sai Deepak, who himself had recently launched his own book 'India that is Bharat' (as said in Article 1 of the Constitution). As the session moderator, Dr. Nanditha Krishna, President CP Ramaswamy Aiyar Foundation, set the tone and expectations high by indicating how the respective author's books were antithetical to each other. Elaborating on his latest work, Dr. Tharoor said it was his personal meditation on Nationalism and how the idea applies in the Indian context. His work delves deep into Global literature on Nationalism and belonging, the kinds of Nationalism, the thin line between Nationalism and Patriotism. He explained that, Patriotism is love for your country such that you belong to it and it belongs to you, like a mother's love. "A Patriot loves the country in an uncritical way, even if there's nothing appealing about it to a stranger. Nationalism is the idea of a country that is represented as state, flag, army, ruling ethos and a Nationalist defines allegiance and opposition to others. While the two may seem fairly similar, the difference is that - a Patriot is prepared to die for his country; a nationalist is prepared kill for his state," he distinguished. However, he also touches upon the Nationalism linked to identity (birth, blood, religion) and also Civic nationalism that is not anchored in identity (which is anchored in Constitutions and institutions and implies voluntary participation in Civic society). Regarding Indian Nationalism, Tharoor said that it was a Civic Nationalism, as India's freedom struggle was meant for everyone. Referring to the discussions during the formative stages of the Indian Constitution, Tharoor said that India was meant to be a Civic Nationalism of equal rights. He added that the idea of India guaranteed people Freedoms of Religion, Worship, Expression, Propagation of religion and Equality of citizens, irrespective of their differences. Tharoor also went on to mention an alternative idea of India - Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan, where the Indian Constitution had to be written for the Hindu people, instead of for all(which he attributes to Savarkar, Golwalkar and Deen Dayal Upadhyay).Sai Deepak started off by saying that his own book was an inadvertent rebuttal to Tharoor's book. He corrected Tharoor regarding the proposition that the term and idea of Hindutva were coined by Savarkar. Instead, he said Chandranath Basu in 1892 had coined the term and elaborated on it, via an essay on Hindutva. He added that a school of thought approached Bharat's experience of colonialism and ignored the scholarship of decoloniality. "The idea that Hindu Nationalism is fundamentally exclusionist and comes at the peril of religious minorities in India, is to impose the guilt and framework on European Nationalism on Bharatiya Consciousness," he said. Deepak said that he prefers the term "Bharatiya Dharmic Civilizational reawakening" rather than Hindutva or anything of that kind. He adds that it is possible to discard Savarkar, to build a case for Dharmic Civilizationalism, as it was larger than any individual. Speaking on how the Indian Constitution was portrayed as fundamentally antithetical to the Hindutva vision of a Hindu Rashtra, Deepak touched upon how the draft Constitution presented by Hindu Mahasabha granted equal rights to religious minorities. "Assuming we did not have the concept of contemporary Constitutionalism emanating from Europe, Bharat has always welcomed those who are willing to live with us. We did not have a Constitution when persecuted Parsis or Jews knocked at the doors of Bharat" the lawyer said. He also cautioned Tharoor against committing the grave injustice of attributing large-heartedness to the Constitution, at the expense of the Civilization. Deepak also took on those that make the allegation of India becoming a "Hindu Pakistan". He went on to say that despite the horrors and tragedy of Partition, foisted two-nation theory, Bharat has protected its minorities, much much better than Pakistan. "Accommodation has been the spirit of this country, whereas Western style assimilation requires you to covertly or overtly convert to be accepted. It is Bharat that lets people keep their culture alive in a pristine form, so long as it doesn't come in the way of others," he said. He opined that 'Dharmic Civilizationalism' was being crudely dubbed as 'Hindu nationalism'.

Important not to 'misrepresent' reality, says S Jaishankar as India, Australia reject criticism of Quad

New Delhi, September 12 : The assertion came at a joint press event after Jaishankar, Rajnath Singh held inaugural 'two-plus-two' dialogue with Australian counterpartsNew Delhi: India and Australia on Saturday dismissed criticism that Quad was a sort of an 'Asian NATO' with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserting that it is important not to "misrepresent" the reality.The assertion came at a joint press event after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held the inaugural 'two-plus-two' dialogue here with their Australian counterparts Marise Payne and Peter Dutton.Asked about Quad being referred to as an 'Asian NATO', Jaishankar said, "We call ourselves Quad and Quad is a platform where four countries have come to cooperate for their benefit and for the benefit of the world.""I think a term like NATO is very much a cold war term, looking back. I think Quad looks in the future, it reflects globalisation, it reflects the compulsions of countries to work together," he said.Jaishankar also pointed out that Quad was currently focussed on issues such as vaccines, supply chains, education and connectivity."I can't see any relationship between such issues and the NATO or any other kind of organisations like that. So I think it is important not to misrepresent what is the reality out there," he asserted.Echoing similar views, Payne said as Australia and India have re-energised relations, there is also the opportunity to work through smaller groups like the Quad and other pieces of regional architecture like the East Asia Summit or the ASEAN regional forum."Quad members are champions of ASEAN centrality, we actively engage in that ASEAN architecture. We are committed to supporting the practical implementation of the ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific," she said."We also say that we have a positive and practical agenda -- around vaccines, around climate, around critical technology also trying to address some of the dangerous misinformation that pervades the world experience in relation to the (Covid) pandemic," the minister said.Referring to the Quad, she said the constructive engagement in a normal diplomatic network was overwhelmingly about contributing positively for that "open, inclusive and resilient region in which we all want to live".Speaking at an event here, Payne on Friday had said the Quad has evolved "swiftly" and very "effectively" and that Australia commends India for taking a strong leadership role in the region.In the first Quad summit in March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga vowed to strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion, in an apparent message to China.Both China and Russia have been critical of Quad. While Beijing has been claiming that the alliance was aimed against it, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had called it an "Asian NATO" and criticised the grouping.

Lampaert's stage win sets up final-day battle between Hayter and Van Aert

London, September 12 : The nip and tuck battle between Ethan Hayter and Wout van Aert for the Tour of Britain could go to the final metres in Aberdeen on Sunday after the stage into Edinburgh, won by the Belgian Yves Lampaert, did nothing to alter the overall standings, meaning Hayter carries his slender four-second lead into the last day. The pair effectively

declared a truce on this windblown stage through the Borders, permitting seven riders who were no threat to maintain a healthy lead throughout and contest the stage win after being whittled down to three. But Van Aert will have to take the fight to Hayter if he is to overhaul him and the only option is the intermediate sprints that carry time bonuses, as well as those

awarded at the finish. Hayter and his Ineos team will want to let another escape dominate the stage so that Van Aert has no chance of pushing for the bonuses. Van Aert will want to avoid that scenario so that he can try to garner the seconds but it is not clear whether he has a strong enough team to keep the race together and support him at the sprints, given that he

has only three Jumbo-Visma teammates remaining in the race, whereas Hayter and Ineos have a full complement of five. Quite how Van Aert and Jumbo-Visma intend to play it will only become apparent when the race heads out of Stonehaven towards the final first-category climb of the contest at Cairn o' Mount. A northerly breeze could complicate matters, with the route changing direction several times as it loops inland before heading back to the coast, and that could provide opportunities to split the peloton. En route to Edinburgh, opportunities were on the minds of the Deceuninck-Quickstep team. The Belgian outfit are the most prolific winners in cycling but their preferred options, Mark Cavendish and Julian Alaphilippe, have been unable to break Van Aert and Hayter's grip, and Ineos were too quick for them in Tuesday's team time trial. With time running out, Deceuninck-Quickstep placed two riders in the early escape as they had done on

Friday, sending Lampaert and the Italian Davide Ballerini out front, with Van Aert posting his teammate Pascal Eenkhoorn in the group. On the final short climb Lampaert made his move, taking with him Matteo Jorgenson of Movistar and Matt Gibson of Ribble Weldtite. With Ballerini marking Eenkhoorn, Lampaert could let his companions make the pace while he saved his strength. Gibson and Jorgenson called his bluff by not riding flat out, but it was still a straightforward sprint win for the Belgian time trial champion, a lad with a farming background who is mad about tractors. Lampaert is known as "John Deere" although he should not be confused with teammate Tim Declercq, nicknamed "the Tractor" for his ability to tow the peloton for mile after mile. Declercq had his chance in the break on Friday, Lampaert took his on Saturday and today the chances are they will put all the horsepower they can muster to set up a sprint finish for Cavendish.



William Buick and Hurricane Lane storm to St Leger victory

London, September 12 : In the 101 years since the first running of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, no St Leger winner has followed up in Paris a few weeks later. Since Nijinsky's close second at Longchamp in 1970, few Leger winners have even attempted the double, and Ballymoss, who took the final Classic in 1957 and the Arc a year later, is the only name on the roll of honour for both races. Frankie Dettori, nearside on Harrovian edged out Ryan Moore and Sinjaari in a thrilling finish at Doncaster on Thursday. Very few Leger winners come home as smoothly and readily as Hurricane Lane here on Saturday, however, and Charlie Appleby's colt is now no bigger than 7-1 to record a historic victory in the 100th running of the Arc on 3 October. Getting into Town Moor was a stressful experience for many as long queues built up at the turnstiles before the first race, but for backers of the

8-11 favourite at least, the final Classic of the season was anything but. "He's a jockey's dream, a lovely horse to ride," Buick said. "You can put him anywhere in the race and he relaxes, which is obviously vital in a race over this distance." What's impressed me in his last two or three runs is that he quickens towards the end, he really did put the race to bed. "While not yet confirming that the Arc will be Hurricane Lane's next race, it will be a surprise if Appleby's colt does not line up alongside his stable companion Adair, the Derby and King George winner, next month. "It was a fantastic performance," Appleby said. "You couldn't have been more comfortable watching it all the way round [and] the Derby form was franked as well, with Mojo Star [the runner-up at Epsom] running a great race. "The Arc is on everybody's mind. I see no reason why we wouldn't potentially turn up. "Hopes that the Queen may have a runner in the Platinum Jubilee Derby next June suffered a

setback earlier on the card when Reach For The Moon, an early second favourite for the Classic, was beaten into second place at odds-on in the Group Two Champagne Stakes. With none of his three rivals keen to take the lead, Frankie Dettori was forced to

the second favourite, soon dropped away but Bayside Boy, at 5-1, stayed on well through the final furlong to edge out Reach For The Moon by a head. "Frankie said that the ground's dead and he wasn't really travelling on it like he

try and make all in a bit of a headwind on a straight seven [furlongs]. Better ground, better horse is all I can say there. "In the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown, St Mark's Basilica stayed on strongly in the closing stages to record a fifth successive



make his own running on the 8-13 favourite and it was clear that he had a battle on his hands when Dettori asked for an effort two out but could not shake off his rivals. Lusaill,

normally does," John Gosden, Reach For The Moon's trainer, said. "It's good-to-soft, and he said that he wasn't in love with it and obviously it's never easy to

Group One victory, with Tarnawa, another leading contender for next month's Arc, three-quarters of a length away in second over a trip that does not play to her strengths.

Novak Djokovic closes in on grand slam but doesn't want to talk about it

New York, September 12 : After a deeply satisfied Novak Djokovic had put his racket away following another job well done on Friday night, in the post-match interview of his five-set win over Alexander Zverev the interviewer started a question by listing all of the potential achievements on the line in his final match. As soon as Djokovic understood where the question was going, he cut the question off: "I'm going for a fourth US Open, that's all I'm thinking about," he said, smiling. Further prompts about Djokovic's grand slam attempt followed: "It's there, it's there," said Djokovic. "I know that people would like to hear me talk about it, but there is not much to talk about. There's only one match left. All in, all in. Let's do it. I'm going to put my heart and my soul and my head into that one. I'm going to treat my next match like it is the last match of my career." This was not the first time this happened. Djokovic was also understandably not too interested in speaking about



the subject in detail after his quarter-final and he later explained that being constantly prompted about the subject leads him to think too much about it, which can "burden" him mentally. He has already said plenty. Few champions have mastered the knack of speaking openly about their goals and then going out and achieving them, and so this underlines how uniquely difficult the grand slam is to achieve. The sporting challenge of winning all 28 matches in a year is unfathomably difficult

alone, but keeping your head throughout as people constantly remind you of the magnitude of the achievement at times seems unbearable. And yet, six matches down, Djokovic continues to handle it supremely well. In terms of his pure level, this has been far from the greatest tournament of his life. Djokovic has conceded six sets to reach the final and he has frequently started slowly, losing the first set in four consecutive matches. But his mental strength has defined his

tournament. Each time he was down, as against Zverev, he retorted immediately and refused to let go. Awaiting him in the final is a player whose route could not have contrasted more. While Djokovic has clinched only one win in straight sets, Daniil Medvedev, the second seed, has conceded just one set. He has navigated the tournament with all of his assets on show, combining enormous serving, consistent returning and maddening defence with his intelligence around the court. His presence in the sport continues to grow. He has now reached two grand slam finals this year and two finals in three years at the US Open. But while it reflects extremely well on Medvedev that he has been able to do so while playing within himself, he has faced only two top 50 opponents. Djokovic, who Medvedev has never beaten over best of five sets despite winning three of their last five meetings, will require him to raise his level several steps higher and it still may not be enough. At the

Australian Open this year, Medvedev had served supremely enough in his semi-final for his defeated opponent, Stefanos Tsitsipas, to compare his serve to that of the 6ft 10in John Isner. Two days later, Medvedev spent large parts of the final against Djokovic having to scoop second balls from his laces as the Serb deflected returns straight to his feet for two hours. It served as a reminder of just how the No 1 rises to the moment, saving his best match of the tournament for the final and winning in straight sets. There is no more essential quality in Djokovic's arsenal for the match to come. During his press conference on Friday night, he said that it may well be the most important match of his life. Many of the great players in recent decades would certainly crumble under the pressure. Should he succeed, Rod Laver, who in 1969 became the only man in the open era to win the grand slam, will be there in person to welcome Djokovic into a club he has occupied alone for 52 years.

Wigan's Jake Bibby breaks deadlock to squash Hull FC's play-off hopes

London, September 12: Given the high standards that surround Hull FC on a near-annual basis, a sense of disappointment is hardly out of the ordinary for a club consistently starved of success in Super League. But as the stands began to empty here in the final minutes of this match, with many accepting this season-ending defeat as an inevitability, it was hard to think of this as anything other than a pivotal moment for one of rugby league's biggest clubs. An expensively assembled squad in Super League history has failed to deliver. Yes, there have been numerous Covid-19 outbreaks throughout their squad, which has undoubtedly played a part in proceedings, but eight defeats in nine matches for a club of this stature is simply unacceptable. In his pre-match programme notes the Hull owner, Adam Pearson, promised there will be changes to this squad for 2022. A breakup of this team, some of whom were present for their back-to-back Challenge Cup triumphs in 2016 and 2017, is now surely inevitable if Hull are to challenge at the top next season. This latest defeat, which guaranteed Hull will not be in the play-offs, was perhaps the most painful of all. "We're just not helping ourselves," Brett Hodgson, Hull's coach, said. "It's very deflating. There's a lack of confidence in the group at the moment. "We're going

through a review of everything, that's we haven't reached the level we wanted to achieve this year and we're all accountable for that. We lack strength in depth. "While Hull's play-off hopes were put to bed, Wigan secured fourth place and a home tie in the opening week of the play-offs. It was not pretty, but that mattered little. Although their attack remains patchy, keeping a

the first tackle, neatly summing up the first half. Whichever side scored the opening try after half-time was always going to take control. After another 10 minutes of very little drama, a pinpoint kick from Jackson Hastings sparked the game into life. Jake Bibby claimed it and forced his way across the line to put the visitors in front. Would that stir Hull FC into life? In a word, no. Their attack laboriously offered little



home team scoreless for the second successive game will surely build some semblance of confidence for Adrian Lam and his players. "It had a semi-final feel and it was exactly what we needed," he said. "I'm really proud of our efforts defensively. "Both teams huffed and puffed for 40 minutes with absolutely no joy whatsoever and rarely has a 0-0 scoreline midway through a game felt more fitting. The most notable moment was a kickable penalty for Hull with the interval approaching. Instead of kicking the goal though, they ran the play and turned the ball over on

in response and in games like these moments of brilliance are equally important. So when the Wigan full-back, Zak Hardaker, instinctively kicked forward and outpaced his opposite number, Jamie Shaul, on the hour mark to make it 10-0, you felt another defeat was now nothing but an inevitability for Hodgson and his side. They certainly did not drop their effort in the final minutes. But effort is the bare minimum from a club where so much is expected each and every year. Once again, 2021 has proven to be a grave disappointment. There is a fascinating and decisive winter ahead in Hull.

Bernd Wiesberger closes in on Ryder Cup spot but race goes on at Wentworth

London, September 12 : We can only hope the Ryder Cup itself proves half as exciting as the battle to earn the final places in Padraig Harrington's European team, if a bit less complex. So much will be determined by 18 holes over the west course at Wentworth; which for all the sniping around that scenario is precisely how Harrington designed it. Neutral observers can enjoy the closing round of the PGA Championship safe in the knowledge there is another, fascinating game in play. Every shot and every leaderboard shuffle matters for those hoping to book a place at Whistling Straits on Monday week. For now - and it can only be for now, given a diophantine equation looks more straightforward - Bernd Wiesberger looks to have earned an automatic berth in the European side. The Austrian needs a top-50 finish at Wentworth to almost certainly seal a spot via the European points list. With 54 holes played, he ticks the boxes with ease; a 67 on Saturday moved Wiesberger to 11 under par, giving him a share of seventh. Wiesberger is due credit for the impressive fortitude he has shown with a Ryder Cup debut on the line. After all, he double bogeyed the final hole of last month's European Masters, when par would have booked a Ryder Cup spot. The 35-year-old's response at Wentworth will surely appeal to Harrington. Even more so when you consider Wiesberger was three over after just six holes of this event. "It's a marathon, not a sprint," Wiesberger said with a smile. "I just focus on trying to win the golf tournament. You have to push forward and be positive in your approach over every single shot regardless of the outcome. "Just be positive with that and I feel like I'm good enough to be on the leaderboard. It's nice to be

there, it's such a great event with the crowd. I am able to play here and just enjoy it. "Wiesberger represents the easy part. Calculators are needed for the rest, to the point where Archimedes would be left scratching his head. The picture is so fraught that a birdie on the 18th pushed Shane Lowry back inside Europe's automatic qualifiers at the expense of Lee Westwood, only for an Adam Scott four at the same hole to reverse those positions. Lowry's present position, tied seventh with Wiesberger and Sean Crocker, would see him fall short. Westwood could present Harrington with a problem. The 48-year-old, a 10-time Ryder Cup participant who is viewed as

69. "I shied away from it a little bit whereas the last few months I have fought my hardest and played my best. It has been good, whether it's good enough we will have to see. "It has been a stressful enough week but I am happy with how I have performed. First and foremost I want to win this tournament. I'd love to win this tournament. "If Lowry does prevail from three shots behind, Wiesberger will have to ensure he finishes inside the top six or his automatic place will suddenly be thrown into doubt. Rose backed up two sub-70 rounds with a 72, meaning a nine under total and tie for 14th. At the business end, Francesco Laporta's 14 under means he



Harrington's likely successor, had looked certain to qualify for so long. If he does not - and on the basis Sergio Garcia and Ian Poulter are regarded as wildcard shoos - Harrington will have to choose between Westwood and, most likely, Justin Rose for the final place in his team. Two into one, with both among Europe's highest profile layers, does not go. It would be a far easier sell should Harrington need to pick Lowry. "I feel like I had a great chance to make the team in 2016 and I threw it away," said Lowry after his

leads Laurie Canter by one. Scott, Jamie Donaldson, Billy Horschel and Christiaan Bezuidenhouet are all one further back. Harrington will be heartened by the timely return to form of Tommy Fleetwood and Matt Fitzpatrick. A third round of 68 moved Fleetwood to the same total as Rose. Fitzpatrick is two shots further back after an identical score on Saturday. Viktor Hovland, another guaranteed member of Harrington's team, slipped to a 73 for a minus four total.

Mattia Binotto : 'It's important we understand Ferrari is a unique family'

London, September 12 :

Nothing focuses the minds at Ferrari quite like the roar of the tifosi at Monza. The sea of red, the febrile atmosphere, the passion for the Scuderia at its most intense and demanding. For Ferrari's principal, Mattia Binotto, it is a reflection of what makes the marque so special that he shares with the fans and why he has brought such a personal commitment to try to return the team to the top of Formula One. Binotto is speak-

ing at Monza before the Italian Grand Prix, Ferrari's home race. Intelligent, personable and relaxed, he betrays no nerves or concern at the inevitable scrutiny he is facing with a car that is still a way off the pace of Mercedes and Red Bull. Italy's eyes will be on Ferrari, but Binotto is enjoying it. Ferrari through and through, he believes the very idea of the marque extends beyond mere mechanical achievement, more than racing, to encompass a concept and principles that are more important than anything that may be delivered on the track. It was Binotto, the 51-year-old who took over in 2019, who came up with the public expression of this distinctive philosophy that reflects Ferrari's history as the oldest manufacturer in For-

mula One and the only one to have been competing in the sport since the first championship in 1950. He has it emblazoned on the cars and his drivers Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz's race suits. It is an exhortation to an attitude: "essereFerrari": in English, the slightly ungainly "being Ferrari". Such sentiment would have found favour with Enzo Ferrari. Il Commendatore always believed there was something special about the team he founded, not least in its

having, the way he was driving, his passion made the difference. "Binotto does not cite the great Villeneuve by accident. He was introduced to F1 by his grandfather when growing up as an Italian in Switzerland. It was of course the red cars they supported and for Binotto it was the competition that attracted him and Villeneuve, mercurial in a Ferrari, who kindled his love of racing. Binotto studied mechanical engineering at university but only specialised in cars and en-

gines when taking a masters in car engineering in Modena, close to Ferrari's headquarters at Maranello. Given the chance to join the Scuderia as a graduate in 1995, he has been with the team ever since, and admits it was a dream come true but not something he actually thought would happen. "An opportunity came out of the blue," he recalls with a smile. "Not something I was looking for and really by luck." Ferrari may yet consider it their good fortune. Binotto went through the ranks in a series of roles, including during the glory years when the Scuderia returned six consecutive constructors' titles. When put in charge of the engine in 2015, his management was crucial in improving its performance, kick-starting the team's return as a competi-

tor's title since 2008 and a drivers' championship since 2007. He has every right to be confident, having been with the team last time Ferrari went through similar convulsions to emerge stronger. In 1995 Ferrari had not won the constructors' title since 1983 and Jean Todt was in the process of a slow, painstaking rebuild of the team that would ultimately pay off. "There are similarities with now," Binotto remembers. "It was a long time since Ferrari had won in 1995 and Jean Todt was building the foundations for the future to set up a winning cycle, employing young engineers. Twenty-five years later we are in a similar position. "His experience then and the remarkable group of people who came together to achieve such great success were clearly crucial in forging the character Binotto now brings to the Scuderia. "I have been lucky to work with these guys, Jean Todt, Michael Schumacher, who was a leader not only in the car but outside the cockpit, Ross Brawn, Stefano Domenicali..." he recalls. "There were plenty of people at the time setting really good examples which are very useful to me today. "Binotto is earnest and open. His reign thus far has been marked by an honest fronting-up to failings as well as a willingness to celebrate success when it comes. Ferrari is a family, he explains, and he laughs with gusto when it is suggested he is the father figure. Yet there is also a serious side to this, a conviction to Binotto's belief that this family, this "being Ferrari", is what differentiates the team from every other and why he is convinced that sooner rather than later the tifosi will have reason to celebrate at Monza once more. "To have the right mood, the right passion, the right spirit is key," he says. "There is something special at Ferrari, which is a clear identity, and that identity is our family."



ing at Monza before the Italian Grand Prix, Ferrari's home race. Intelligent, personable and relaxed, he betrays no nerves or concern at the inevitable scrutiny he is facing with a car that is still a way off the pace of Mercedes and Red Bull. Italy's eyes will be on Ferrari, but Binotto is enjoying it. Ferrari through and through, he believes the very idea of the marque extends beyond mere mechanical achievement, more than racing, to encompass a concept and principles that are more important than anything that may be delivered on the track. It was Binotto, the 51-year-old who took over in 2019, who came up with the public expression of this distinctive philosophy that reflects Ferrari's history as the oldest manufacturer in For-

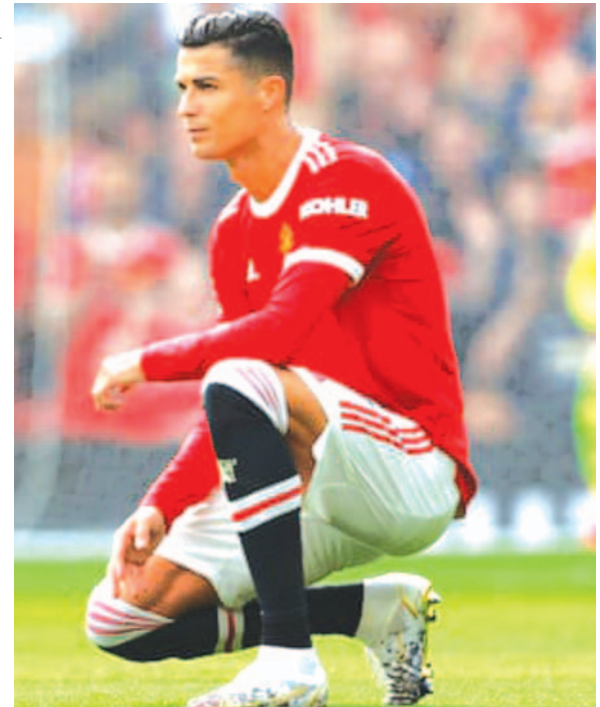
early years when it was spirit and innovation that fuelled his team. Binotto wants to ensure this is reflected in the Scuderia now, because he believes it is essential to their future success. "It is to identify ourselves," he says with pride. "It is something unique, it is Ferrari, it includes all our values and everyone working at Ferrari. It's most important that we understand it's a unique family, a unique thing. "I always say to my guys it's more important to be Ferrari than winning, because winning will be a simple consequence. If we are capable of being Ferrari and working well, the winning will be the consequence. I use the example of Gilles Villeneuve as being a fantastic driver but actually he really won very little. The way he was be-

ing when taking a masters in car engineering in Modena, close to Ferrari's headquarters at Maranello. Given the chance to join the Scuderia as a graduate in 1995, he has been with the team ever since, and admits it was a dream come true but not something he actually thought would happen. "An opportunity came out of the blue," he recalls with a smile. "Not something I was looking for and really by luck." Ferrari may yet consider it their good fortune. Binotto went through the ranks in a series of roles, including during the glory years when the Scuderia returned six consecutive constructors' titles. When put in charge of the engine in 2015, his management was crucial in improving its performance, kick-starting the team's return as a competi-

Cristiano Ronaldo hero worship does not mask Manchester United's flaws

London, September 12 :

They had come to celebrate Cristiano Ronaldo and they got what they had come for: not one, but two opportunities to shout "Si!" as he celebrated goals with that characteristic spread of the arms and thrust of the groin, a sort of macho version of Lionel Blair indicating he's miming the title of a song. Everything else, for the moment, could take a back seat: the king has returned. The announcement of Ronaldo's name when the teams were read out at around 2.25pm was greeted by a great roar. When he jogged out to warm up, cleverly maximising his exposure by positioning himself behind Donny van de Beek, a player of translucent appearance and reputation, there was another visceral cheer. He responded with practised casualness, acknowledging the two long sides of the ground with applause and a raised thumb. Before kick-off, Ronaldo was last out of the tunnel, so the roar had grown and grown before he emerged behind Paul Pogba. The noise at kick-off was extraordinary, far louder than for any league game at Old Trafford in recent memory, certainly for a routine game against lower mid-table opposition. Social media engagements, presumably, were through the roof. Even the executive co-chairman Avram Glazer, after a two-year hiatus, turned up to see it. Yet there is an oddity about this, a weird sense of gratitude that Ronaldo, having apparently been quite willing to join Manchester City, decided to return. A self-confident club, perhaps, might not have such a need to reinvoke past glories. In the directors' box, Ed Woodward looked out, doubtless congratulating himself on a job well done.



Any questions about why United have gone eight seasons without a league title despite spending half a billion pounds net over the past five years can be deferred for another few months, deflected by the same nostalgic wishful thinking that dilutes criticism of Ole Gunnar Solskjær even though he is the longest-serving United manager not to win a trophy since Dave Sexton. This was a day without doubt. This was a day for adoration. Ronaldo strutted among his people and they responded with passionate intensity. This is modern fandom; tribal, unblinking, incapable of treating their heroes with anything but awed reverence. Other than a banner drawn behind a plane, there were no awkward questions here about exactly what happened that night in Las Vegas 12 years ago, though Ronaldo denies all the accusations. Nor were there quibbles about the wisdom of paying a 36-year-old £500,000 a week when there apparently wasn't money available to bolster a midfield that looks increasingly shabby beside the glitz elsewhere in the squad. Might this hamper the development of Mason

Greenwood? Might Ronaldo's presence impede the creativity of Bruno Fernandes, who has been so vital to United recently but with whom there has been no evidence he can play with Portugal? Might his reluctance to press expose that threadbare midfield against better sides? The Manchester United manager, Ole Gunnar Solskjær, embraces Cristiano Ronaldo after his two goals against Newcastle. Ronaldo was good. Or rather, he was good at the things he is good at. He was alert to the opportunity as Freddie Woodman, confounded by a slight deflection, spilled Mason Greenwood's shot in first-half injury time. There was a majesty in the way he slowed then swept by Isaac Hayden before slamming his second through Woodman's legs. He remains a goalscorer of the highest calibre. But United's problem last season was not scoring goals. They were the second-highest scorers in the Premier League and somehow went out of the Champions League despite getting 15 in the group.

TTFI calls executive committee meet to discuss Manika Batra's fixing allegations against national coach

New Delhi, September 12 :

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has called its executive committee meeting on Saturday to discuss star player Manika Batra's allegations of match-fixing against national coach Soumyadeep Roy. After Manika's allegation, in response to the TTFI's

showcase notice, that the national coach had asked her to throw a match during the Olympic qualifiers in March, the federation had asked Roy for a written response which he has submitted. "The issue will be discussed in the virtual meeting and I will propose formation of an inquiry panel but the committee will take the final call," TTFI sec-

retary Arun Banerjee told PTI on Thursday. TTFI president and Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant Chautala, is expected to attend the meeting. On the ongoing national camp in Sonapat, Banerjee said most of the players have reported barring Manika. G Sathiyan, who had wanted to train in Poland instead, is also expected to

reach in a day or two. The federation recently made camp attendance compulsory for players to be eligible for big events, including the Asian Championships in Doha later this month. Sutirtha Mukherjee, who did not report to Sonapat at the start of the camp, has also reached after recovering from fever, said Banerjee. "The rules are pretty

clear. You have to attend the camp to be eligible for selection," he said. The federation, which has not managed to rope in a foreign coach in more than three years due to COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, is looking to hire one at the earliest. Former Spanish player Alfredo Cameros has emerged as one of the candidates.



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