

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VI ■ Issue No. 214 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ SUNDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 7.00



Jair Bolsonaro plans to flout New York vaccine...

02



Emma Raducanu returns to homemade dumplings...

07

NEWS IN BRIEF

7 Lakh People Vaccinated

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

A total of 7,09,524 people received the COVID-19 vaccine in Assam on Friday as the state government undertook a mega vaccination drive on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. The special drive was conducted in 4,575 COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs), of which 4,557 were government sites and 18 private ones. Assam, however, reported nine more deaths related to COVID-19 during the day, raising the toll to 5,788, and the coronavirus tally mounted to 5,97,344 with 270 fresh cases, the National Health Mission bulletin said. Golaghat reported three fresh fatalities, while two were registered in Kamrup Metro, and one each in Jorhat, Karimganj, Nagaon and Sonitpur.

CM Sarma Dedicates 14 Oxygen Generators

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the state government has augmented its oxygen storage capacity to 342 metric tonnes and in case there is an outbreak of the third wave of Covid-19, it will be in a better position to deal with the situation. Sarma dedicated 14 of the 40 oxygen generators, received as donation from the PM-CARES Fund and set up in 14 hospitals across the state, to the people on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday. The 14 oxygen generators have a capacity to generate 15.71 metric tonnes of the life-saving gas per day.

Supriyo's security cover

New Delhi, September 18 :

The Union government scaled down the armed security cover of central paramilitary commandos given to Babul Supriyo who left the BJP and joined the Trinamool Congress on Saturday, official sources said. The cover has been reduced from the second-highest level of Z category to Y category, after an order was issued by the Union home ministry on Friday. The security cover given to VVIPs and high-risk personalities under the central scheme, ranges from the highest Z+ followed by Z, Y+, Y and X categories.

Amarinder Singh submits his resignation as Punjab Chief Minister to the governor

New Delhi, September 18 :

Amarinder Singh resigned as Punjab Chief Minister today, months before polls, saying he had been "humiliated thrice" and that the Congress is free to "appoint whoever they trust". He also said he would "exercise his options when the time comes". A sudden meeting of Punjab MLAs announced by the Congress late last night, with big hints that a majority of them had asked for change, drove a crisis of months to breaking point. Congress's Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat tweeted about the meeting and Amarinder



Singh's rival Navjot Singh Sidhu shared the post. Stung by the move, Amarinder Singh, 79, told reporters he had decided to resign in the morning. He said he had spoken with Congress president Sonia Gandhi and had told her he had put up with

enough humiliation. "I was humiliated three times by the Congress leadership in the past two months... they called the MLAs to Delhi twice and now convened CLP (MLAs' meeting) today. Apparently they (Congress leadership) do not have confidence in me

and did not think I could handle my job. But I felt humiliated at the manner in which they handled the whole affair... It's now up to them to appoint anyone they trust," Mr Singh said, flashing resentment that threatens to blow up for the Congress in the coming months. Asked whether he would stay in the Congress or form a new outfit before the election, Mr Singh said: "There is always an option, and I will use that option when the time comes... at the moment I am still in Congress." He added that he would "speak to my people who have supported me for

the past 52 years". Mr Singh had earlier called MLAs to his house to rally his loyalists. Fifteen of the Congress's 80 MLAs, including four ministers, attended the meeting. Amarinder Singh's son Raninder Singh talked about "new beginnings" in his tweet. "...must go now as I am proud to accompany my father to Raj Bhawan when he submits his resignation as CM of Punjab and leads us as head of our family into a new beginning et al," he wrote. Mr Singh unsurprisingly skipped the MLAs' meet. Sources say over 50 MLAs had written to

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Half-Pant issue : AAU Forms Special Investigation Committee to probe the incident



AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

Hot controversy regarding not allowing a female student to appear in an Entrance Test by the concerned authority in Tezpur, Assam recently has now taken a new turn. The Assam Agriculture University, which conducted the test to select students for enrolling courses under it, has, reportedly, formed a special investigation committee to inquire about the matter. The committee has

been asked to submit reports within 10 days. A 19-year-old student, who turned up in shorts for an entrance test, was made to wrap a curtain around her legs in order to sit for the exam in Assam's Tezpur town. The incident took place Wednesday when Jublee Tamuli appeared for the entrance exam of Jorhat's Assam Agricultural University (AAU). She along with her father travelled from their hometown Biswanath Chariali to Tezpur, 70 km away, in the

morning to be on time for the test. According to Jublee, there was no hitch as she entered the exam venue - Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (GIPS). Trouble started in the exam hall. "While the security guards let me enter the premises, I was stopped by the invigilator at the exam hall. He said I would not be allowed to enter wearing shorts," she told The Indian Express from her hometown over the phone. According to Jublee, the admit card did not mention any dress code. "A few days ago, I appeared for the NEET exam in the same town, wearing the exact same attire - nothing happened. Neither does the AAU have any rules about shorts, nor was there anything mentioned in the admit card. How was I to know?" Her protests fell on deaf ears, as she was told she cannot sit for the exam.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

HS Final Special Exam Schedule Released

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

The Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) has released the date sheet for the higher Secondary (HS) or Class 12 final special exams. The exams will begin on October 1 and end on November 11. Assam Education Minister

Ranoj Pegu shared the date sheet on Twitter. The exams will begin with the English paper and on the last day, Arts stream students will appear for the Logic and Philosophy, Psychology papers and commerce stream students will take the Banking paper. The morning shift will be from 9

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

BJP nominated Sarbananda Sonowal as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

The BJP nominated Union minister and former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls. The BJP on Saturday also nominated minister of state L Murugan for the Rajya Sabha by-election slated in Madhya Pradesh for October 4. While Sonowal, who is the incumbent Union minister for ports, shipping and waterways, will be the nominee for the seat that has fallen vacant from



Assam, Murugan will be the party's nominee for the vacancy that has arisen in

Madhya Pradesh. Both the BJP leaders were recently inducted as ministers by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, making it necessary for them to contest elections for Parliament within six months. The selection of both the BJP leaders to the Rajya Sabha is certain as the party has a majority in both state assemblies. In Assam, a Rajya Sabha seat fell vacant after Biswajit Daimary resigned to become the assembly speaker. In Madhya Pradesh, the vacancy emerged after the then Union minister Thaaawarchand Gehlot resigned following his appointment as Karnataka governor.

Encounter: Two ULB militants killed in Kokrajhar

Abhijit Chaliha

Guwahati, Sept 18 : Two cadres of the newly floated militant outfit, United Liberation of Bodoland have been gunned down during an exchange of fire with Kokrajhar police. The two deceased have been identified as Jangshar Mushahary, 23 and Janak Kr Brahma, 23, from Kokrajhar. The police recovered two pistols and eight grenades from the site of the encounter. According to a police official, two sus-



pected Bodo militants were gunned down by the police in an encounter after they allegedly opened fire in the wee hours on Saturday. The encounter took place early this morning at Kokrajhar's Ultapani Jungle, where the two had come to demand money at

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Assam Theatre producer Sunmoni Dutta hospitalise

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

Leading Assamese theatre personality, producer of Kareng Ghar Theatre - a leading mobile theatre company of the state and journalist Sunmoni Dutta have been hospitalized in critical



condition since September 6 last. At first he was admitted in Dispur Hospital ICU, but due to his critical condition he was shifted to Health City hospital here. Founder secretary of North Guwahati Press Club Sunmoni Dutta is a cultural activist as well as a journalist. He was the editor of an Assamese newspaper like Kalam, weekly Krishak Bandhu, Dainik Batori Kakot, Axom Setu etc. Presently he is working as editor-in-chief of a news portal NEWS 24 North East. Actor, Producer Sunmoni Dutta gave immense contributions to socioeconomic and educational upliftment of Assamese people. Dutta always tries to perform its

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

CM flags off five vessels to be pressed into services at Majuli, Guwahati and Dhubri

AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 18 :

With a view to improve institutional framework for water transport and develop ferry services for the people, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday flagged off five vessels under the World Bank funded "Assam IWT Project" at LachitGhat in Guwahati. Out of these

vessels, 3 nos. of Steel catamaran vessels, namely MV Lohitwill ply between Nimatighat and Kamalabari, MV Sonai from Guwahati to Kuruwa and MV Pratima (dedicated to renowned folk singer Pratima Baruah Pandey) at Dhubri Ferry Service. These vessels are powered with 180 HP twin engines and have advanced equipment such as control & monitoring, com-

munication and navigation, GPS, echo sounder, wind measurement, life saving and fire fighting equipment. Other two vessels flagged off today will be deployed to enforce the SOP (rules & regulations) issued recently to improve ferry service and passenger safety and to monitor movement of vessels in river Brahmaputra. Noteworthy is that the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Lovlina's Gloves Fetch Rs 10 Cr, Neeraj Chopra's Javelin Crosses Rs 5 Cr at e-Auction of PM Modi's Mementos

New Delhi, September 18 :

The ongoing bids for Neeraj Chopra's javelin have crossed Rs 5 crore, a day after the e-auction of the gold winning javelin began with Rs 1 crore. The star Indian javelin thrower had gifted his sports equipment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Several such prized gifts were

opened for e-auction on the PM's birthday. The proceeds of the auction will go to 'Namami Gange' project. On the very first day, the bids have fetched over Rs 10 crore, with 19 days still to go. According to a report in Times on India, of the 11 bids for woman pugilist Lovlina Borgohain's Olympic bronze winning pair of gloves, the highest was worth Rs 10 crore till Saturday afternoon

against the base price of Rs 80 lakh. Paralympic gold winner and world record holder Sumit Antil's javelin bid, also with a base price of Rs 1 crore, was at Rs 1,00,08,000. Next highest bid was worth Rs 1,00,00,100 for women's hockey captain Rani Rampal's stick against the base price of Rs 80-lakh even though her team finished fourth. The auction also

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended! If not linked by this date, your PAN may become inoperative

New Delhi, September 18 :

Your PAN Aadhaar linking needs to be completed, else the PAN will become 'inoperative'. The last date to link Aadhaar with PAN has been extended by the government. The last date



for linking Aadhaar with PAN will now be March 31, 2022. Earlier, the last date to link PAN card with Aadhaar

card was September 30, 2021. There has been an extension of 6 months granted for PAN-Aadhaar linking. Keeping in view the difficulties faced by taxpayers, the Central Government had earlier also issued

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Jair Bolsonaro plans to flout New York vaccine rules at UN meeting



Rio de Janeiro, September 18 : The Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro, has signaled that he will snub New York City vaccination rules when he travels to next week's UN general assembly claiming not to have received a Covid jab. Bolsonaro is the only G20 leader who publicly claims not to have been vaccinated against a disease that has killed nearly 600,000 Brazilians, although the decision to place a 100-year secrecy order on his immunization records means many citizens doubt that claim. The letter signed by New York City's health commissioner said the UN

debate hall was classified as a 'convention center', meaning all attendees must be vaccinated. On Thursday night Bolsonaro reiterated his supposed decision to decline a vaccine despite New York City health authorities having said delegates must show proof of vaccination if they plan to eat indoors or enter the general assembly hall. "Why would I get vaccinated?" Brazil's far-right president declared during an online broadcast, claiming his antibody levels were so high that it was unnecessary. Bolsonaro tested positive for Covid-19 in July 2020. "Once

everyone has been vaccinated, I'll decide my future," Bolsonaro added, using his finger to wipe his nose. The Brazilian leader's appearance at the UN meeting appears assured after the secretary general, António Guterres, admitted it would be impossible to deny access to unvaccinated heads of state. Delegates will not be required to show proof of immunization before attending the event, whose opening speech will be given by Bolsonaro on Tuesday. But Bolsonaro's decision to brush off Mayor Bill de Blasio's vaccine mandates has sparked

domestic criticism and is unlikely to help the Brazilian leader in his reported quest to win over the world at next week's assembly. "Just guess which politician hasn't been vaccinated and is going to expose his country and citizens to yet another international embarrassment?" tweeted Erika Kokay, a congresswoman from the leftist Workers' party (PT). When Brazil's pro-Trump president made his last in-person appearance at the UN general assembly, in 2019, he offered a cantankerous 30-minute speech in which he attacked the media and the left.

US admits Kabul strike killed 10 civilians and not Islamic State militants

London, September 18 : A US drone strike in Afghanistan last month killed 10 civilians - including seven children - and not an Islamic State extremist as first claimed, the Pentagon has admitted. In a briefing on Friday, the commander of US Central Command, Gen Kenneth McKenzie,

said he now believes it was unlikely that those who died were Islamic State militants or posed a direct threat to US forces at Kabul's airport. "I am now convinced that as many as 10 civilians, including up to seven children, were tragically killed in that strike," McKenzie, wearing military uniform, told reporters. "Moreover, we now assess that it is unlikely that the vehicle and those who died were associated with [Islamic State Khorasan] or were a direct threat to US forces. I offer my profound condolences to the family and friends of those who were killed. This strike was taken in the earnest belief that it would prevent an imminent threat to our forces and the evacuees at the airport. But it was a mistake and I offer my sincere apology." McKenzie said it was "not a rushed strike" and efforts had been made to minimise civilian

casualties but acknowledged that "a terrible mistake" had been made. Asked if anyone would be held responsible, he said: "We are in the process right now of continuing that line of investigation." For days after the 29 August strike by a single Hellfire missile, Pentagon officials asserted that it had been conducted correctly, even though numerous civilians had been killed, including children. Gen Mark Milley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, had hailed it as a "righteous strike". But news organisations later raised doubts about that version of events, reporting that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a longtime employee at an American humanitarian organisation and citing an absence of evidence to support the Pentagon's

assertion that the vehicle contained explosives. McKenzie ordered an investigation by Central Command. It found that the strike killed Zemari Ahmadi, a worker for Nutrition and Education International, a nongovernment organisation that distributes food to Afghan civilians, along with nine members of his family. His car was reportedly carrying water bottles rather than explosives. The New York Times said Ahmadi's "only connection to the terrorist group appeared to be a fleeting and innocuous interaction with people in what the military believed was an Isis safehouse in Kabul, an initial link that led military analysts to make one mistaken judgment after another while tracking Mr Ahmadi's movements in a sedan for the next eight hours".



shows the site of Kunlun Campaign in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang

Grief runs deep in Musa Qala as Taliban victory brings weary relief

Kabul, September 18 : A parade of white Taliban flags lines Musa Qala bazaar right up to the central monument where two kidnappers were hanged in a public execution earlier this year. The flags flutter from almost every shop in celebration, some rough and handmade, others printed and lined with tinsel. The dusty town, an opium trading centre reached most of the year by driving up the gravel bed of a seasonal river, was the Taliban's southern capital from 2015 until the militant group took over the national capital. Before that it was the site of intense fighting by British and US forces for more than a decade, including a bitter 2006 British siege in which 88 men were holed up for two months, leading to the first - albeit hyperlocal - international ceasefire negotiations with the Taliban. Now its rulers control the country as well as this stretch of farming valley, and the only physical traces of the foreign mission are a couple of broken concrete spans of a bridge to nowhere, shoddily built and mostly washed away in the first flooding season that followed. The memories run deeper, and they are not good. Here 23 British soldiers and at least four Americans were killed, fighting in the name of a better, peaceful Afghanistan. As such it is a place that carries particularly painful associations for UK troops. Yet the legacy of their mission, seen from Musa Qala, is only a mirrored grief and a scattering of families. "They spent a lot of money and killed a lot of people," said Sufia, a widow in her 40s. "But they left nothing behind except these terrible memories."

Karnataka shocker! Toddler lived with dead bodies of family members for five days, found in unconscious state

Bengaluru, September 18 : More horrific details have surfaced from the shocking suicide case of four members of a family and the death of a nine-month-old baby in Bengaluru. The police rescued a minor girl who lived with the five dead bodies for five days in the house. The five bodies were discovered inside the house in the Byadarahalli police station limits on Friday (September 17, 2021) night from where the police rescued the two and half year-old girl, Preksha. She was found in an almost unconscious state. The girl lived in the house where the dead bodies of her mother Sinchana (34), grandmother Bharathi (51), mother's sister Sindhoorani (31), mother's brother Madhusagar (25) were hanging from the ceiling. The girl was found in the room where Madhusagar was hanged. Preksha has been admitted to a private hospital for treatment. The police said that she would need treatment and counselling. The Byadarahalli police investigating the case said that the post-mortem of bodies will be conducted on Saturday morning. Though it appears a case of suicide, it has to be confirmed in the post-mortem, they added. Soumendu Mukharjee, Additional Commissioner of Police (West) said that the reason for the five deaths is yet to be ascertained. "We have not found a death note from the house. Shankar, the man of the house is in a state of shock. He will be inquired as soon as he is fit," he said. Meanwhile, Shankar has said that his daughters came home after fighting with

their husbands. Instead of resolving the issue and sending them back to their husbands, his wife Bharathi encouraged them to stay back. "I worked hard to get my daughters Sinchana and Sindhoorani educated. Son Madhusagar was also an engineering graduate and worked in a private company. Sinchana had come back home after having a fight with her husband over an ear-piercing ceremony of their daughter. There were no issues regarding finances. They have taken the extreme decision on trivial issues," Shankar said. Police said that neighbours have informed them that, there was a fight between Shankar and his son Madhusagar. After the fight, Shankar had walked out of the house. After the incident, the family had committed suicide on Sunday itself. The bodies were found in a decomposed state and forensic experts and police officers have predicted that the deaths have occurred five days ago. However, this will also be confirmed after the post-mortem. Bharathi, the elderly lady was found hanging to the ceiling in the hall and Sinchana, Sindhoorani's bodies were found in a room on the first floor along with the nine-month-old baby boy. Madhusagar was found hanging in his room. All three children had separate rooms in the house. The incident came to light when Shankar, a journalist, broke open the door with the help of neighbours and police on Friday night. Shankar had told police that he called his family members for three days which went answered.

Mother charged with murdering her three daughters appears in New Zealand court

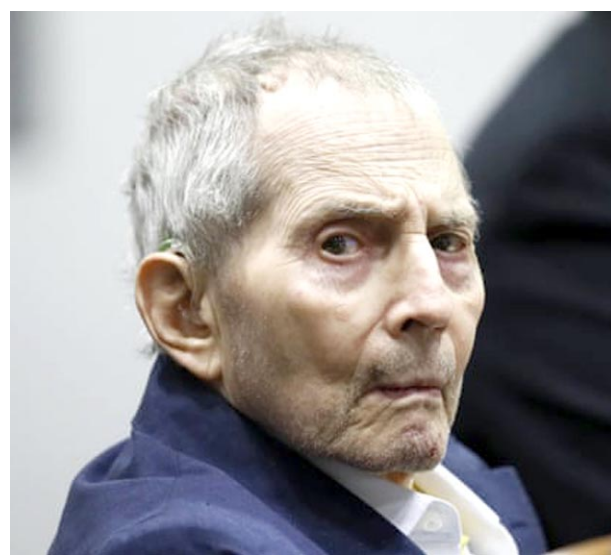
London, September 18 : Lauren Anne Dickason is charged with killing two-year-old twins and their six-year-old sister soon after arriving from South Africa. A woman has appeared in court charged with murdering her three young daughters just weeks after the family arrived in New Zealand from South Africa. Lauren Anne Dickason appeared in court on Saturday morning in the port city of Timaru, and a judge remanded her to a hospital for a mental health evaluation, a court spokesperson said. Dickason, 40, is charged with killing her two-year-old twins and their

six-year-old sister, police said. Their bodies were found on Thursday at a property where the family stayed. "Police would like to reassure the community that this was a tragic isolated incident and we are not seeking anyone else," the police said in a statement late on Friday. Dickason is to appear in court again on 5 October. The family came to Timaru, a city of 29,000 in New Zealand's South Island, recently, police have said. They left the compulsory two-week managed isolation last week. New Zealand media has reported that Dickason and her husband are doctors.



People visit an exhibition themed on Dunhuang culture at the Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City, in Beijing, capital of China

Texas, September 18 : The multimillionaire New York real estate heir Robert Durst has been convicted of murdering his best friend Susan Berman more than 20 years ago, in a case that took on new life following the documentary The Jinx. Durst was found guilty of first degree murder on Friday after a jury in Los Angeles deliberated for about seven hours over three days. Berman was shot at point-blank range in her Beverly Hills home in December 2000 as she was prepared to tell police how she helped cover up the killing of Durst's wife. Berman, the daughter of a Las Vegas mobster, was Durst's longtime confidante who told friends she provided a phony alibi for him after his wife vanished. The verdict marked the first homicide conviction for a man suspected of killing three people in three states over nearly 40 years. Durst's strange story gripped viewers of the hit television documentary series The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst, which chronicled the disappearance of his wife Kathie in 1982, the cold-blooded murder of Berman in Los Angeles 18 years later, and the violent 2001 death of a roommate in Galveston, Texas, where Durst was living under cover as a deaf-mute woman. Throughout the trial, prosecutors painted a portrait of a rich narcissist who didn't think the laws applied to him and ruthlessly disposed of people who stood in his way. They interlarded evidence of Berman's killing with Kathie Durst's suspected death and the 2001 killing in Texas. The trial had been in the works for five years, since Durst's arrest on the eve of the airing of the



final episode of The Jinx. The HBO documentary included interviews with Durst that helped lead to the charges against him. The conviction marks a victory for authorities

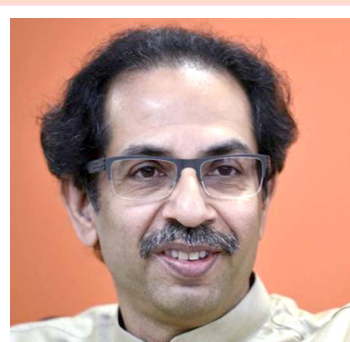
who have sought to put Durst behind bars for murder in three states. Durst was never charged in the disappearance of his wife, who has never been found, and was acquitted of murder

BJP and Shiv Sena to reunite? Uddhav Thackeray's 'former and future colleagues' remark raises speculation

New Delhi, September 18 : After almost two years of breaking ties, Uddhav Thackeray on Friday (September 17, 2021) made a remark that has raised speculation over the possible Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) reunion. Maharashtra's power corridors are abuzz with talks of an alliance after the Chief Minister at a function in Aurangabad addressed leaders including Union minister Raosaheb Danve as former and possible 'future colleagues'. Addressing the dignitaries on the dais, Thackeray said, "My former, current, and if we come together, future colleagues." Danve, a BJP leader from Maharashtra,

was present along with senior Congress minister Balasaheb Thorat. Later, speaking to reporters at another event, the Shiv Sena leader clarified that he said former and current colleagues because there were leaders from all parties on the dais. "If everybody comes together, they can become future colleagues too. Time will tell," Maharashtra CM added cryptically. This is to be noted that the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena had parted ways with the BJP after the 2019 Assembly polls and formed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in coalition with Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Interestingly, state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil had said earlier this week that he should be no longer called a 'former' state minister as things

were changing. However, reacting to Thackeray's remarks, BJP leader Devendra Fadnis, the current Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, said that the Chief Minister must have realized that the state was suffering because of the Sena's 'unnatural alliance' with the NCP and Congress. "He must have expressed his thoughts after realizing what kind of people he is working with... Everything is possible in politics, but the state BJP is not eyeing power. We are an efficient opposition party and will continue our work," the former Maharashtra chief



minister said. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut also joined the party and sought to downplay Thackeray's comments, stating that Danve was everybody's friend. "When he was state BJP chief, all was well. There is nothing earth-shaking in the comment. Those who want to come with us can join and become future colleagues. Don't read too much into this," Raut said.

CM Dr. Sarma dedicates 14 oxygen generators to people

Assam is self-sufficient in medical oxygen with matching generation and storage capacity: CM

STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 18: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today dedicated 14 oxygen generators, set up in 14 different hospitals across the state to the service of the people through virtual mode at a programme held at Assam Administrative Staff College here on Friday last. It may be noted that Assam received 40 oxygen generators as donations from PM CARES Fund. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma inaugurated 14 of them with a generating capacity of 15.71 metric tonnes per day. The remaining 26 generators with their generating capacity of 47.69 metric tonnes will be inaugurated shortly. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said, "I am happy to dedicate 14 PSA oxygen generators to the service of the people on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday which is being celebrated as the Sewa and Samarpan Divas. These oxygen generation plants



with their generating capacity will greatly help the health services delivery system of the state to provide critical care facilities to the patients. I express my gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for his benevolence in donating us the oxygen generators which will help our state to become self-sufficient and also help us to provide medical oxygen to our neighbouring states during any emergent situation". Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also said that with the availability of oxygen generators with their installed oxygen generating capacity, the state has also augmented its oxygen storage capacity to the tune of 342 metric tonnes. He also

said that in the event of the reported third wave of COVID outbreak, the state will be in a better position to deal with any oxygen requirement necessitated by the pandemic. The Chief Minister also said that in vaccination also Assam has made good progress with 75 per cent of the total eligible population already receiving the COVID vaccination with 20 per cent of

them getting both the doses. He said that with ramping up infrastructure coupled with training of manpower, the state is in a position to bring the remaining population under the inoculation coverage. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma thanked National Health Mission, Health and Family Welfare Department and PWD Building and National Highway for their help in getting the oxygen generators ready for the service of the patients. The 14 oxygen generation plants inaugurated today virtually have been set up at Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital, Barpeta, Goalpara Civil Hospital, Guwahati Medical College and Hospital,

Guwahati, Swahid Kushal Konwar Civil Hospital, Golaghat, Sub-Divisional Civil Hospital, Bokakhat, Bhogeswari Phukanani Civil Hospital, Nagaon, Sivasagar Civil Hospital, Singimari Model Hospital, RNB Civil Hospital, Kokrajhar, Tezpur Medical College and Hospital, Tinsukia Civil Hospital, Sonari Civil Hospital, S.K. Roy Civil Hospital, Hailakandi and Kalapahar COVID Hospital. Director, Medical Education Dr. Anup Barman, Mission Director National Health Mission Dr. S. Lakshmanan, Commissioner and Special Secretary PWD (Building and NH) Raj Chakraborty and a host of others were present on the occasion.



Correspondent

Udalguri, Sept 18:

The ambitious scheme for further advancement of science and technology under the Government of India's Niti Aayog Atal Tinkering Laboratory was inaugurated today at Arunodoi Academy, Tangla. The laboratory, set up at Arunodoi Academy, one of the foremost educational institutions in Udalguri district, was inaugurated by Monisha Nath, Harisinga circle officer and executive magistrate. BTC Executive Member Sanjit Tanti, Udalguri District DRDA Project Director Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah, entrepreneur Manmohan Boro, researcher Rajeev Ranjan and researcher Prabhakar Raj attended the inauguration program. The program was followed by an inaugural address at the meeting held in line with the inauguration of the laboratory. Napoleon Daimary, Principal of

Arunodoi Academy, explained the purpose of the meeting, which started with an introductory song performance by the teachers of Arunodoi Academy. Pranab Jyoti Das, Principal of Arunodoi Junior College, gave a detailed presentation on from the establishment of Arunodoi Academy to the Rise of the Atal Tinkering Laboratory, recognized by the Niti Aayog. Pranab Jyoti Das also said in his lecture that since 2014-15, under the Niti Aayog, Atal Tinkering Laboratories has been set up in various schools across India. The Niti Aayog has set a target of setting up permanent tinkering laboratories in 15,000 schools by the year 2022. So far, these laboratories have been set up in 9,000 schools. Arunodoi Academy had applied for the said laboratory in the year 2019. Although for the pandemic

of Corona it was not possible in 2020, the laboratory has come to Arunodoi Academy in September 2021. In addition to the Arunodoi Academy in Udalguri district, ATL has been mentioned in 4 other schools though four schools have not been set up so far. BTC EM, Sanjit Tanti, said that the message of victory of science and technology should be carried inside the village. Students need to pick out the latent talents. Everybody has their talents hidden within themselves. The EM gives an eloquent speech, citing the example of the movie starring Aamir Khan, a famous actor in the world of Hindi cinema. Jayanta Kumar Das, a senior journalist, gives an important speech on social life and science. The meeting was attended by students of class IX and X of Arunodoi Academy as well as students of Arunodoi Junior College, teachers of different educational institutions of Tangla.

PDCK disbanded after 2 weeks of MoS

CORRESPONDENT

Diphu, Sept 18: After 2 weeks of the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with the government the People's Democratic Council of Karbilongri (PDCK) has disbanded its organisation at Farmer's Growth Centre, Diphu today. PDCK is also one of the six Karbi rebel organisations which signed the MoS peace accord with the Central and State Government on 4th September 2021 in New Delhi. While briefing to the media PDCK Chairman Sarsing Engti Kathar @ Songbijit said, "we have disbanded our organisation (PDCK) formally from today, as it was mentioned in the MoS to disband its organisation within a month of the accord. There are no other cadres left



out till date." 75% of our demand has been fulfilled by the government in the peace accord. It includes Karbi Development Council & ST status to the Karbis residing outside Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) area, Songbijit said. Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) seats in KAAC have

been open for all since the inception. But there are 34 seats reserved for STs and the other 10 are open for all in the MoS. Regarding open for all categories, we have presumed about the need for the political right of the non-ST community residing inside KAAC, this is the reason we have agreed with it,

he added. Earlier, a meeting was conveyed and declared the disbanding of PDCK. In the meeting PDCK Vice Chairman Kongkat Teron, General Secretary Nongme Tungjang, C-in-C David Mukrang, Public Relation Officer Sorjon Tokbi and several others dignitaries attended.

Pay & Use Toilet inaugurated in Aalo Town

STAFF REPORTER

Aalo, Sept 18: The Pay and Use toilet in the lines of metropolitan cities on public private partnership basis in the heart of Aalo town under the initiative of Urban Development and Housing Department was formally inaugurated by MLA Aalo East cum Advisors Law and Justice Advocate Kento Jini amid cheer and applause today. The MLA lauded the effort of the UD & Housing department and contractors



for jointly carrying out the work in the heart of the town where DC, SBI, Post Office, Paktu Bango Market and other important locations are there. He urged the department and Contractors to charge minimal rates for the users and keep the asset neat and clean as our own property. The MLA said also that officers from the home district have been brought to gear up

the welfare and Development activities of the town that are lacking in all spheres. He said that ambitious Potable drinking Water for Aalo town, Installation of four ICU Units, CT Scan Machine, Dialysis Unit, Yono Health Machine, CC Pavements in all sectors are being taken up from his side, he said and exhorted all to work as team to rejuvenate devel-

opment of the town to bring back its old glory. The West Siang Deputy Commissioner, Penga Tato said that public utility services are must in the busy township areas and asked the department and contractors to maintain it on a daily basis as our own property. The Deputy Director UC & Housing, Er. Hally Welly disclosed that the Pay and Use Toilet has been leased out for 30 years with a monthly rent of Rs.8000/- per month from the date of inauguration with 5% increase annually.

Assam CM attends inoculation camp organised as a part of Mega Vaccination Drive

STAFF REPORTER

Dispur, Sept 18: As a part of one day mega vaccination drive organised today synchronizing with the 71st birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the State government's target of achieving 710000 vaccination doses across the state, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited a vaccination camp organised at Athgaon here on Friday last. The vaccination camp was organised by Marwari Sammelan, Guwahati branch with support from the Health and Family Welfare Department. Adequate measures were undertaken to inoculate people with first as well as second dose of COVID vaccination. Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma



visited the vaccination centre and thanked the authorities of Marwari Sammelan, Guwahati branch for having organised the camp to help the State government in achieving the target of the mega vaccination drive. He said that inoculating all sections of the people across the state for COVID pandemic needs active participation of so-

cial organizations also. Help such as from Marwari Sammelan will help the State government in reaching out to all the eligible population for vaccination. He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday which is celebrated as Sewa and Samarpan Divas, Marwari Sammelan's gesture in organising a vaccination camp will add meaning to the day.

Distribution of sanitation items by SSB



Correspondent

Barpeta Road, Sept 18: 64th Bn. SSB has organized a Civic Action Programme on September 18 under 50 (OC) along the Indo-Bhutan border area at Shantipur Chowk in the AOR of BOP Dara. During this programme Hygiene & Sanitation items, Medicines under Medical Civic Action Programme and 200 Nos saplings have been distributed among the Border area villagers. Commandant Nand Kishore Tamta, 64th Bn SSB distributed the items like face mask, hand sanitizer, soap, hand wash etc. to the local villagers and termed this initiative as a social responsibility and small effort towards the village peoples. He also emphasized the SSB mandate which is to guard the International Border and create harmony & brotherhood among the people living in Border areas and support

the needy through extended medical help as a service. During this camp 182 villagers were consulted by the medical team of 64 Bn SSB and given suitable advice for better health and distributed free medicines. He also asked people to share issues and problems without hesitation and assured to put every effort to look upon it. The Civic action program is a routine event conducted by SSB, Ministry of Home Affairs at Border areas. The Force guards the 699 Kms boundary with Bhutan in addition to 1751 Kms along the Indo-Nepal Border. On this occasion Sandeep Poonia, Deputy Commandant, Prem Kumar, Assistant Commandant, Dr. Anoop Kumar Das, Rural Health Practitioner, HWC (Health & Wellness Centre) Bhutanakuti, Gaon Budha along with villagers and the Jawans of the force were present.

Subhankar Banerjee receives Chanakya award

STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 18: Guwahati based PR agency Seven Sense Communication's Founder and Director Subhankar Banerjee has received PRCI's most prestigious award "Chanakya" at the 15th PRCI Global Conclave at Goa. Subhankar Banerjee is the first person to receive PRCI's Chanakya Award from Northeast India under the age of 30. He has been selected under the category "Outstanding contributions made by corporate and institutions - PR/Communications" He has received the PRCI Chanakya award from Hon'ble CM of Goa Pramod Sawant. Subhankar Banerjee on the occasion said, "To be honest I never expected to receive the Chanakya award so soon, it's a big moment



for me, and when I learned I am the first one from Assam to receive PRCI's Chanakya award that made my moments more special." "Public Relations industry is growing in Assam, this award might motivate young communications students to pursue a career in Public Relations, and my next motive is to connect more and more universities, colleges and communications institutes under YCC club", he added. Subhankar

Banerjee is the General Secretary of PRCI Guwahati Chapter and the Director of Young Communicators Club Northeast Chapter (YCC Northeast) which is a student's wing of PRCI. PRCI and YCC help bridge the gap between professions and students. Born on 3rd April 2004 PRCI now has over 50 chapters in India, PRCI strives to enrich professional development and aids networking opportunities to further the cause of the profession.

Nagaon Road mishap: Claims lives of two while hurts two

Correspondent

Nagaon, Sept 18: Amidst the celebration of Biswakarma puja, a tragic road mishap claimed the lives of two persons while hurting two others near Dimaruguri Tiniali, on the outskirts of the town last night. The tragic incident took place when a speeding Swift dzire bearing registration number AS O2 R 7024 capsized after hitting a roadside tree, sources added. As a result, Himanshu Kakoti of Dibrugarh who was inside

the vehicle, died on spot while Radha Govinda Bora of Puranigudam area died on the way to Guwahati for better treatment. Meanwhile other two who were also inside the car - Manabjyoti Bora of Kasalukhuwa and Chinasa Agarwal of Haibargaon area were seriously injured. They were immediately admitted to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital where the on-duty doctor referred both of them to Guwahati for further treatment, sources added further.

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 214 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

The pandemic and the new restrictions on EU trade

In fact, though both the pandemic and the new restrictions on EU trade and free movement have contributed to shortages on the shelves and to companies cutting their production despite demand, the roots of this market failure predate both by decades. Worse, the crisis of labour across the UK - affecting businesses from haulage to food, farming, retail and construction - is now so deep that better wages alone will not dig us out of it. To understand the underlying causes, take a look at the informal lorry parks just off our motorway network, or the laybys along the main roads to England's ports. I visited one such HGV parking place just off the M25 last year to interview hauliers making deliveries for major transnational retail and e-commerce businesses. The "park" was a rough field of grit and mud laid out around a block of open-air showers with cattle-trough sinks and a small transport cafe. The signs were in Russian as well as English, acknowledging the fact that more than half of the scores of lorries parked there were driven by migrants from Ukraine and Belarus, working for Lithuanian-registered EU companies. Some of the drivers had been on the road, far from home, for six months or more. They slept in their trucks week after week, washed themselves and their clothes by the roadside, and often went to the toilet by the roadside too. Cooking a meal over the naked flame of a camping gas stove in the lee of a juggernaut with 800 litres of diesel in its tank counted as a rest. Their pay was pitifully low and the cost of a proper trucking hotel not accounted for in it. HGV driving work is highly skilled and used to be characterised by direct employment and strong unionisation. It is also highly regulated, for good reason - a fully laden 44-tonne truck with a driver who has not been properly rested can quickly turn into a killing machine. Rules to protect both drivers' and public safety may exist, but in the truckers' experience enforcement is lax, particularly in the UK. One Ukrainian driver told me he feared being stopped and fined when forced to break the rules in Germany, France or Austria, but "not so much in the UK", which he believed "closes its eyes". British haulage companies, still trying to run on the old-fashioned principle that a driver ought to get home for a couple of days of family life at least once a month, told me they could not compete. They are increasingly required to bid for haulage contracts on new Uber-style platforms run by e-commerce sites that set the price and precise timeslots for warehouse collection and delivery in a one-way auction. The technological revolution in the 1980s and 1990s, with its electronic tracking and advanced traffic-control software, led to dramatic upheavals. It enabled industries to switch to a globalised system of just-in-time ordering with hugely extended supply lines. The jobs have also been made to bend to the iron brutality of 24/7 computer-controlled efficiency. The pattern is the same in other sectors now suffering acute labour shortages. Harvesting crops has always been tough, dirty work; gangs of workers used to do it for relatively contained hours over short periods of the year or in shifts around school hours. Now rolling 12-hour-plus shifts, seven days a week, are common. Meat factories used to treat working late or at weekends as optional overtime for extra money. Now workers are expected to sweat at an abattoir's capital intensive plant, for as long as it takes the owners to supply super-market orders, for a flat hourly rate. Conditions, as much as pay, underlie the refusal of British workers to do these jobs. They are not, as some cabinet ministers would have us believe, idlers who prefer their paddleboards to a bit of graft, but industry has made these vital jobs incompatible with any normal settled life. Only desperate people, from poorer countries, will take them, and then only long enough to earn what they need to establish a better life back home, or long enough to learn English and move up the employment ladder in Britain. These conditions have depended not just on migration but on an unending cycle of new migration, drawing people in from ever-further east, as successive eastern European nations improve their living standards and their workers no longer seek what hauliers call "tramping". Recruiters are now finding their new cheap HGV drivers not in Poland, Hungary or Romania, but in the former Soviet Central Asian states of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Greater automation has always been held up as the answer to labour problems. Short of HGV drivers? Don't worry, driverless trucks are round the corner. Not enough workers to harvest your crops or slaughter your pigs? Invest in machines to do it. Experience gives the lie to this wishful thinking. Walk behind a state-of-the-art lettuce or leek-harvesting rig - all gleaming investment with computerised grading systems, integrated veg-washing conveyor belts, and dazzling floodlights - and you will still find dozens of workers, bent double from before dawn to well after dusk, pulling food from the earth. Stand in a supermarket packhouse and watch arrays of digital cameras calculate in seconds the percentage of blush to green on apples as they pass down an automated line (so those not rosy enough are thrown into a bin), and you'll still find armies of tired people operating the system. New technology has indeed created a distribution system that is miraculous in its sophistication and in the returns it gives to capital, but it is built on a fatal flaw. Workers are not automata in some Fritz Lang Metropolis-type dystopia. And automation itself doesn't eradicate the mindless jobs but has a way of creating new forms of drudgery with every leap forward. This is not a world in which the market keeps labour supply and demand in balance. It is a dysfunctional market in which a handful of large companies dominate each sector. Their buying power is so great that suppliers faced with a need to pay higher wages cannot pass the cost on. Successive governments have used immigration as a wages policy, to put downward pressure on earnings rather than tackle this tendency to oligopoly. Now the government wants immigration to stop, the problems it papered over have been exposed. Decades of anti-union legislation has tilted what was always an unequal relationship between workers and capital even further in the latter's favour. The solution requires a breaking of the structures which reinforce and accelerate this power imbalance, and an overhaul of the relationship between labour and capital, so that work not only pays but is human too. Yes, it will reduce corporate profits. But ignore the social costs of a hyperlean supply chain, and you may find you have created a system so economically efficient for business that it collapses altogether.

JEE scam and NEET ban are failures of the existing system. But tougher questions lie ahead

Two of the most high-stakes and highly competitive entrance exams in India - National Eligibility-cum-entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) - meant for admission to medical and engineering colleges have been a point of controversy this week. A criminal investigation into alleged manipulation in JEE and Tamil Nadu introducing a bill to do away with NEET for admission to its medical colleges have raised questions about the relevance and credibility of these exams. Lakhs of students each year appear for these examinations, after spending months preparing for them. In 2021, 9.4 lakh students appeared for JEE Mains and over 95 per cent of the 16.14 lakh registered candidates appeared for NEET. Given the large number of students associated with these exams, and the high stakes involved, NEET and JEE exams this year is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. Tamil Nadu on Monday introduced a bill to seek exemption from NEET for its medical colleges. The state wants to do away with NEET as a criterion for admission to medical colleges and instead, wants admissions on the basis of marks obtained in Class XII board examinations. Even though the state's opposition is not new, the concern originates from the social and economic inequality angle. A state-appointed committee found that NEET undermined the diverse social representation in MBBS and other higher medical studies, favouring mainly affluent segments of society. It says that students of Tamil-medium government schools with a rural background, whose parental income is less than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum, and the socially oppressed and disadvantaged groups - OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - are affected the most because of NEET. The government's argument is that only those who have the means to prepare for a competitive exam like NEET eventually get admission in medical colleges, and students from economically and socially backward backgrounds are left behind. Tamil Nadu, along with other states, had opposed NEET in 2012 as



well, when it was first introduced. At that time, it was held for one year in 2013, after which, it was banned by the Supreme Court. However, the court revised its old direction, and following a 2016 order, NEET became the only single-window exam for any medical college in the country. It came to effect from the academic year 2017/18. Since then, Tamil Nadu has been trying to exempt itself from the exam. NEET is currently conducted in 13 languages including English, Hindi, Punjabi, Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Urdu. It was earlier conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and was taken over in 2018 by the National Testing Agency (NTA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education. Questions asked in the exam are from the Physics, Chemistry and Biology topics covered in Class X and XII. JEE (Mains) is an entrance exam that students take for admission to engineering colleges in India. The top 2.5 lakh candidates who clear the exam also become eligible to appear for JEE Advanced, which is the gateway to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). This makes it a prominent exam each year, which is why the Modi government decided that the exam will be held in four phases this year. The fourth phase of the exam, which is a Computer-Based Test (CBT), was found to be compromised. The Central Bureau of Investi-

Kritika Sharma

gation (CBI) has so far arrested 11

people for running a cheating racket while the NTA is also conducting its parallel probe. The perpetrators were charged somewhere between Rs 10-15 lakh and appointed a "solver", someone who would solve the question paper on behalf of the aspirants. These solvers, sitting at a distant location, hacked into the system of a student sitting in the exam centre and solved the question paper for them. This incident has raised several questions on the credibility of the exams and the NTA, and whether the exams should be conducted again. Even as the Ministry of Education has maintained a silence on the matter so far, the NTA has, in a way, clarified that the exam will not be conducted again, as it declared a combined merit list of all four phases on 15 September. It also banned 20 students from taking the exam for three years and withheld their results for using "unfair means". Agency officials admitted to ThePrint that they had noticed a sudden increase in the percentile of some students from one phase to another, and suspected them of malpractice. Such aspirants were put under scanner by the agency and 20 have been banned in the course of the investigation. However, this has led other JEE aspirants to believe that there could be more candidates who used 'unfair means', but have not been caught by the agency so far. Various

social media forums on YouTube and Twitter are brimming with discussions on the alleged manipulation. NEET in Tamil Nadu is a sensitive issue, given that many students have died by suicide over the years due to the extreme stress and anxiety that it puts on students. This week alone, three NEET-related suicides have been reported in the state. While banning the exam altogether and giving admission to students on the basis of Class XII board examination marks may not be the best idea, state and Central governments definitely need to take a holistic view of the situation and act accordingly. Interventions in the form of remedial coaching classes or reserving seats in state government-run colleges for students from economically and socially backward classes can be explored as a solution. By depending on Class XII marks, these exams go down the same rabbit hole of cut-offs. Marking schemes of different boards affects it - something that even Delhi University, known for its high cut-offs, is now trying to avoid. The university is working out plans to have an entrance test for admission to its undergraduate courses from next year. As far as JEE (Mains) is concerned, the NTA and the Ministry of Education needs to take a good look at their systems. The organisers need to ask important questions about where the gaps are and what can be fixed. The examination agency takes help from Tata Consultancy Services' strategic unit TCS iON, which provides it with the technological support and personnel to manage the exams. Reassessment of the software that is used for JEE exams and taking the help of ethical hackers to find out how hacking can be prevented in future is a good idea. Until 2018, the JEE exam was held in both CBT and pen and paper mode, but from 2019 NTA decided to hold the exam in online mode only. The whole idea of going online was to ensure transparency in the exam, but the latest cheating scam has dented its legacy and has also caused a setback to the Narendra Modi government's 'Digital India' push.

Automotive PLI: Preparing India for Advanced Automotive Technologies

Globally climate change and its adverse impact is fast becoming a crisis. Governments around the world are regulating the Automotive industry and encouraging it to move towards cleaner technologies. Automotive industry is fast accepting these challenges and moving towards Battery Electric Vehicles, Connected, Autonomous vehicles. Shared mobility is another change that Automotive OEMs are adopting. In addition, vehicle and pedestrian safety are also key priorities for the Automotive industry. Indian Automotive industry being part of the global Automotive value chain cannot remain isolated from these trends. Climate change, pollution control, reducing road fatalities and efficient transportation are also top priorities for the Government of India. We need to embrace these changes and be ready to prepare for the future.

Government of India looks at the Automotive industry as a Champion industry. We are committed to further development and growth of the Automotive and Automotive component supplier industry. Whether we like it or not electrification, Connected vehicles, more electronics per vehicle are inevitable disruptions that the Automotive industry will have to adapt to.

We recognize that Indian market may be currently subscale in these technologies hence we would have significant cost disabilities and capabilities gap. However, if we do not address this gap now then we will miss the next decade of Automotive investments. Also, our Advanced Automotive Technology value chain will remain weak, and we would miss the next big opportunity in the Automotive domain.

Building competitiveness in Advanced Automotive Technologies (AAT) will be a long-term structural change. But the beginning of that change will need a catalyst. We believe that the Automotive PLI scheme will act as that catalyst to build new capabilities in the Automotive OEM and supplier industry segments.

The objective of the Automotive PLI scheme will be to attract new investments in AAT. AAT is not restricted just to Electric vehicles but also includes Automotive electronics, sensors, green technologies, safety technolo-

gies that may find application in Battery Electric vehicles as well as Internal Combustion Engine-based vehicles. Investments will result in growth in sales and production of AAT in India. The PLI will provide incentives based on growth in AAT sales to cover the significant cost disabilities that may exist in these segments. The policy aims to encourage large scale investments by OEMs and Automotive component suppliers in India. In addition, it will ensure transfer and assimilation of these AAT by the Automotive industry ecosystem in India.

Eligibility for the Automotive PLI scheme

The PLI scheme is open to existing Automotive companies as well as Non-Automotive investors.

Existing Automotive OEMs with more than Rs. 10,000 crore Global revenues and Rs. 3,000 crore of Gross asset base will be eligible to apply for this scheme. The scheme has two parts. First part is Champion OEM Incentive Scheme in which a minimum AAT investment commitment of Rs. 2,000 crore for existing 4-wheeler OEMs will need to be achieved over the 5 years of the scheme. This criterion will be pegged at Rs. 1,000 crore investment commitment for existing 2-wheeler and 3-

wheeler OEMs. Existing Automotive component suppliers with more than Rs. 500 crore in global revenues and Rs. 150 crore of fixed assets will be eligible for this scheme.

The second part of the scheme is Component Champion Incentive Scheme in which existing Component suppliers will have to meet minimum investment commitment of Rs. 250 crore over 5 years period.

Non-Automotive investors will need to demonstrate a Net worth of over Rs. 1,000 crore to be eligible to apply for this scheme. Also, they will need to meet minimum AAT investment commitment of

Rs. 2,000 crore under Champion OEM part and Rs. 500 crore under Component Champion part, over the 5 years of the scheme

Scheme working details Each of the eligible participants will need to apply to be part of the Automotive PLI along with a detailed plan on how they would achieve investment conditions and the production/ revenue growth plans. Companies with the most attractive investment and growth commitment will be prioritized based on a transparent process of evaluation. Qualifying participants will receive an incentive @ 8-18% of the

growth in sales of AAT products.

Automotive PLI will bring great benefits to the country and Automotive industry

We expect that Automotive PLI will result in almost Rs. 42,500 crore of new investments, generate growth in output revenues of almost Rs. 2,31,500 crore. This will translate into direct and indirect employment opportunities for over 7.5 lakh people over the 5 years of the scheme. The PLI will help build the foundation for India to diversify into a new and fast emerging new segment within the Automotive value chain.

Automotive PLI can be successful only if the industry leaders understand the context and intent of the scheme with an open mind. Look at how it can benefit the whole industry and the nation and help India become future ready. We request you to study the scheme details and see how you can contribute to make it successful and derive benefits in the process. Let the Government, Industry, Domestic as well as International Investors work together as 'Team India' to make this scheme a resounding success. Let us be ready to prepare for the future.

Arun Goel, Secretary to Govt of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries.

May I have a word about... when sports commentary is just not cricket

It was with trepidation that I switched on the highlights of the final day of the Oval Test on the BBC. Could England chase down a challenging target or would we be skittled? As you know, it didn't end well. But my nervousness quickly changed to annoyance. As Jasprit Bumrah and co sent the stumps spinning, Phil Tufnell and his fellow commentators repeatedly shrieked: "He's gotta go!" This is the sort of language you expect from the more hysterical football pundits, but cricket? What's wrong with "And that's certainly out" or "bowled neck and crop"? I'm certain that the commentators of yesteryear - Christopher Martin Jenkins, John Arlott - would deprecate such vulgarity. There's been much talk recently on the demise of the suit and the necktie. Necktie? You wouldn't wear one



Jonathan Bouquet

round your ankle, would you? It reminds me of a colleague who would insist on using the word "headbutt". I said to him once

that you wouldn't say footkick or fistpunch - head is otiose. I was mightily tempted when he left the building to give him a footkick up the backside, but wiser counsel prevailed. You can always rely on the Telegraph's Ambrose Evans-Pritchard to widen your vocabulary. Last week was no exception: "Yet that does not preclude a slow-motion dégringolade that ends illusions of Chinese economic exceptionalism." What a splendid word and so much better than rapid decline. I defy you to slip it into conversation in your local. Finally, I have to pass on this gem, an old Afghan proverb, from Patrick Kidd's Times diary: "My enemy's enemy's friend's enemy, who was my friend, is my enemy, until he isn't." Truly Rumsfeldian. Little wonder Dominic Raab stayed on his pedalo.

Young Indians are highly vulnerable to heart ailments

Guwahati, Sep 18: With recent advancements made in the field of cardiac sciences, despite the high prevalence in number of patients with some forms of cardiac ailments have been providing with new lease of life. Intervention without the open-heart procedures are not only the most innovative scientific approaches of the recent times but is also revolutionizing the treatment outcomes in most complex cases. The latest advancements are also helpful in determining the functional significance in some tricky situations which otherwise would be seemingly borderline, such advanced procedures not only helps in treating the patients effectively, but also improves their quality of life. While various heart ailments annually account for at least 50% of the overall comorbidities and even premature deaths in India, it is shocking to know that there is a rise in number of people in the age bracket of 25-40 years being susceptible. In India, it has been estimated that one



in every four death is attributed to ignorance of the mild symptoms and is one of the leading causes of mortality among both males and females (between 25-35 years). Asymptomatic heart attacks usually shows symptoms in the early 20's and 30's which becomes fatal around the age of 40 years, and hence timely intervention can help in such circumstances. Similar was the case of a 26-year-old, young male patient from Guwahati, who was admitted after two episodes of unconsciousness where he had blacked out. With no proper understanding of the reason behind it,

after EEG and MRI, complete cardiac workup was performed. He was diagnosed with a rare condition known as long QT syndrome, which is a heart rhythm disorder potentially causing fast and chaotic heartbeats that triggers sudden faint. "While sudden cardiac death is catastrophic, it is not so uncommon, patient Ranjeev Dutta, was timely diagnosed and treated. Since the detailed exploration of the family history also revealed that his father had died suddenly at the age of 36 years. Number of reasons have been listed as a cause of sudden cardiac death including genetic diseases, coronary artery blockages, and cardiomyopathies. In this patient we used implantable defibrillators along with medications; surely this regimen will prevent sudden cardiac death in this young patient." Said Dr Balbir Singh, Chairman, Cardiac Sciences, Max Hospital, Saket. Sudden cardiac death is a medical emergency due to unexpected loss of heart function, breathing and conscious. Sudden cardiac death usually results from an electrical disturbance in the heart that interferes with its pumping action, stopping blood flow to the rest of the body, usually causing death if not treated within minutes. With fast, appropriate medical care, survival is possible. Rapid treatment with a defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation,

swift & appropriate medical care, survival is possible. A defibrillator is a device that sends an electric shock to the heart to try to restore its normal rhythm. Recently Dr Balbir Singh and his team became the first in North India to have implanted the world's smallest pacemaker, Micra AV. The device, the latest in pacemaker technology is yet another revolutionary reform made in this field, is the smallest pacemaker in the world with a battery life of 15 years, weighing a mere 15 grams and has dual chamber capabilities. Till date, it has been implanted only in two other hospitals across India. Doctors worldwide are claiming that the real-world use of Micra has shown a 63% reduction in major complications compared to traditional pacemakers. In comparison to the traditional pacemakers, the Micra AV is MRI compatible and there are no leads attached. Micra AV involves placing it in the heart via vein in the leg thereby eliminating the need for an incision in the chest and any possibility of infection. "Some other big advantages of the Micra AV implant, over its contemporaries, are that the device has several additional internal atrial sensing algorithms which detect cardiac movement, allowing the device to adjust pacing in the lower ventricles to coordinate with the upper atriums, providing 'AV synchronous' pacing therapy to patients. It is completely self-contained within

the heart, thereby eliminating any potential medical complications arising from a chest incision and from wires running from a conventional pacemaker into the heart. For most patients, the Micra design has translated into fewer medical complications and fewer post-implant activity restrictions", he added. Valvular heart complications are another life-threatening complications, where valve replacement remains the last resort. But with recent advancements, catheter-based procedures of Mitra clip can help in repairing the leaking heart valves without surgery. Such cases, if left untreated can lead to enlarged heart, breathlessness and even heart failures. Till now, open heart surgery with repair or replacement of the valve had been the only possible treatment for such patients in India but it is often high risk and may not be beneficial. "The MitraClip is a novel catheter based non-surgical repair of the mitral valve inside the heart and is performed in the Cath Lab like angioplasty where special catheters are inserted through the large vein in the groin and the catheter is passed from the right chamber of the heart to the left chamber of the heart by puncturing the partition called interatrial septum. Then under echocardiography and X-ray guidance a clip is put on the leaking mitral valve to decrease the leak which improves the condition of patient. The patient is normally ready to be discharged in 24-48 hours' time", added Dr Balbir. With such technology available, there is a dire need to raise awareness among the masses to first of all adapt to a heart healthy lifestyle and not to hesitate or delay any of the symptoms, since timely intervention can not only save lives but also improve the quality of life.

BharatBenz opens new dealership



Dibrugarh, Sep 18: Expanding its footprint in the Eastern region, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) in association with Abutani trucking inaugurated the new BharatBenz workshop in Dibrugarh in the state of Assam after Guwahati, Silchar and Nagaon. The opening of the new touchpoint reflects the increasing demand for BharatBenz products in the state of Assam. Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Rajaram Krishnamurthy, Vice President, Marketing, Sales and Customer Service at Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV): "Dibrugarh is an important center in Assam for economic activities like gas, tea production, coal, petroleum, tourism to name a few. Assam is an important market for DICV that has showcased strong growth and

acceptance of DICV products." Mr. Joyimalya Bose, CEO of Abutani Trucking, said, "Our BharatBenz dealership will provide comprehensive commercial vehicle solutions to vehicles plying in Dibrugarh and upper Assam. Customers can be assured of the best sales advice and state-of-the-art 'Proserv' aftersales support." BharatBenz dealerships are located on

leading national and state highways, providing ease and flexibility to every type of customer. On the national highways of the Golden quadrilateral North-South & East-West Corridors, the average distance between two BharatBenz touch points varies between 140 and 180 kms. BharatBenz's reach to customers in these highways is within 2.5 hours.

Wommaniaas and Bawri Firki exhibition concluded



Guwahati, 18 Sept : For the first time in Guwahati Wommaniaas in collaboration with Kolkata's famous Bawri Firki organised a one-day exhibition cum Sale called "A Festive Edit" concluded on Friday at Hotel Ornet located on B Barua Road in Guwahati. In this exhibition a huge crowd of ladies was seen. Divya Siotia, founder of Wommaniaas said that the one-day exhibition cum sale was inaugurated by Lalita Aggarwal, former president of Jagriti Ladies Club and Pooja Khemka, president of Mahila Mangal jointly by lighting the lamp. Founder Nupur Aggarwal and Neeta Sharma told that on this occasion Assamese TV serial artist Kakoli Handique and Varsha Bhattacharjee also made their presence felt in the exhibition cum sale. Both the actors appreciated the collections of Bawri Firki. Ladies present there loved to see the fresh and brand new collection of Indian Couture, Indo Western & Western Wear, Kids Designer Apparel, Fancy Jewellery, Home Furnishing, Night Suits, etc. Swati Bajoria and Shilpa Jhavar, head of Bawri Firki, said that this exhibition cum sale has been organized for ladies in view of the upcoming festivals, where everyone shopped fiercely.

September version update to Battlegrounds Mobile India out

Guwahati, Sep 18: KRAFTON, the South Korean video game developer is all set to pump in more adrenalin for the millions of BATTLEGROUNDS enthusiasts in India, with the introduction of Flora Menace, special features and realistic game dynamics in version 1.6 rolling out on the Google Play Store and iOS App Store. The update will be rolling out sequentially starting today, so fans are requested to be patient for it to show up on your app store. A new mode "Flora Menace" has been added to BATTLEGROUNDS, bringing in interesting possibilities. In Flora Menace Mode, a life barrier is created in some part of the map that is encroached by alien creatures. In the wall, players' HP gradually recovers. Players can loot "Nacore" in the mode and use the item to buy battle items. The mode is available in Classic Theme Modes and starting from Erangel, it will be added to Sanhok and Livik. Exclusively in Erangel "Flora Menace", players can enjoy Cell Matrix content. The Cell Matrix is an airship floating in the air and players can ride it using Cells that can be found in the map. In Cell Matrix, players have three chances to revive themselves and get to fight with randomly provided weapons. They can acquire Nacore by eliminating enemies or robots infected by an alien creature in the airship. The latest update will pack a lot of surprises later in the month as EvoGround will feature the popular Zombie mode "Survive Till Dawn" where the last surviving player in the zombie attack gets the final victory. Many more popular game modes such as the Payload Mode will be appearing in EvoGround so players are requested to keep a close eye on our social channels for launch dates or directly dive into EvoGround in matchmaking. As many as 8 different game modes will appear over a period of time. The new version also includes the recording option, allowing players to record their gameplay and showcase their clips on social media platforms. In fact, a slew of community contests on our social



channels will be rolled out around recorded clips in-game. Fans can participate and win amazing rewards.

Shyam Balaji Developers stepped into North Guwahati

Guwahati, 18 September : Shyam Balaji Developers, keeping its footsteps in North Guwahati, adjacent to the fast developing Guwahati City, opened its new office there. On this occasion, the young businessman Vikas Goenka said that through this firm they would be directly connected with the land and construction works in Amingaon, Changsari, Abhaypur and adjoining areas of North Guwahati. Through this office, his goal is to open a source of big income for the land owners by constructing the best and high quality establishments on the existing land. What are the possible things that come to our mind whenever we talk about real estate? We can think of commercial buildings, residential apartments, warehouses, industrial sheds and land. People work in different verticals and in different segments. It is an extremely profitable business where huge income can be generated. He said that he started his work as a Real Estate Consultant in the year 2012 and has been associated with this business for the last 9 years. He has worked in all the verticals of Real Estate Consultancy and understood the industry from grass root level. Mostly worked in the retail & warehousing sector where they have done great deals with top brands like Westside, Big Bazar, Tanishq, Reli-



ance, Vishal Mega Mart, Flipkart etc. They have always tried to maintain a wonderful relationship with their clients. He truly believes in giving his service from start to finish and beyond, which is remarkable. It has been an amazing journey for Mr. Goenka, where he has seen many ups and downs and still managed to emerge victorious. Today he is a suc-

cessful real estate consultant with a huge client base. Mr. Goenka has gone a step ahead and become a land developer now as well. He is very excited about this new work because the state's chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma's constituency is also here. With this efforts the youth of this area will also get employment opportunities.

Kangana crosses 1 million followers on Koo

Guwahati, Sep 18: The National Award-winning actress and the 'Queen of Bollywood' - Kangana Ranaut - has taken Koo, India's microblogging platform, by storm. Since opening her account on Koo in February 2021, she has crossed 1 million followers. Fans congratulated Kangana on reaching the milestone and several Kos talked about the actor's spectacular performances and commercial success. Kangana's official Koo account - @kanganarofficial - gained tremendous trac-

tion and her followers almost doubled in the last three months, making her the only female celebrity to achieve this feat on the platform. Kangana has been posting enthusiastically about her upcoming trilingual film, Thalaivi - a biopic of the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalitha - in which she stars opposite Arvind Swamy. In an interview about the film, she mentioned that she was 'intimidated' by the role and drew many parallels between herself and the late leader.

IIFL Finance launches 'Gold Loan Mahotsav'



Guwahati, Sep 18: IIFL Finance, one of India's largest non-banking finance companies, has launched 'Gold Loan Mela' from 15th September, 2021 in which all new customers get assured gifts on Gold Loan. This scheme also offers an attractive interest rate starting 0.79% per month along with a commitment of quick processing of loan in just 5 minutes, maximum loan value on gold and easy digital payment options. The offer is available in more than 300

IIFL Gold Loan branches across Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tripura & West-Bengal. Speaking on the launch of Gold Loan Mela Mr. Niloy Ghosh, Zonal Head said: "Gold Loan Mela is launched during the festival times with various attractive Gold Loan schemes and interest rates starting at 0.79% per month. Loan Mela creates an opportunity for all to avail instant loan against jewellery along with an assured gift on every loan and also get rewarded for referring

gold loan to friends and relatives. IIFL Finance always believes in honest and transparent dealings, which is why we see our customers coming back to us for business again and also referring new customers to us. We are getting positive feedback for loan mela and appreciation by all customers." IIFL Finance, through its subsidiaries, offers a wide spectrum of products such as Home loan, Gold loan, Business loan, Microfinance products to a vast base of about 60 lakh customers both retail and corporate clients. IIFL Finance has widened its pan India reach through an extensive network of 2,563 branches across 600+ locations and various digital channels. It continues to expand its footprints in underserved unbanked areas.

Airtel and Disney+ Hotstar bring best of digital entertainment to customers



Guwahati, Sep 18: Bharti Airtel Limited ("Airtel"), India's leading provider of telecommunications services, is making the digital entertainment experience of its customers more exciting with its Mobile and Home Broadband plans that come bundled with free 1-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar. To go with generous quotas of high-speed data, Airtel customers can avail free unlimited access to Disney+ Hotstar library, which offers more than 100,000 hours of engaging content. With a Disney+ Hotstar subscription, users get access to LIVE coverage of major global sporting events, including the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) and T20 World Cup, exclusive new Hotstar Specials series in up to eight local languages, blockbuster

film releases under the Hotstar Multiplex banner, access to STAR India network's serials before their television premiere, an extensive collection of Disney's beloved library titles, as well as a robust slate of Disney+ originals. Airtel's New Prepaid Mobile Plans with Disney+ Hotstar Airtel has introduced three new

prepaid plans that come with high-speed data, unlimited calling, 100 SMS/day along with subscription to Disney+ Hotstar. These plans come in convenient denominations and let users stay connected and enjoy unlimited premium content and LIVE TV on India's leading network for video experience.

Memo No :1324/DH Sonapur/2021-22

Notice inviting Quotation

Sealed quotation affixing non refundable court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are invited from the reputed Registered firm for Tendering of Emergency Medicines and Consumables for Operation Theatre, Labour Room and SNCU of District Hospital Sonapur, Kamrup (M). The list of Medicines along with the terms & conditions may be collected from the Office of the Superintendent District Hospital, Sonapur, Kamrup (M) and deposited / Received upto 1 PM of 30th September' 2021 The quotations will be opened on the same day at the same place at 1: 30 PM in presence of quotationers or their authorized agents. If the date of receiving of the Quotation happens to be unforeseen bandh/holiday then it will be received/ opened on the next working day at the same time and place.

Superintendent
District Hospital Sonapur
Kamrup Metro

Janasanyog/C/5657/21

Contd. From Page 1

NRL 28th Annual General

Presence of EIL as a stakeholder will further boost the technical expertise of the Company.' During FY 2020-21, the refinery processed 2,707 TMT of Crude Oil, a 14% increase over the previous year. The company also imported 42 TMT Crude Oil which was processed in the refinery. There was an increase in production of HSD by more than 12% at 1,809 TMT and MS by 36% at 636 TMT over the previous year. The refinery also recorded highest ever Wax production of 47 TMT, 17% increase over previous year and highest ever LPG bottling at 57 TMT, an increase of 33% over previous year. Sales volume during the FY 2020-21 was 2,924 TMT an increase of 23.9% compared to 2,361 TMT in the previous year. HSD Sales increased to 1,835 TMT against 1,541 TMT in the previous year, while MS Sales during the year was the highest ever at 647 TMT against 458 TMT in the previous year. Wax Sales was also the highest at 48 TMT. The Company posted revenue from operations at Rs.18,544 Crore which was higher by 31.77% over Rs.14,073 Crore in the previous year, primarily on account of higher sales volume. Higher Crude throughput and increase in overall margins resulted in NRL posting record net profit of Rs. 3,036 Crore, an increase of 120% over previous year. Net worth of the Company has increased to Rs.5,596 Crore as on 31st March, 2021 as compared to Rs. 5,304 Crore in the previous year. The outstanding financial performance has also led to the highest ever contribution to the Government exchequer at Rs.6,468 Crore. The Company continues to assiduously and aggressively pursue major ongoing projects in hand namely, the Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project, 2G Ethanol Project and India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL). The Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project (NREP) envisages enhancing capacity of the existing refinery from 3.0 MMTPA to 9.0 MMTPA, constructing a Crude Oil Import Terminal at Paradip port in Odisha and laying of a 1,635 KM long cross country Crude Oil Pipeline from Paradip Port to Numaligarh at a total estimated cost of Rs.28,000 Crore. With this and several other ongoing projects undertaken during the Financial Year 2020-21, NRL recorded the highest ever capital investment Rs. 924 Crore. NRL has been a frontrunner in adopting the latest and best practices in information technology. The Financial Year 2020-21 has seen NRL launch a number of noteworthy initiatives. The Paperless Office Solution, AAROHAN was launched in the month of August, 2020 and has resulted in total digital transformation of the procurement cycle to be eventually implemented for all business processes of the organization including HR, benefit management and other internal and external processes which are carried out through SAP. Another important development is the commencement of the S/4 HANA (High Performance Analytic Appliance) migration project from December 2020 that would improve performance due to its ability to process data faster with embedded analytical capability. Other initiatives include cloud hosted Digital Capital Project Management Tools, Immersive VR Training for safety and marketing operations etc. At a time when the world is fighting the pandemic at every level, NRL joined hands with collectives to extend support in every way possible by ramping up facilities and provisions to tackle the situation. An amount of Rs. 36 Crore was earmarked to fight COVID-19; which included creating a 120 bedded COVID care Centre with ICU facilities, setting up of Oxygen plants, setting up Covid centres, free vaccination.

Amarinder Singh submits

Sonia Gandhi demanding that the "Captain" be replaced as Chief Minister. Mr Singh had fought the party's order to resign, which raises the possibility of a split in the Congress and turmoil over who will be Chief Minister and lead the party in the Punjab election. The names of three leaders are in circulation to replace Mr Singh - former Punjab Congress chiefs Sunil Jakhar and Pratap Singh Bajwa, and Beant Singh's grandson Ravneet Singh Bittu. Hours earlier, Sunil Jakhar had all but announced that Mr Singh was on his way out. "Kudos to Rahul Gandhi for adopting Alexandrian solution to this Punjabi version of Gordian knot. Surprisingly, this bold leadership decision to resolve Punjab Congress imbroglio has not only enthralled Congress workers but has sent shudders down the spines of Akalis," Mr Jakhar tweeted. The Punjab crisis has escalated dramatically over the Chief Minister's festering feud with Navjot Sidhu. In July, despite the Chief Minister's fierce resistance, the party appointed Navjot Sidhu its Punjab chief, but the acrimony stayed barely below the surface. The truce started unravelling with a row over advisers appointed by Mr Sidhu and their controversial statements, which Mr Singh publicly condemned. Last month, four ministers and around two dozen party legislators raised fresh complaints against Amarinder Singh, telling the leadership that they had no faith in his ability to honour poll promises.

HS Final Special Exam Schedule

am to 12 pm and the afternoon shift will be from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Question papers will be distributed 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the exam. COVID-19 guidelines issued by the state government will be strictly followed while conducting the exams, the AHSEC said. This year, AHSEC did not conduct HS first and final year exams due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The results were declared using an alternative assessment scheme. While cancelling the exams, the state government said students will be given an option to appear for the special exam, when the Covid situation improves. Students who are not happy with their HS final result and want to improve scores can take the special exam.

Half-Pant issue : AAU Forms

"I went crying to my father who was waiting outside. Finally, the Controller of Exams said I could take the exam, if a pair of pants could be arranged. So my father rushed to the market to buy a pair," she said. All the while, Jublee said she was losing precious time and feeling extremely harassed. Her father Babul Tamuli secured a trouser from a market about 8 km away only to be told that the problem had been resolved: Jublee had been given a curtain to cover her legs. "They said that if I lacked basic common sense, how would I succeed in life," said Jublee, adding that it was "completely unfair". "They did not check for Covid protocols, masks or even temperature...but they checked for shorts," she said. Calling it the "most humiliating experience of my life", Jublee said she plans to write to Assam Education Minister Ranaj Pegu about the episode. She added that everyone had their own "comfort zone". "If a boy wears a vest, no one says anything. Some men go around bare-bodied in public, and no one says a thing. But if a girl wears a pair of shorts, then people point fingers," she said. While Jublee was able to complete her test, she said the entire experience was "stressful" and the curtain kept slipping off while she was writing the exam. Dr Abdul Baquee Ahmed, principal, GIPS, said he was not present in college but "aware that such an incident had happened." "We do not have anything to do with the exam - our college was just hired as a venue for the exam. Even the invigilator in question was from outside. There is no rule about shorts, but during an exam, it is important that decorum be maintained. Parents should also know better," he said.

Assam Theatre producer

social responsibility by enacting a dance drama either on socio-cultural issues or on mythological themes throughout dramas played in his mobile theatre company. The Kareng Ghar theatre was a mixture of art and commerce. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Assamese mobile theatre was heavily affected and he is the only source of income for his family. Now he has been lying in the hospital bed for two week. His family is now facing lots of financial crises, even though they do not have enough money to give him better treatment in the coming days. Sunmoni Dutta urged the Govt. as well his fans, well wishers to help him in the crucial situation. He has a strong will power to cure soon and a keen desire to live and struggle by his own profession. His family members also seek help from all cultural, non cultural organizations of the state to save Sunmoni Dutta's life and request all to come forward with their helping hand for the sake of humanity.

Encounter: Two ULB

Bishmuri in Kokrajhar. Sources said acting on a tip about the presence of armed militants in the jungle, a team of police and Army launched a joint operation in Lungsung forest in Kokrajhar. "When the team had approached the armed militants in the jungle, they opened fire targeting the security forces. The police retaliated and later we found two people lying on the ground injured. They were taken to the RNB Hospital in Kokrajhar where they were declared brought dead," said the official. They were allegedly involved in extortion in the Bismuri area of the Kokrajhar district. Days after the newly floated Bodo outfit National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) returned to the mainstream, another rebel group was formed in the Bodo belt with separate Bodoland state demands. In a video statement released to media on Friday, the leaders of the newly outfit ULB said they would carry out blasts in Assam from October if their demands are not met. During search of the camp area the following arms and ammunition and other camp materials were found which were seized accordingly. Recovered items were two Nos. of pistol along with 02 (Two) Nos. of Magazine, 04 (Four) Nos. 7.65mm live ammons, 06 (Six) Nos. of empty cartridges, 08 (Eight) Nos. hand Grenades, 08 (Eight) rounds of 9 mm fired empty cartridges & 04 (Four) rounds of 9 mm Live Ammunitions etc.

CM flags off five vessels

Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India in October 2015 approved the "Assam IWT Project" for development of the IWT sector in Assam with World Bank assistance. The project aims to improve passenger ferry infrastructure and services in Assam and to improve the institutional capacity and framework for inland water transport in the state. The Chief Minister today flagged off the vessels under this project. While flagging off the vessels, the Chief Minister said that MV Lohit will leave for Nimatighat today itself and the additional two vessels already sent from Guwahati to Nimatighat are expected to reach there today. He said that presently, two Ro-Pax vessels are in operation between Nimatighat and Majuli and once the new vessels start playing, passenger ferry service between Jorhat and Majuli would significantly improve. The Chief Minister said that the Assam government has adopted a Rs. 90 crore scheme to make inland water transport system more safe and secured for passengers. Under this scheme, steps are being taken to convert 853 single engine boats that play in the Brahmaputra to marine engine boats at the expense of the state government. The Chief Minister informed that within this week, seven marine engines would be fitted in the ferries that play in the Brahmaputra at Dhubri. Similarly, steps have been taken to procure marine engines for the local ferries that ply between Nimatighat and Majuli. The State government has also decided to procure 5 Ro-Pax vessels, Dr. Sarma said, adding that these vessels would be pressed into service at Majuli, Dhubri and North Guwahati to ease out passenger movement. The Chief Minister further said that training is being imparted for boat owners, crew members about safety measures for the plying of boats besides conducting fitness tests of the boats. He said that as a result of the expeditious measures taken by the IWT department in the last one week, ferry services have received a major boost. Prior to the flagging off ceremony, Chief Minister Sarma took part in the Biswakarma Puja organized at Lachit Ghat by the IWT department and offered his prayers. Principal Secretary of the Transport Department Dr. KK Dwivedi, Commissioner Transport Adil Khan and other senior government officers were present at Lachit Ghat on the occasion.

Lovlina's Gloves Fetch Rs 10 Cr

includes an acrylic painting on two panels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mahatma Gandhi with a tricolor background, which has been priced for Rs 25 lakh. Several other paintings that artists gifted to PM Modi on various occasions are being auctioned, the based price for the artworks ranged from Rs 3 lakh-Rs 25 lakh. There are also other models of important buildings, sculptures, paintings, and souvenirs that the PM received from visiting dignitaries and during important functions over the last two years.

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline

a notification regarding extension of the last date for the intimation of Aadhaar number and linking thereof with PAN to September 30, 2021 which now has been extended till end March 31, 2022. If you already have the permanent account number (PAN) card and are eligible to obtain Aadhaar number or you have already acquired one, then you are required to intimate the Aadhaar number to the Income Tax Department. Your PAN Aadhaar linking needs to be completed, else the PAN will become 'inoperative'. Once the PAN becomes inoperative, one will not be able to undergo several transactions where PAN is required to be quoted mandatorily. The Income Tax Department has specified 18 financial transactions where quoting of PAN is mandatory by an individual. In such cases, the transactions could be carried out only when the PAN and Aadhaar are linked, thus making the PAN re-active. To link Aadhaar with the PAN card, one may go to the e-filing website of the Income Tax Department. One may use log-in credentials or even without logging, the linking of Aadhaar and PAN can be done. The Income Tax Department has made it clear that for filing of ITR, Aadhaar and PAN linkage is mandatory unless specifically exempted.

Aalo Govt. H.S. School Alumni Conducts Social Service



STAFF REPORTER, Aalo, Sept 18 : In a noble gesture, the alumni of Govt. H.S. School Aalo conducted a major social service despite the downpour today. The alumni came with a grass cutter machine and other utensils to clear a large portion of the grass and debris in the school campus. The Principal of the school, Hormo Ete who himself is an alumnus of the school has been able to draw more attention to the problems in the school from the alumni of the school ever since he joined as principal a few months back. He has expressed his gratitude to various batches of the school for coming up with their own ways of contributions. In the absence of general Ground at Aalo due to inordinate delay in construction of stadium, the school ground is the makeshift ground for all state and national Day celebration venues for the last five years.

Worst condition on National Road connecting Silapathar to Arunachal

CORRESPONDENT, Dhemaji, Sept 18: Assam is a hilly river flowing through the connecting road bordering Arunachal. You're shocked to see that too! The border road construction association briefly BRO how smoothly the road construction work has been done under the question of the people. But on the contrary, today this film will adversely affect your mind as well. The river flows over the national road through assam battalion 22 near Likabali and Arunachal temporary check post despite the arrival of lakhs of road passengers every day. Similarly, the border area of Likabali, known as a tourist destination of the entire Assam as well as India, is full of Maa Malini temples and natural resources in the region. Tourists from different parts of the country and abroad are also in the area. In view of that, being a border area of the two states, till date, traffic has been disrupted by pedestrians.

Jamuguri boy shines in national championship

Correspondent

Biswanath Chari, Sept 18:

Dhurpad Kashyap; a school boy from Jamugurihath shines in national Taekwondo championship 2021 held from September 10 to 12 at Uma palace, Budaun, Uttar Pradesh by winning gold medal in 41 KG category boys. Dhurpad, took part in the category of below 14 years boys and defeated his rival from Jharkhand in the final round. He participated in the final round of the first Elite Cup National Taekwondo Championship organized by Elite Martial Arts Academy and Youth Manch Sangathan, U.P on September 10. Dhurpad, a student of Jamuguri Taekwondo Academy is son of Mukul Bora and Chandana Bora of Shantipur here. Kashyap took training from Koustav Baruti, head coach of Jamuguri Taekwondo Academy along with Bikiraj Baruti and Turav Hazarika assistant coaches. Many organizations and individuals from Jamugurihath conveyed best wishes to Dhurpad for his achievement.



Webinar on Nutrition for Pregnant and Lactating Mother

CORRESPONDENT, Golaghat, Sept 18: Grihamalini Forum, Dept. of Home Science of Hemo Prova Borborah Girls College Golaghat in association with IAPEN (India Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition) organised a regional webinar entitled "Nutrition During Pregnancy and Lactation". The webinar was a part of various activities initiated by the Department of Home Science to celebrate National Nutrition Month (Poshan Mah) which is celebrated each year in the month of September. This year the theme is "Converging towards a healthy walk through life". Dr. Ananya Kashyap, HoD, Dept. of Home Science briefly discussed the importance of the webinar along with the history of Poshan Mah in her welcome speech. Principal Dr. Bipul Chandra Bhuyan inaugurated the webinar. Resource person Ms. Nomi Mohan, Senior Dietician, Dispur GNRC Hospital, Guwahati talked ornately on the role of various nutrients during the period of pregnancy and lactation. She also emphasized the importance of the first 1000 days in a child's life. The myths and superstitions related to food during pregnancy and lactation were also discussed to make the audiences. The audiences, mostly teachers and students of the college benefitted by the enlightening session.

N F Railway organised Swachhta Pakhwada

Correspondent,

Rangapara, Sept 18 :

At Rangapara Railway station in connection with Swachhta Pakhwada programme of N.F. Railway from 16 to 19 September. Nukkad Natak on swachata was played at Rangapara Railway station by the students of Rangapara college NSS unit followed by art and slogan competition on swachata among the students. Very praiseworthy initiative by N.F. Railway Rangiya division under the supervision of Prasanta Purakayastha, Chief Staff and welfare Inspector of N.F. Railway at Rangiya.



NRL Declares Highest Ever Dividend of 375% During Financial Year 2021-21

Guwahati, Sep 18 : The Numaligarh Refinery Limited has declared the highest ever Dividend of 375% during the Financial Year 2020-21 (Rs. 37.5 per fully paid equity share of Rs.10 each) which has already been disbursed as Interim Dividend during the year. The 28th Annual General Meeting of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) was held on Saturday, the 18th of September, 2021 at NRL Corporate Office where the company made the announcement. The Meeting was presided over by Chairman NRL and CMD Oil India Limited (OIL), Shri S C Mishra and was attended by MD NRL, Shri S K Barua and other members of the NRL Board and shareholders of the Company. The Financial Year 2020-21 ended on a positive note despite innumerable adversities, leveraging on internal strength, adaptability and robust inbuilt systems and procedures. The highlight of the Financial Year 2020-21 was the change in ownership of the company with OIL taking over as holding company with majority equity shareholding through a Share Purchase Agreement signed on 25th March 2021. Commenting on this historic development, Chairman NRL and CMD OIL Shri S C Mishra said, "I am sure that NRL OIL partnership will be able to achieve tremendous synergy and contribute immensely towards ensuring energy security of the nation and achieve the targets set by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Presence of EIL as a stakeholder will further boost the technical expertise of the Company." During the FY 2020-21, the refinery processed 2,707 TMT of Crude Oil, a 14% increase over the previous year. The company also imported 42 TMT Crude Oil which was processed in the refinery. There was increase in production of HSD by more than 12% at 1,809 TMT and MS by 36% at 636 TMT over the previous year. The refinery also recorded highest ever Wax production of 47 TMT, 17% increase over previous year and highest ever LPG bottling at 57 TMT, an increase of 33% over previous year. Sales volume during the FY 2020-21 was 2,924 TMT an increase of 23.9% compared to 2,361 TMT in the previous year. HSD Sales increased to 1,835 TMT against 1,541 TMT in the previous year, while MS Sales during the year was the highest ever at 647 TMT against 458 TMT in the previous year.



India's Ravi Shastri: 'I have absolutely no regrets about the book launch'

New Delhi, September 18 : "There is no shortcut in India," Ravi Shastri says with a wry smile on a cool September morning in London. All the heat and dust of this summer's series between England and India, which was as riveting as it was controversial, has drifted away. Even Shastri, India's coach at the centre of the furore which followed the postponement of the fifth Test at Old Trafford last week, has found time for a reflective breather before confirming here that he will step down after the T20 World Cup in November. "They're not bothered if there is Covid or not. They just want you to win, and score runs," Shastri says of cricketing fervour in India. "You know, being the coach of India is like being the football coach of Brazil or England. There's always this gun pointing at you. Always. You might have six great months and then you get out for 36 and they will shoot you. Then you have to win immediately. Otherwise they will eat into you, right



through. You need a hide like mine, absolutely like leather, so it doesn't make a difference." Shastri is an engaging company as he considers the magnitude of the role he has filled so successfully since July 2017 after spending three years before then as the director of India's cricket team. It's often said that they are a team with a billion supporters, or critics, but Shastri carries the weight of his job with panache even when accusations are flying around him. Before we consider the contentious abandoned Test, Shastri suggests that the end of the World Cup is the right time for him to leave. "I believe

so because I've achieved all I wanted. Five years as No 1 [in Test cricket], to win in Australia twice, to win in England. I spoke to Michael Atherton earlier this summer and said: 'For me, this is the ultimate - to beat Australia in Australia and win in England in Covid times.' We lead England 2-1 and the way we played at Lord's and the Oval was special." We've also beaten every country in the world in their own backyard in white-ball cricket. If we win the [T20] World Cup that will be the icing on the cake. There is nothing more. I believe one thing - never overstay your welcome. And I would say

that, in terms of what I wanted to get out of the side, I've over-achieved. To beat Australia away and to lead the series in England in a Covid year? It is the most satisfying moment of my four decades in cricket." Yet Shastri has been stalked by acrimony in recent weeks. He launched his new book in London, at a sparkling party where no masks were worn, two days before the fourth Test at the Oval. Four days later he tested positive for Covid and had to go into isolation while the match was being played. He was castigated in England and India for spreading the virus as four members of his support staff also contracted Covid. When the team's assistant physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar tested positive next the players became anxious. The Indian Premier League resumes in the UAE this weekend, after being postponed mid-competition during the pandemic, and there were fears they might miss the tournament. Two hours before the Old Trafford Test was due

to start it was confirmed that India's players, despite all returning negative results for Covid, had chosen not to play. I had expected Shastri to be cagey in discussing the issue but he remains true to his breezy and confident character. "It was funny because in my 10 days I didn't have a single symptom barring a little sore throat. I never had any temperature and my oxygen level was 99% all the time. I didn't take any medication through 10 days of my isolation, not a single paracetamol. I tell the guys: 'Once you're double jabbed, it's a bloody 10-day flu. That's it.'"

Pelé recovering having re-entered intensive care unit in São Paulo

London, September 18 : Pelé is said to be recovering following reports he had re-entered an intensive care unit at São Paulo's Albert Einstein Hospital in an apparent deterioration of the three-time World Cup winner's health after he left the unit earlier this week. ESPN Brasil reported on Friday that Pelé was readmitted to the ICU due to acid reflux. The 80-year-old had a colon tumour removed this month and stayed in the hospital for further monitoring. According to a statement released by Pelé's doctors later on Friday, he is stable and recovering, something his daughter also insisted is the case. Writing on Instagram, Kely Nascimento said: "He is recovering well and within normal range. Promise! The normal recovery scenario for a man of his age after an operation like this is sometimes two steps forward and one step back. Yesterday he was tired and took a little step back." A star for Santos, Brazil and the New York Cosmos, Pelé is one of the greatest footballers of all time. He burst on to the

international stage as a 17-year-old in 1958, scoring six times in total and twice in the final as Brazil won the World Cup for the first time. Brazil retained the trophy in 1962, though Pelé missed much of the tournament through injury, and won it once more in Mexico in 1970, Pelé on that occasion opening the scoring against Italy in the final. Santos claim Pelé scored 1,091 goals in his 18 years with the club, though the number is somewhat disputed as it includes those scored in one-off games during the tours of the 1960s. He retired from the game in 1977, and his health has been a source of concern to family and fans latterly. He has suffered from hip problems for years and cannot walk unaided. In 2014 he spent time in the ICU due to a severe urinary tract infection. Last year Pelé's son said his father suffered from bouts of depression, something the star later denied. "I am good," he said. "I continue to accept my physical limitations in the best way possible but I intend to keep the ball rolling.

England tours of Pakistan on knife edge after New Zealand pull out of country



London, September 18 : The England and Wales Cricket Board will spend the weekend deciding whether to cancel next month's tours of Pakistan after New Zealand abandoned their current visit to the country citing security advice. The Black Caps were due to begin the first of eight white-ball internationals in Rawalpindi on Friday afternoon but instead called off the tour at the 11th hour, with players told to

stay in their hotel rooms and prepare for a flight home. A statement from New Zealand Cricket read: "[Following] an escalation in the New Zealand government threat levels for Pakistan, and advice from NZC security advisors on the ground, it has been decided the Black Caps will not continue with the tour." The Pakistan Cricket Board stressed this was a "unilateral" decision taken by their guests and came despite the prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, directly contacting his New Zealand counterpart, Jacinda Ardern, to assure her that local intelligence has detected no such threat. A statement from the PCB read: "PCB and Govt

of Pakistan made foolproof security arrangements for all visiting teams. The security officials with the NZ team have been satisfied with security arrangements made by the government of Pakistan throughout their stay here." The tour was New Zealand's first to Pakistan since 2003 and, along with extending this 18-year absence, the decision will have alarmed the two England teams that are due to fly out to Rawalpindi next month. Eoin Morgan's men are down to play back-to-back T20 internationals on 13 and 14 October as part of their preparations for the World Cup campaign that starts in the United Arab Emirates the following week, while Heather Knight's women's side are due to play two T20s and three ODIs. It is England's first visit to Pakistan since 2005 and was arranged as a show of gratitude towards the PCB; along with West Indies, Ireland and Australia, their men's Test side agreed to play in the UK last summer, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, thus helping

English cricket avert a £300m loss. But now that goodwill will be put to the test by New Zealand's decision, with an ECB spokesperson saying: "We are liaising with our security team who are on the ground in Pakistan to fully understand the situation. The ECB board will then decide in the next 24-48 hours whether our planned tour should proceed." While the ECB may take a different stance to their New Zealand counterparts and decide the tour remains viable, its fate may yet hinge on the players; the view of Morgan, the all-powerful men's captain who previously opted to miss the 2016 tour of Bangladesh due to security concerns, will likely be key. Either way, the decision by New Zealand represents the latest disruption to the international calendar, with the ECB still counting the cost of last week's abandoned fifth Test at Old Trafford after an outbreak of Covid-19 among India's backroom staff saw their players pull out of the match.

Brilliant Saint-Maximin rescues point for Newcastle against Leeds

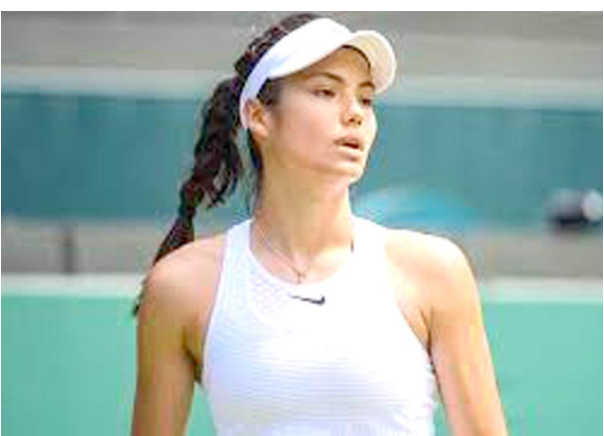
London, September 18 : At times it seemed as if Allan Saint-Maximin was taking Leeds on almost single-handedly and, tellingly, the struggle was often far from unequal. Without their attacking talisman to, once again, ride to the rescue, Newcastle would surely have been well beaten in a wonderful, thrill a minute, match full of audacious creative improvisation and sometimes kamikaze defending. Instead Saint-Maximin's stellar equaliser secured their unloved manager, Steve Bruce, a draw. A point piece leaves both sides still seeking a first Premier League win of the season. Bruce confronting increased hostility at St James' Park and Marcelo Bielsa facing arguably the first real mini "crisis" of his Leeds tenure. "Of course going five games without a win worries me," admitted Bielsa. "We had a lot of possession but we were missing some efficiency. We didn't score in proportion to the amount of chances we created." Newcastle were up against it from the early

moment when Matt Ritchie was booked for hauling Raphinha down. With Bruce's left wing-back in peril of collecting a second yellow card, Bielsa's right-winger sensed opportunity and it was not long before the Brazilian was able to remind everyone of his considerable talent. No matter that Raphinha's goal was originally intended as a deep cross, it was a wondrous delivery. Struck with venomous pace and whip, it dipped and curved into the far corner of the recalled Karl Darlow's goal, leaving Rodrigo - the supposed recipient - to dummy Darlow, leaping out of the way as the ball stole past the wrong footed keeper. Shortly afterwards there was a comedic cameo when Raphinha tugged Joelinton back so forcefully he removed his compatriot's shorts but somehow escaped without a booking; perhaps the referee, Mike Dean, was simply starstruck. Bielsa looked extremely anxious when Saint-Maximin first showed off his terrifyingly impressive change of pace. It left Junior Firpo flat-footed

and an ersatz looking visiting defence in deep trouble. Despite Miguel Almirón miscuing the ensuing opening, Newcastle were afforded a second chance when the ball span free to Joelinton but Illan Meslier denied him, saving the resultant shot with his legs. y now the persistent, if intermittent, "We want Bruce out" soundtrack had resurfaced at full volume but the mood was leavened

by the realisation that an injury and suspension ravaged Leeds backline was distinctly vulnerable. By way of emphasising this point Ritchie's low shot hit a post. Bruce's problem was that his defence was not exactly watertight either and often seemed alarmingly disconnected from a Newcastle's midfield regularly shredded by their visitors' sharp, slick, passing.

Emma Raducanu returns to homemade dumplings after US Open 'whirlwind'



New York, September 18 : Emma Raducanu spent her first night back in the UK tucking into her mother's homemade dumplings and watching a replay of her US Open final victory. The 18-year-old arrived back at home in Bromley on Thursday, five days after an historic victory in New York. Raducanu then spent Friday morning doing the rounds of TV and radio, telling BBC Breakfast: "I think it's gradually sinking in a bit more. Last night I rewatched the final and tried to relive a couple of the moments and remember how it felt. But it's still such a whirlwind of an experience. I've loved every moment of it. It is something that is very difficult to fully comprehend." When I was watching it, it almost feels like that's not me who's playing and pulling off some of those shots. I knew exactly what was going to happen but still there's some very tense moments and I was really proud of how I came through some moments. And the timeout at the end, I didn't realise how stressful that was watching on TV." Raducanu also revealed she felt something was a "little bit off" before the US Open final. She said: "Thank you so

much to everyone who watched and supported and sent me some really kind messages. I would say the most important thing for me was to stay relaxed and in the moment because there was a lot at stake in the final, and it's just very important not to get ahead of yourself and to treat each point one at a time, and I think that's what I managed to do very well. "Before the match I was nervous, I felt like something wasn't quite right, something felt a little bit off, but I couldn't put my finger on what that was and I think that's just usual nerves because of the occasion. But then, once I got on to the court, I felt like it was almost any other match. I just treated it point for point and went about my business as usual." Raducanu said she sang Sweet Caroline and Mr Brightside after her victory and partied after her victory at the US Open. She said: "It was pretty amazing, after the final it was a really nice moment, I just shared it with my close team back at the hotel. "On the way to the hotel after winning and leaving the club there was a party bus going on with music, good tunes and we were all just singing along,

and we had a really nice night just talking until early on in the morning, just reflecting on the whole experience and what an amazing time it's been. I managed to go to some really cool events and places, at the Met Gala I spoke to Lewis Hamilton, which was really cool being such a fan of loads of sports, it was really nice to see him and speak to him there. The Met was such an artistic event with great performances and I was very honoured and grateful to have been able to go." She admitted she has bad habits "like every other teenager". Asked what her parents pull her up on, she said: "I'm not the most organised, so I need to work on that, and I need to work on tidying up, unpacking, because I seem to leave out the suitcase even three weeks after my trip. I take my dishes after I eat, just the usual stuff. I'm honestly like every other teenager in that way." Raducanu has also spoken of how her parents' strict approach helped her become a grand slam champion. Of her welcome home, the teenager said: "They just gave me a hug when I came back, nothing crazy. My mum made some really good homemade dumplings. Just some reassurance in saying they're proud of me is enough." Raducanu has not yet treated herself to anything with the £1.8m prize money she won. Both the teenager's parents are in finance, and told ITV's Good Morning Britain: "I know that tennis is an extremely expensive sport so it will probably go towards that."

Ryder Cup: Harrington warns Koepka-DeChambeau enmity can inspire US

London, September 18 : Europe's Ryder Cup captain Padraig Harrington has warned mutual enmity between Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau could make rather than break the United States at Whistling Straits. Koepka and DeChambeau have traded public blows for much of this year, forming an intriguing backdrop to next weekend's visit of Harrington's team to the US. The PGA Tour had to step in to warn unruly spectators not to goad DeChambeau during tournaments. Harrington, though, is wary of the widespread sense that hostility between the world's seventh- and ninth-ranked golfers will negatively impact on US attempts to reclaim the trophy. "When you have friction between players,

you bring them into a team environment and you overcome it, that's actually a big bonus to the team," Harrington told the Guardian as part of an exclusive interview to be published on Saturday. "If I focused on the US and had this idea of 'Hey, look, this is going to impact their vibe' or whatever, it could actually work in reverse. "If they [Koepka and DeChambeau] get their act together and pull together, the team sees that and pulls together really strongly. All of a sudden you get an uplift from it. That's why I'm not relying on it. As a captain [of the US], I'd see it as something that could work in my favour. If I can get these guys to show unity, the rest of the team would follow. We can't rely on it." Harrington drew a

comparison with the situation between himself and Sergio García. Although long since resolved, the duo had well known clashes earlier in their careers. Both formed part of generally successful European Ryder Cup teams. García was one of Harrington's wildcard picks this time around. "If it was my team, we'd be working on it," Harrington added. "You could say myself and Sergio had that little bit of friction over the years, which we easily overcame on weeks of the Ryder Cup. We would be hugging at a Ryder Cup." Koepka has declared himself fit and available for the Ryder Cup after a wrist injury forced him to withdraw from his last event, the Tour Championship at East Lake.



England pick apart North Macedonia to give Sarina Wiegman perfect start



London, September 18 : New manager Sarina Wiegman cautioned that her team "need some opponents that are of a higher standard than tonight" after her tenure, and England's World Cup 2023 qualifying campaign, began ruthlessly against an exhausted North Macedonia at St Mary's. "We only learned [from tonight] in an attacking way," she said. "Against a top-ranking team it's going to be different. What we know is we need to finish better than we did today. We can be a little bit more composed, more connected, those little things. So we can learn from that and bring it to a higher level, so that even against a better opponent, we can score too." Back in front of fans for the first time since the pandemic, spirits were high and the adopted anthem Sweet Caroline was sung with gusto as the hosts picked over the bones of their mauled opponents in the cool mist. England have not played a competitive fixture in 802 days, since defeat to Sweden in the bronze medal match at the 2019 World Cup. Since then the team has suffered seven losses in 12 games, all friendlies, and there has been a staleness to performances. In many senses the reset the pandemic offered has been sorely needed and, with the arrival of former Netherlands manager Wiegman bringing a fresh approach and top-level experience, there can be some hope of a revitalising of England's fortunes. There could be fewer kinder starts to Wiegman's tenure than a team ranked 131st in the world but England struggled to make the most of their total dominance in the opening half an hour. The team were 1-0 up through an Ella Toone strike but could have been a lot further ahead.

Were microchipped mouthguards the key to Harlequins' success?

London, September 18 :

That Harlequins are the champions of England is one of the great imponderables, given the bleakness of their midwinter. Many a retrospective has been performed on how they did it, most theories drawing out the virtues of rugby with a smile on its face. Perhaps the key does indeed lie in those perpetual smiles. Or more specifically in the mouthguards revealed by them, and the little chips encased therein. Quins were one of three teams in the Premiership last season to adopt a technology called Protecht, through which they were able to monitor accurately and in real time every single significant impact, direct or indirect, to every single player's head. This season all Premiership teams will wear these mouthguards, as rugby union tries to find a way out of its head-injury crisis. The smartest clubs will use them, as Quins did, for much more than data collection. Perhaps because of the hopelessness of their situation in January, when Paul Gustard left, Quins ended up shaping their training methods around the new technology. No longer did



they rely on tackle counts and informal chats with the players about how they were feeling. Now they had a forensic read-out for each of exactly how much punishment he had taken, or was taking, in any match or training session. "On average, we were able to reduce the amount of contact in training each week by 40 to 60%," says Mike Lancaster, head of medical science at the Stoop. "I say this tentatively, because I want to see how we go next season, but our player availability was the best it's been in many, many years." So was the form - and, tellingly, freshness - of the squad as they raised the tempo, time and again, just as other teams started to flag. If the single easiest measure

in response to the head-injury crisis is to limit contact in training, Harlequins have shown how players can benefit in the short term, let alone in later life. The mouthguards are designed by a company called Sports and Wellbeing Analytics. This is far from the first time science has attempted to gauge the forces to which rugby players are exposed, but the benefit of the mouthguard, as opposed to sensors attached elsewhere, is that it is fixed to the skull. "The acceleration of the skull is what you are trying to measure," says Chris Turner, chief executive of SWA, "not of the skin or shirt. The sophistication of the sensors is the key development in the last four or five years. The size of them has

shrunk dramatically. "Which means a lot can now be packed into a player's mouth and a symphony of percussions is revealed on a screen as rugby players go about their business. An accurate gauge such as this of the pressure points in a match is as important a tool for the future of the sport as any of those we wait for science to supply. SWA spent three seasons working with the Ospreys and Swansea University honing the technology. Last season Quins, Gloucester and Leicester pioneered its use in English rugby. SWA have begun work in the women's game, with plans to expand into school and community rugby, where early indications are that the rhythms are very different. Data collection is the priority now, but already they have recorded more than 60,000 impacts in elite men's and women's rugby, 32% of which are from direct impacts to the head, which means that more than twice the number of events recorded at the skull are from impacts to the body. The mean linear acceleration of a direct impact to the head is 33g and the rotational acceleration 2,019rad/s². Hits to the body are more than half as intense. Thus the

overall toll of hits to the body, as experienced at the brain, is greater than that from those direct to the head. This sobering realisation speaks to the latest thinking that it is not so much concussion that is the sport's problem as multiple hits of a moderate intensity. SWA is able to demonstrate that in many cases a player fails a head injury assessment not because of one big impact that jars the brain but because of an accumulation, the last one no bigger than any other. Another finding is the sheer frequency of the blows. Tackle counts and ruck counts barely scratch the surface. "My perception of, say, a ruck is that it's one event," says Dr Chris Jones, SWA's head of science. "Actually it could be five, because I've been tackled, I've recoiled, hit the floor, someone's come in and kneed me in the head, which hasn't been seen, someone else has come in, and so on." Protecht will pick up each impact and quantify it. Concussion, in such a scenario, could even be seen as a player's friend. "It is actually protective against sustaining more impact," says Jones. "You're on enforced leave. If that player hadn't been knocked out he might go on to pick up another 300g in accumulation. That

300 is going to be a lot worse in the long term than whatever the blow that knocks him out is." Rugby's focus, so far, has been on the tackle, where most recorded head injuries occur. To date there is no evidence to suggest the interventions are having an effect on concussion incidence. But if accumulation of blows is the metric the tackle is not the key area. "According to the data we have, the highest frequency of head contacts occurs at the ruck," says Jones. "That has been neglected compared to a number of other areas, which have been heavily scrutinised and adapted, to no real effect." So far, research into rugby's attrition rate and the measures adopted in response have been predicated, by necessity, on little more than guesswork. Now the dynamics of rugby can start to be accurately anatomised. As much as the romantics among us hate the encroachment of science into our passions, this kind of science, the science of welfare, is likely to determine whether the game we love is still around at all in 50 years' time. Besides, if worked as adeptly as by Harlequins, the end result is more than enough to satisfy romantics the world over.

Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman mulls retirement says 'I'm very depressed'

Kolkata, September 18 :

Battling depression due to a nagging back injury, Asian Games gold medal winning athlete Swapna Barman has decided to call it quits, a formal announcement of which will be made in a few days. The decision comes less than 24 hours

year later, which was her last international competition. The lockdown triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic meant that Swapna could not take part in any competition in 2020 and while in 2021 she aimed for the Tokyo Games qualifying mark but again injuries and a second



after Swapna, a North East Frontier Railway athlete, won a gold medal in high jump at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in Warangal. "My body is not taking the toll anymore. Mentally, I'm very depressed and it's not easy," Swapna told PTI from Warangal. "I'm a bit confused, but I've mentally prepared 80-90 per cent to call it quits. I will make the 'big' announcement after reaching Kolkata." "I never wanted to participate, but because of Railway commitments I had to participate here," Swapna, who skipped her pet heptathlon event in Warangal, said. After becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold in Jakarta 2018, Swapna, who has six toes on each foot, struggled with injuries and won a silver at the Asian Championships in Doha a

wave of the pandemic derailed all her plans. This year, she took part only in the Federation Cup and at the ongoing Open Nationals. Swapna had delayed the surgery on doctors' advice and relied on rehab but she said she had enough of it. "Ultimately I have to go for the surgery, even during this meet I was troubled by the back pain. It does not feel well anymore," an emotional Swapna said with a choked voice. The Jalpaiguri athlete was also mired in controversy last year after her house was raided by forest department officials for alleged illegal possession of timber as there were wide protests in the area. "People are jealous of my achievements and my mother is subjected to a lot of harassment. I can't take it anymore. I've to be with my family and deal with it," she concluded.

Madison de Rozario: 'We can't view disability as a positive or a negative'

London, September 18 :

With one kilometre remaining in her Paralympic campaign, alone at the front of the T54 wheelchair marathon, a thought crossed Madison de Rozario's mind. "I was like, this is a really fucking long kick - I've maybe made a terrible decision. "De Rozario had already covered almost 50 kilometres at Tokyo 2020 across the 800m, 1,500m, 5,000m and most of the marathon. On the final day of the Games earlier this month, one last kilometre was all that stood in the way of de Rozario becoming the first Australian woman to win a Paralympic marathon. The 27-year-old had entered the race with a plan. Her coach, wheelchair racing legend Louise Sauvage, had carefully surveyed the course in the days prior. "One of the things that she did say was there's a hill

about four kilometres to go, it kind of starts a bit gradual and ends in a real kicker," says de Rozario. "She basically said, 'that's gonna divide the pack, the race might be won on this hill'." The Australian's dilemma was that, while she can climb with the best, her descending is a

climb was followed by not just one but two descents - back to ground-level and then into the bowels of the stadium. "I knew on that hill that I not only had to get to the top of it first, I had to get to the top with enough of a gap that I could hold on," she says. "I remember coming

point that de Rozario began to question her strategy. But it was too late for second guessing - she had a lead, and had to defend it from a fast-closing Manuela Schär. De Rozario descended into the National Stadium and sprinted for the finish-line. "That was the longest 500 metres - lap and a quarter of that track - of my career," she says. Re-watching the footage of that lap, with Guardian Australia on the other end of a Zoom call, the normally fast-talking de Rozario is temporarily lost for words. "It's a little weird watching it - in the best possible way," she says. Switzerland's Schär closed the gap on de Rozario as they raced around the stadium - at one point coming within a wheelchair-length of the Australia-

lian. But a burst in the final 50 metres of the 42km race propelled de Rozario to the gold medal. "I wasn't sure it was going to be enough," she says. "But sometimes you just hand the reins over to your body. Like, 'you know how to do this - just do everything'. And thankfully, my body was able to just get me over that line. "Two weeks later, de Rozario's incredible victory is beginning to sink in. "Being back home after a Games is always such an emotional roller coaster," she says. De Rozario is speaking from isolation in Sydney, one of a select few Paralympians to participate in a trial of the home quarantine program. "There is an app that we all have, that we had to download before we left the airport," she says. "It'll beep at you anywhere from once to four times a day. And you have to check in with the photo of yourself - it will face ID you and geolocate you." Each time the app beeps, de Rozario has five minutes to

check-in. "I have missed it once because I was asleep," she admits sheepishly. The Paralympic champion's stint in home quarantine ends on Tuesday, and she is hoping to be straight back on a plane. "We're trying to get over to Berlin and London for two more marathons this year," she says. "But right now we're really struggling finding flights to come back home. So those plans may not may not work." Further afield, de Rozario is eyeing a busy 2022 with the world championships and Commonwealth Games on the horizon. Then Paris for the 2024 Paralympics and beyond. "I will definitely be staying on," she says. "There is a part of me that is kind of planning my career with 2032 as a home Games at the end of it. So the Australian public will be seeing me around for a while... I'm not going anywhere."



weak spot. With Tokyo National Stadium's track sunk into the ground, the final

over that hill, I knew I had a bit of a gap. I did not know if it was enough. "It was at this

around the stadium - at one point coming within a wheelchair-length of the Australia-

Guest House

A/C Non A/C Rooms with Car Parking At POGL Brahmaputra, Chandmari, Guwahati-21 Ph. WA : 9678009493 9707183470

The bond of love and devotion.

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

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

Abhayapuri-94350-22784 | Agartala-98560-93668 | Baihata chariali-94351-42568/98641-40488 | Bangaigaon-7002184811, 9435547654, 9435121367 | Barpeta road-94350-17865 99541-41975 | Barpeta town -94350-25127 | Bhawanipur-7002206773 | Bandaradewa-98649-84753 | Bijoynagar -99570-98392/94010-01157/94353-40662 | Boko-94010-02588 | Chaygaon-9435014549 | Dadara -98546-98027 | Dhupdhara-96785-16189 | Dhamaji-99546-51322 | Dhubri-94350-29279 | Diphu-94350-66701/94350-66643 | Dudhnoi-94357-21505/94351-28048 | Goalpara-70023-10904/88762-23858 | Golaghat-96132-30384 | Guwahati -94355-59057/97065-94950 | Hajo-94353-47024/88763-09327 | Hojai-94357-29521/84028-59256 | Jorhat -94350-53934/98541-06776 | Kharupitia -98541-44223 | Kokrajhar-97070-29429/99548-88721/94354-81234 | Karimgunj-97061-39061 | Krishnai-88224-15337 | Lumding -94351-63327/97066-14137 | Mangaldoi -94350-87284/94351-86435/97065-39174/73994-79163 | Mirza-98540-71983/99572-81858 | Morigaon -94350-64986/80111-17171 | North Lakhimpur-88224-21077 | Nagaon-97061-79408/94355-18665 | Nalbari -98644-14515/98540-30209 | Pathsala-80110-06658 | Dhekiajuli-98548-29934 | Dibrugarh-98548-11265 | Rangia -94351-05888/96782-26563 | Silchar -97061-39061/70054-86129 | Silapathar-70028-94393 | Shillong-90869-66640 | Suwalkuchi -98643-54859 | Tinsukia-94350-35156/94350-35511/94350-36463 | Tezpur-97060-73481 | Tihu-97068-53124 | Udalguri-97063-46492

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