

The Assam Rising

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Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai tells IOC she is 'safe and well'

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Accident On Kaliabhomora Bridge

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 22 :

The Kaliabhomora Bridge, completed in 1987, is a 3.015 km long pre-stressed concrete road bridge on NH-715 over the Brahmaputra River in Assam. In a reported accident on Monday, a vehicle rammied into the railings of the Kaliabhomora Bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Tezpur, Assam, and fell into the river. Meanwhile, Police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have reached the spot and the search is on for the vehicle but it is yet to be found. The initial inquiry has established that the vehicle was a truck. Sonitpur district administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and the Army have been called in for help.

Three youth arrested

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 22 :

27 Assam Rifles detained three youths from Nagaland's Mon district, along the Indo-Myanmar border. Three youths were detained by the Assam Rifles while on their way to join the United Liberation Front of Asom - Independent (ULFA - I). In an operation by the 27 Assam Rifles, the three youths were reportedly detained from Nagaland's Mon district, along the Indo-Myanmar border. The three detained youths have been identified as Bikash Deka, Arindam Bora, and Himanta Neog. They are being kept at the Assam Rifles Camp and are under interrogation.

Vehicle Seized

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 22 :

As many as seven sacks of coal illegally loaded in a Tata Magic Passenger vehicle were seized in Assam's Margherita, police said. Acting on a tip-off, Margherita Police station Officer in charge Someswar Konwar seized the vehicle where the coal was concealed inside the passenger seat. The vehicle was reportedly coming from Nandang under Margherita Police station. The driver however fled the spot before he could be caught.

Construction work of AIIMS Guwahati will be completed within 6 months: Mansukh Mandaviya



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 22 :

Union Minister Mandaviya expressed his dissatisfaction at the not-so-speedy progress of works. According to a release from the Office of the Assam Health Minister, the Union Minister was unhappy about the delay in

completing the construction work of the AIIMS and expressed his dissatisfaction to the concerned firm carrying out the works. Mandaviya then ordered the two construction companies to finish the remaining works within the next six months so that the institute can be thrown open to the

public. The construction works of All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Guwahati will be completed within six months said Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. Addressing the media while on visit of the construction works of AIIMS-Guwahati at

Changsari on the outskirts of Guwahati, the Union Minister said that the construction companies have been instructed to complete the work within six months. Mandaviya reviewed the progress of AIIMS Guwahati construction works at IIT-Guwahati earlier and the Union Minister expressed his dissatisfaction at the not-so-speedy progress of works. The construction companies of the project were asked to speed up the work and complete it within the next six months. Accompanied by the state Health and Family Welfare Minister Keshab Mahanta, Mr. Mandaviya went to the AIIMS Guwahati construction site. He was also accompanied by the officials

from AIIMS Guwahati, IIT Guwahati, Health and Family Welfare Department, and Kamrup district administration. He then asked the AIIMS Guwahati authority to recruit more faculties for the medical institution and further asked the state Health Minister to depute an IAS officer as the Deputy Director of AIIMS for the smooth progress of the work. Earlier, while reviewing the progress of the construction at IIT-Guwahati and the Union Minister expressed his dissatisfaction at the not-so-speedy progress of works. The construction companies of the project were asked to speed up the work and complete it within the next six months.

IAF Group Capt Abhinandan Varthaman awarded Vir Chakra for shooting down Pakistan's jet in 2019



New Delhi, November 22 :

Indian Air Force Wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhinandan Varthaman was awarded the Vir Chakra on Monday (November 22, 2021) by President Ram Nath Kovind for shooting down a Pakistani F-16 fighter aircraft aerial combat on February 27, 2019.

In 2019, Abhinandan Varthaman had found himself in the middle of a ruthless battle with a Pakistani fighter jet, amid the aerial conflicts that were underway between Indian and Pakistan, following Pulwama attack, that year. Abhinandan shot down a Pakistani

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CM Reviews construction works of new Cardio-Neuro Centre at GMCH

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 22 :

Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today held a meeting with senior officials of Health and Family Welfare Department, GMCH and PWD (B) Department and reviewed the progress of construction works of proposed Cardio-Neuro Centre (CN Centre), GMCH, Guwahati at No.1 State Guest House, Koinadhora. During discussion, Dr Sarma said that the new super specialty hospital will be inaugurated in the first week of February, 2022. Once it becomes functional, Cardiology, Neurology, Cardiac Surgery and Neuro Surgery department will be completely shifted from GMCH to the new hospital. While



guiding the general structure and functioning of the proposed hospital, Dr Sarma said that the new hospital must be run in fully professional manner and all best possible technology should be applied

in all sphere of its operation. During the review, Dr Sarma also said that the existing paying cabins of GMCH will be replaced with 200 bedded new Paying Cabin Block and directed PWD (Building) to initiate steps for its construction as early as possible. Health Minister Keshav Mahanta was also present during the review meeting. Later on, Chief Minister Dr Sarma reviewed the implementation status of various NLCPR (under

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Drugs case: NCB mulls moving Supreme Court against Bombay HC bail to Aryan Khan

New Delhi, November 22 :

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is reportedly deliberating if it wants to file an appeal before the Supreme Court against the bail of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan in the drugs-on-cruise case. The federal agency is currently seeking legal opinion following the recent order of Bombay high court in the case. Aryan, who was arrested with Arbaaz Merchant, and Munmun

Dhamecha by the NCB following a raid on the Goa-bound Cordelia Cruise ship on October 2, was granted bail by the high court on October 28 on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh each. In its detailed 14-page order, the high court said there is "hardly any positive evidence" against Aryan, Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun for the offence of conspiracy under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The court further said Aryan was not in possession of

drugs while the other two had "small quantities" of drugs under the NDPS Act. Hailing the Bombay High Court's bail order on Aryan Khan's arrest, Shiv

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Protesting farmers put six demands to PM Modi: Sack MoS, make MSP legal right



New Delhi, November 22 :

Even as the Centre began setting the stage for the Union Cabinet to approve on Wednesday the draft of Bills needed to repeal the three agricultural laws, the farm unions wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi listing their remaining demands, especially a legal mandate for MSP, and said they would continue to protest until all issues were resolved. "The Cabinet is likely to take up on Wednesday the withdrawal of the three farm laws for approval. The Bills for withdrawal of the laws shall then be introduced in the forthcoming Parliament session," sources

said. Meanwhile, Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) held a press conference at the protest site at Delhi's Singhu border, and said that farm unions would continue with various protest events as per schedule, and that a key meeting would be held on November 27. The SKM has called for a mahapanchayat on Monday in Lucknow where several farm leaders, including Rakesh Tikait, will be present. "The next meeting will take place on November 27 to review developments, if any," the SKM said. The meeting will also chart further course of action, leaders said. The unions will also celebrate Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Diwas to mark Sir Chhotu Ram's birth anniversary on November 24, farm leaders said. Two days later, they will hold a 'Dilli Border Morche Par Chalo' with tractor rallies across states to mark one year since the first set of farmers arrived from Punjab and Haryana at Singhu. From November 29, the SKM is planning to send a set of 500 protesters each day to Parliament in tractors to protest during the Winter Session. "We have written an open letter to the Prime Minister. We will emphasise on several issues, including a legal mandate for MSP. The details of the committee being formed on MSP have been discussed in the letter. The Electricity Amendment Bill

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BHEJA FRY



Father: Why did you get such a low score in that exam?
Son: Absence!
Father: You were absent on the day of the exam?
Son: No but the boy who sits next to me was!

Railway week award ceremony held



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 22 :

The 66th Railway week (Zonal Level) Awards Ceremony was held at Rang Bhawan in Maligaon on 22 Novem-

ber. Anshul Gupta, General Manager, N. F. Railway gave away awards to achievers from various departments of the five divisions and headquarters

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Taliban target 'immoral' Afghan TV shows, tell women artists and scribes to wear hijabs

Kabul, November 22 :

In yet another setback for women's rights in Afghanistan, the Taliban have now ordered television channels to stop airing shows featuring women artists. The group said that Afghan women artists and female scribes must wear hijabs according to Islamic law. This order is part of the newly issued

guidelines by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, or moral police, American broadcaster Voice of America (VOA) reported. One of the eight directives issued by the virtue ministry states that films and dramas should not have female actors. The new policy prevents television stations from showing men who are considered indecently ex-

posed or not covered from chest to knees, the report added. The Taliban defended the directive, saying it is aimed at countering the propagation of "immorality" and airing of videos that "are against the principles of Sharia." "Foreign and locally produced movies that promote foreign culture and traditions in Afghanistan and promote immorality should not be broadcast,"

the ministry said. The guidelines also prohibit airing satirical shows that "insult" or undermine the "dignity" of individuals. The Taliban took over Afghanistan in mid-August after a decades-long war, which plunged the country into a prolonged humanitarian, security and economic crisis. Going against all



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B.Voc STGM Deptt. Students of Kaliabor College participated in a workshop on "Pruning & Cold Weather Operations" at Kellyden Tea Estate.

National Webinar organised by NIRDPR NERC Guwahati

Staff Reporter

Guwahati, Nov 21: The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati, Assam has organised One day National Webinar on Education, Skill Development and Employment of Youth on Friday last as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav Celebrations (75 years of India's Independence). The main aim of the webinar is to appraise the current state of Education, Skill Development and Employment for Indian Youth. Deliberate the key challenges concerning training and job opportunities for youth and to suggest various measures for facilitating the transition of young people to the world of work. The Webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, IAS (Rtd.) Chairman, National Council for Vocational Education and Training,

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, in presence of Dr. Murugesan Ramasamy, Director, NIRDPR NERC Guwahati, and Dr.T.Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and Webinar Coordinator, while welcoming the delegates and guests emphasised the need for identifying the desired route to create meaningful employment and sustainable livelihood for youth. Skilling is building a better India. To carry out skilling of Youth convergence across sectors and states in terms of skill training activities has to be established with partnerships. Further ensuring quality education at all levels is an essential requirement for empowering the young generations by effective implementation of the Right to Education Act. Dr. Murugesan Ramasamy Director, NERC NIRDPR while delivering the Open-

ing remarks highlighted that at present youth is in cross roads after completing the higher secondary schooling. Skilling is to achieve economic growth in India. Educational institutions should focus on developing skilled persons instead of simply providing degrees. Training and providing employment for youth is to be taken up as a priority area and every one should thrive for this. Professor. Battu Satyanarayana Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga in his speech deliberated on National Education Policy 2020 and Skilling of Youth and said that earlier the education institutions were focusing on Knowledge dissemination only imparting required skills among the learners was quite neglected as a result the youth in the society are

lagging skills and unemployment rate has gone up. dependability and Team with interpersonal behaviour. You empowerment practitioners should focus on attitudinal reconstruction among youth rather than just focusing on skill for accessing sustainable livelihoods. The Webinar was concluded with a proposal of Vote of thanks and wrap up by Dr.V.Suresh Babu, Associate Professor, NIRDPR NERC Guwahati. The participants are represented from pan India.

Correspondent

Udalguri, Nov 22: The Youth Parliamentary Sub-Committee of Udalguri District Sahitya Sabha, in association with Dhoptal village development committee and Rim Jhim club has organized a youth conference to create a conducive environment for the creation of a literary culture at Tangla. According to the youth conference program held at the premises of Rim Jhim club on Sunday, the planting of trees was done at 8 o'clock in the morning by assistant teacher of Chamuapara ME School Kulen Deka, assistant teacher of Paneri ME school Sushil Das and assistant teacher of Bezbhakti High school Tarun Das. The flag of Assam Sahitya Sabha was hoisted at 8:30 am by Adit Chandra Kalita, Vice President of Udalguri District Sahitya Sabha. Gouri Sankar Das, President of Tangla Sahitya Sabha commemorated. At 9:30 am, a drawing competition was inaugurated among the children, adolescents and youths by assistant teacher of Ratanpur High



School Kanak Chandra Rabha and conducted by artist Nitu Sharma. Arup Jyoti Rabha, a playwright and founder of Adhigam, inaugurated the book and picture exhibition at 10 a.m. Dr. Narayan Bora, Principal of Paneri College inaugurated the lecture on the role of youth in building a literary society and felicitation program. The program began with a musical accompaniment of Deviyangsa Sarania. Chandra Shekhar Kakatiye, former secretary of Rim Jhim club delivered the keynote address. Dr. Narayan Bora, Principal of Paneri college inaugurated the lecture on the role of youth society in the formation of literature society and felicitation program. The

program was attended by Nripen Sharma, retired subject teacher of Harisinga High School as a chief guest and the program was presided over by Hareswar Kalita, President of Udalguri District Sahitya Sabha. Former president of Udalguri Shatdal Sahitya Sabha Gautam Jyoti Talukdar delivered a lecture as an honorable guest. International kabaddi referee Namal Rabha, young artist Queen G. Talukdar, young writer Sushant Moshahary, dancer Purbashri Bania and artists of national award holder for short movie "Requiem for Hope" Pritam Patowary, Nikitesh Das and Hirakjyoti Deka were specially felicitated. On the other hand, the best contestants in

the online poem writing competition, Sayanika Kakati of Orang, Partha Pratim Pathak of Tangla and Deepshikha Sharma of Bhergaon were awarded with the prizes in the program. During the program, Udalguri District Social Welfare Department's Jwngsar Boro, Angelisa Basumtary and District Child Line's Rasmita Borgoyary, Himakshi Rabha, Ansula Moahahary and Hemanta Boro gave a message on the ongoing social upheaval in our society. All the meritorious students of Dhoptal village were specially felicitated at the program, and the position holder on the art competition Abwngshri Boro, Jubi Deka, Violina Sharma and Mridusmita Rabha was also awarded.

BRO motorcycle Expedition 2021



Staff Reporter

Guwahati, Nov 22: Adventure Sports has always been a source of inspiration for all ranks in Border Roads Organization (BRO). As part of the 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence Celebrations 'Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', BRO under the stewardship of Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhury, VSM, DGBR has taken the challenging task of a Pan India Motorcycle expedition to cover approximately 20,000 kms in 75 days by 'BRO Karamyogis'. The members of the expedition will spread the achievements of BRO in Nation Building over the past six decades. They will also

be spreading the message of Peace, National Integration and Harmony towards achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' through several public interaction programmes/activities to include Medical Camps, Swachh Bharat Initiatives, Road Safety Campaigns and visiting old age homes/orphanages. This expedition was Flagged Off by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 14th from Delhi. Since then the expedition has covered 7000 Kms through various cities as well as difficult terrain like Pang, Leh, Kargil, Srinagar, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Nathula, Guwahati, Tezpur, Itanagar,

Pasighat, Doodhoo, Jorhat, Dimapur, Imphal etc. The expedition team reached Aizawl on Sunday. From here the expedition will be the responsibility of Project Pushpak till Kolkata. The Minister of Sports & Youth Services, Mizoram, Pu Robert Romawia Royte, Flagged Off the Motorcycle expedition in the presence of PN Yadav, CE, Project Pushpak on November 22 for its next phase. The Flag off Ceremony also included Mizoram cultural dance and felicitation of BRO ex-servicemen and widows in the State. The Minister highlighted the excellent services being rendered by BRO in connecting places/people in the country in general and Mizoram in particular. He appreciated BRO's idea of spreading the messages of National Integration across the country through the expedition and wished the participants Best of Luck.

Union Minister Goyal attended 'Janajati Gaurav Divas' at Guwahati

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 22: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, today participated in the 'Janajati Gaurav Divas' organized by Kalyan Ashram, held at Haryana Bhawan, Guwahati. During his speech, at the Janajati Gaurav Divas, the Minister highlighted the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on uplifting the tribal population in the country. The Union Minister apprised that these initiatives have been organised to provide a platform for the tribal communities to present their talent in various fields and lay out a roadmap for their all-round development. The Minister also praised different artifacts made by the tribal population in the country. The week-long celebration is dedicated to tribal communities of India, which commenced on November 15th and continues across the country with full enthusiasm and throws light on different colours of tribal culture, informed the Union Minister. Goyal stated that 15th November, is the birth anniversary of the legendary tribal freedom fighter, Bhagwan Birsa Munda and will be celebrated every year as 'Janajatiya Gaurav Divas' and therefore, programmes are being organised across the country to honour the legacy of the tribal freedom fighters, who till now have remained the unsung heroes of our freedom struggle. Industries and Commerce Minister of Assam, Chandra Mohan Patowary Chandra Mohan Patowary and Rangia MLA, Bhabesh Kalita were also present at the event. Later today, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Goyal had an interactive session with the Stakeholders of the Tea Industry and Laghu Udyog Bharati, NER held at Kiranshree Grand, Guwahati. During the interaction with the Stakeholders, he raised various issues regarding the tea industry especially in Assam. The issues included MSP for tea leaves, different agricultural benefits for the small tea growers, higher number of large-scale bidders at the tea auction etc. were highlighted. The Union Minister thoroughly discussed the issues with the participants and assured appropriate measures. Organized by the Tea Board of India, the interactive session also witnessed the presence of Assam Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary.

BSF rescued capsized at Salmara



Staff Reporter, Guwahati Nov 22: A civil boat got overturned in Bharamputra river during loading process at Boleralga Ghat of South Salmara on November 21. Alert Seema Praharis of nearby BSF BOP Boleralga Tent Post, 06 Bn under BSF Guwahati Fir immediately responded and started rescue operation with the help of BSF and civil boat. During rescue operation, BSF troops also evacuated a seriously injured Indian national named Asmat Ali (55 yrs), S/O Alauddin Seikh, of Village Boleralga under outh Salmara and immediately shifted him to nearest hospital by the help of BSF boat. Due to timely action taken by Border Security Force troops, precious life of the critically injured Indian National could be saved. The local village president/member and the villagers have thanked and appreciated the good work done by BSF. Nevertheless the Border Security Force is dedicated for the Security of Borders of India as well as providing help to border population as its guided principle and ethos.

Forest beat officer arrested

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 22: Lumding police arrested Nakhuti Forest Beat officer Hobibur Rahman and forest personnel deployed in the same forest Beat Abul Kalam Azad for alleged nexus with a gang of land brokers who helped the encroachers to encroach land in Lumding reserve forest, sources added. Both the forest personnel were produced in the court at Shankar Nagar in Hojai district this morning, sources said adding further that till filing of this report, Lumding police arrested a total of 9 land brokers including these two forest personnel in connection with encroachment of land in Lumding reserve forest.

Intensive Traffic Enforcement conducted

STAFF REPORTER

Aalo Nov 22: In a step towards safety on roads for the citizens of Aalo, West Siang District police under the supervision of West Siang Superintendent of Police Raja Banthia conducted

intensive traffic enforcement for three days. In this drive, total 395 traffic violations were booked, most of which were without helmets (318) and the second highest number of violations were driving without a valid driving li-

cence (34). Twelve vehicles were impounded due to lack of number plates. We appeal to all the citizens of West Siang district to follow traffic rules and ensure safer roads for ourselves and our loved ones.

Hospitality and Adventure Tourism Conducted by Indian Army

Staff Reporter, Aalo Nov 22: The Hospitality and Adventure Tourism organized by the Indian Army through 4th Battalion Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry concluded in function a held with the civilian on November 19 last. The elated and enthusiastic youths who completed the course successfully were felicitated and given away certificate on the day. The MLA Aalo East and Advisor Law and Justice Advocate Kento Jini hailed it as a major



boost for the unemployed youth for sustainable employment generation in the years to come. Extending his gratitude to the Indian Army, the MLA urged them to such skill development programme for the youth and this effort by the Army will go a long way in building Army-Civil camarade-

rie. Shri Gedo Ori Deputy Director of Tourism, CDR Aalo Military Station and CO 4th Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry were present. Cycling, camping, exhibition of local crafts and properties and rafting was organized on the day on the river bank.

District Admin conducts Quiz Competition



Correspondent

Hojai, Nov 22: In a bid to create mass awareness on voting rights and its significance, among the new voters and citizens, Hojai District Administration

under SVEEP cell organised a Quiz Competition at district headquarter Sankardevnagar in Hojai on Sunday. A total of nine teams comprising of three participants from

different schools and colleges of the three LACs of district took part in the competition. The theme of the competition was Indian Democracy and Election. Notably, Hojai District Administration, in order to create mass awareness among the new voters on Voting and it's importance has been continuously organising different competition and campaigns.

World Fisheries Day celebrated in Cachar

STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Nov.22: World Fisheries Day was celebrated in a befitting manner at Dakbangla Netaji Sangha at Borjalenga in Cachar district on Sunday. Minister for Fisheries, Environment and Forest and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya was the chief guest. The Minister handed over a cheque to a progressive fish farmer of Kalain Block, Ranjhana Das amounting to Rs.3,37,500. He gave away certificates to the best fish

farmers namely Maa Monasha SHG under Palonghat Block, Joydeep Das under Borjalenga Block, Abdus Salam of Karimganj district and Murshed Ahmed Choudhury of Hailakandi district. Suklabaidya also flagged off fish transport vehicles - two motorcycles with ice boxes and two e-rickshaws with ice boxes - under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, 2020-21. He urged the youths to take to fishing in

a big way as it is a 'very lucrative business'. He said the youths must come forward to avail the government schemes to make a decent living. The event was attended by Deputy Director of Fishery, Tapan Kumar Das, Managing Director of FISHPED cum Nodal Officer, APART, Dr.Dhruba Jyoti Sharma, DDC, Cachar, Rajib Roy, CFDOs, Nalbari and Cachar and other dignitaries.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Delayed winter may be a sign of warmer global temperatures

Shifting seasons are directly linked to warmer global temperatures. A slight change in temperature is enough to push the spring thaw earlier, and delay the first frost until later in the fall. ... As a result, winters are shorter, spring is earlier, summers are longer and fall arrives later. The growing seasons are shifting. Spring is arriving earlier, winters are shorter, and the number of freezing days is declining. These changes affect the timing of many life cycle events, such as when flowers bloom or when pollinators emerge. Changes in the timing of these events - spring thaw or songbird migration, for example - can have adverse effects on ecosystems, because different species may respond to different environmental cues, resulting in a misalignment between species that may rely on one another. Shifting seasons are directly linked to warmer global temperatures. A slight change in temperature is enough to push the spring thaw earlier, and delay the first frost until later in the fall. These environmental changes cause many trees and spring wildflowers to bloom earlier than typical. As a result, winters are shorter, spring is earlier, summers are longer and fall arrives later. The US EPA uses leaf and bloom dates reflecting national phenology trends to indicate climate change. Scientists have high confidence that the earlier arrival of spring events is linked to recent warming trends in global climate. Disruptions in the timing of these events can have a variety of impacts on ecosystems and human society. For example, an earlier spring might lead to longer growing seasons, more abundant invasive species and pests, and earlier and longer allergy seasons. Unusually warm weather in late winter can create a "false spring" that triggers the new growth of plants to begin too early, leaving them vulnerable to any subsequent frosts - trends that have been increasingly observed throughout the United States. So far, the sudden changes in the meteorological pattern have made the job of weathermen even more difficult. Although they are predicting that the minimum temperature will drop significantly in the next few days, how long that will last is not easy to predict. Hence, for the long-term forecast of the coming winter, they are going to wait for some more time so that it can be done with more accuracy.

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Letter to The Editor

You can send us your self-composed article, story, poem, letter to the editor or any other creative work done by you. We are responsible for publishing it in The Assam Rising. We will also find out one best contributor/writer every week and an attractive prize will be given to encourage him/her. So, without any further delay mail us your own work with full name and address to assamrising@gmail.com.

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

What unites Bihar and Kerala young men? It has to do with jobs

The skills and education of today's young adults and their access to economic opportunities will be a deciding factor in India fulfilling its economic potential in the coming decade. In last week's article, we looked at how the life trajectories of young women-20-29 years-have changed over time in India. This article explores the regional labour market and education trends for India's young men in the age group of 20-29 years between 2004-05 and 2018-19. The new National Employment Policy, which will be drafted soon, should take into account these regional trends before finalising regional and sector-wise incentives for employment creation. Kerala and Bihar, India's two major states, are vastly different in terms of economic prosperity. The former is among the most prosperous states while the latter is the poorest state in terms of real income per person. There are, however, two startling similarities among them. These are the top-most Indian states in terms of the proportion of young men (20-29 years) in higher education. Similarly, these are also the states with the highest proportion of young men who were looking for work but did not find it, remaining unemployed. These numbers are based on our estimates for 2018-19 from the Periodic Labour Survey data. Among India's young men, unemployment rose across all major states by 2018-19 from 2004-05. Further, the regional variation in unemployment of young men has risen

sharply as well, reflecting a divergence in their economic performance and suggesting a higher shortfall of jobs in certain states. While in 2004-05, the unemployed-to-population ratio of young adults ranged from 1.5 per cent (Karnataka) to 8.9 per cent (Kerala), the range had more than doubled by 2018-19, with the least being 5.8 per cent (Gujarat) and the highest 21 per cent (Bihar). Similarly, while the proportion of young men in education has risen in all states, the regional variation has increased well. Taken together - higher unemployment and higher enrolment in higher education - means

VIDYA MAHAMBARE

that more than 18 per cent of young men between the ages of 20 to 29 years, were not economically active, delaying their contribution to the economy during their prime years. India's employment policy needs to consider the following - if the focus on formal higher education continues then the impetus for job creation would need to be in high-end manufacturing and services to fulfil young men's aspirations. Even though the quality of education may not be good to raise employability, a degree holder aspires for a certain type of jobs, resulting in the mismatch of available jobs and young generation's expectation of job profiles. Young men in prosperous states such as Gujarat and Karnataka, middle-income states such as Odisha, West Bengal, and poorer states such as Bihar

and Chhattisgarh saw an increase in employment in both industries and services during 2004-05 and 2018-19. In contrast, in the prosperous states of Maharashtra and Kerala, both the share of industrial and services employment fell, which coincided with a rise in unemployment and higher education. It is noteworthy that Punjab, Haryana, and West Bengal have seen a rise in industrial employment, which includes construction sector work, among young men. India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, however, witnessed a decline in the proportion of young men employed in services and near-stagnation in industrial employment. Given that nearly 16 per cent of young men in India or 14.5 million are in Uttar Pradesh, if the New Employment Policy can provide incentives for job creation, in both industry and services in the state, it would also lower the pressure on migration. It is a natural transition for young men to move away from farm employment to higher education and into non-farm jobs as the local economy develops. The trend is clearly visible in several prosperous states including Kerala and Tamil Nadu where less than 10 per cent of young men work on the farm. Even among the states that are known for their agriculture strength - Punjab and Haryana - only 11-13 per cent of young men work on farms. Even in two of the poorest states among India's major states - Uttar Pradesh and Bihar - less than 30 per cent of young men are into agriculture.

It's not just cricket. Racism against Yorkshire's south Asian Muslims has a long history



In the days since Azeem Rafiq gave evidence recounting the racism he faced within the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, people of colour across Britain have been moved to share their own accounts. But there is something distinct about Rafiq's testimony, which reveals how Yorkshire sits in the national imagination and how Yorkshire's south Asian Muslims have been historically positioned as outsiders. When Rafiq spoke about being physically pinned down and having red wine poured down his throat at age 15, I thought about the ways that action replicated the logic of a whole range of top-down policies and processes that have violently been imposed on people of colour. For instance, in response to the arrival of Commonwealth migrants after the second world war, 11 local councils adopted a policy of "bussing" migrant children to attend schools elsewhere in order that they made up no more than 30% of the classroom. Three of the 11 councils that adopted this policy - Bradford, Huddersfield and Halifax - were in Yorkshire. Paraded as an "integration" project, the buses were soon termed "Paki buses" by local people, and children were taught in segregated sections of buildings. This exemplifies the paradoxical message that haunts us to this day: while we order you to integrate, we will continue to label you and punish you as outsiders. At the time, the "problem" was immigrants not speaking English. Later, in 1988, the problem would be rearticulated as one of cultural backwardness linked specifically to Islam, in light of images of Asian Yorkshiremen burning Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*. By 2001, news media would invoke such images again when they spoke of riots in Bradford. The government review would explain the unrest as the result of "parallel lives" - suggesting that south Asians lived "apart from" the "rest of society", rather than considering police brutality and fascist violence, or decades of deindustrialisation and unemployment, or racist labour and housing markets. After 7/7, in 2005, the narrative about Yorkshire's Asian Muslim population (both terms conflated

since the war on terror began) would be solidified when three of the bombers were found to be from my hometown, Leeds. After so many decades of positioning Yorkshire's Asians as a menace to the nation, the locale would be deemed explanation enough for their violence. Multiculturalism was declared a failure, and south Asian Muslims were seen to require surveillance at every level - now blatant through the Prevent

counter-extremism, which criminalise our identities in every public institution. Entire Yorkshire towns would go on to be castigated through Islamophobic and racist stereotypes. Think of Rotherham and you think of "grooming gangs"; think of Bradford and you think of documentaries like *Make Bradford British*. To fully understand this racism, we need to look deeper into the social and economic forces that shaped Yorkshire's Asian population. British colonialism, working-class exploitation and racist border legislation can all shed light on the distinct manifestation of racism that Rafiq, and all of us, well know. Yorkshire's textiles mills and iron foundries were first built during rapid industrialisation in the 1800s, by merchants whose money came from the slave trade, in which they exchanged goods pillaged from elsewhere for human beings at the west African coast. Profits made from enslaved

labour were invested into new technologies, such as locomotives, which were then exported to help pillage other colonies (trains from Leeds were sent to Sierra Leone) or raw materials that were turned into cloth, which colonised countries were forced to buy. In 1832, Indian weavers petitioned parliament to complain that British cloth imports, alongside exploitatively high taxation on Indian cloth exports, were undermining their industries, pushing many to leave their jobs and, eventually, to simply export raw cotton that Britain would spin and sell back to them. The industrialisation of places such as Yorkshire was built through the deindustrialisation of India. These very processes provided the conditions that led to my grandad being in search of work in rural Punjab in the 1960s. When he migrated to Bradford, as many people did, my grandfather worked in the mills that had contributed to the impoverishment of his homeland. As with others, he worked the most undesirable shifts - Pakistani men sometimes made up the entirety of night shifts in wool-combing, for example. Many were given white-washed names by bosses who could not be bothered to grant them individuality - our family had its own Uncles "Tony" and "Peter". Hearing Rafiq mention the names "Steve" and "Kevin" given to cricketers of colour demon-

strates the continuation of this legacy of dehumanisation. Our communities didn't create 'parallel lives': instead we were always excluded as cheap labour to be kept out of sight. Ironically, the long-term settlement of families in Yorkshire is the outcome of racism itself. The 1962 Commonwealth Immigration Act aimed to close Britain to Black and brown migrants by introducing the need for "work vouchers", which made it harder for them to migrate despite being Commonwealth citizens. Instead, it was often easier for dependants to permanently join family members already here because they were forced to choose between this or long-term separation. In addition, construction of the Mangla dam in the Mirpur region, in 1966, created a reservoir that drowned 288 villages, displacing 111,000 people. The British government latched on to this displacement as a source of more cheap labour, offering people work permits for factories in the Midlands and Yorkshire. Seventy percent of Britain's Pakistani community today trace their roots to the region. South Asians are here because of exploitation, racist border controls and colonisation. It is no surprise that the cricket world is reeling from Rafiq's testimony. Taken as part of the wider historical context, Yorkshire County Cricket Club has done nothing but hold the fort. But that is a fort of white supremacy and empire. And while Yorkshire may have a specific history, it is no anomaly in a nation built by colonised people's resources, labour, migration and lives. But there is another lesson we can take from racism in Yorkshire, and that is the legacy of resistance - through Asian Youth Movements in the 1970s, the self-defence of the Bradford 12 in the 1980s and anti-racist protests against fascists. These movements of working-class people of colour independently mobilising and building solidarities to fight imperialism and racism remind us that true change has never come from waiting or relying on the powers that be. Repainting the boundary lines on a pitch built by empire and racism is not enough. We must upturn the entire grounds.

We claim to be a land of hobbyists. But really we're going quietly mad

A headline on the BBC's website has my hackles rising before I get to the first sentence, which of course means I'm primed to particularly enjoy it; who wants to read something they don't expect to infuriate them in the age of antagonism? How pandemic burnout sparked the revival of a granny hobby," it declares, before explaining how even millennials - imagine! - have succumbed to the lure of knitting to engage their hands and soothe their minds during the recent and ongoing emergency. Celebrity case in point: diver Tom Daley, who never seems to be without a cable stitch holder and a bodkin. Even better, I was enraged on someone else's behalf, for my beloved sister-in-law is a genius with the needles, a Divine Ya-Ya of yam, a wizard with the wool. No baby in her sights risks venturing out in an unmatched jacket, hat and bootee, no shoulder goes unshawled, no teapot uncased. Indeed, my own teapot sits under a perfectly rendered woollen representation of the Irish president, Michael D Higgins. This is no pandemic fad, but a lifetime of gorgeous making: so gifted is she that her family and friends regularly beg her to go into business and make us all a fortune. She insists it's a matter of pure pleasure. I'll give you "granny hobby", BBC! Reluctantly, I will concede a point: avid for distraction in a lock-up lull last year, I asked

her for a ball of wool and a pair of needles and started a bit of garter stitch. A year on, I'm still absolutely rubbish at it. Unless you happen to want a very plain scarf; scarves I can do. All this seemed pertinent in the light of a piece of research from the Pew Research Center, the American non-profit organisation that seeks to find out what makes us tick. It surveyed what it styles "advanced economies", among them Taiwan, Belgium, South Korea and the UK, and asked respondents a wide-ranging series of questions about what makes their lives meaningful. The results are interesting rather than view-shifting: unsurprisingly, people across countries and cultures generally cited their relationship with their family as a vital factor in their contentment, having somewhere decent to live, a way to earn money and access to essential services make for a happier life and those who don't have them focus more on the challenges life throws up. Americans are more likely to talk about religion than other nationalities and among them, Republicans will cite the primacy of freedom and independence more frequently than Democrats, although it's the Netherlands where that's an especially hot topic. In Taiwan, citizens were keen to talk about society as a cornerstone of happiness, mentioning safety, the medical and public health insurance systems and their freedoms as compared to those in China and Hong Kong. Spain emerged as the only country to put health first as a specific condition of a meaningful life; in South Korea, material wellbeing topped

that set of answers. New Zealand is winning at caring about its pets, with the UK, Australia and the US just behind. But where the UK comes out top is in its devotion to hobbies, which it ranks in third place, after family and friends. Admittedly, the definition appears quite wide; one respondent mentioned having access to the internet, which, as hobbies go, is fairly low-effort, although maybe they spent their downtime watching instructional videos about decoupage and jam-making. Is Britain a nation of hobbyists and, if so, what does that suggest? Certainly, the great banana bread symposium of 2020 confirms the idea, as does the national devotion to The Great British Bake Off (@teamjürgen4eva), The Great British Sewing Bee, Portrait Artist of the Year and so forth. That Bake Off finalist Chigs, he of the slightly odd but nonetheless impressive purple apples, only took up baking in lockdown, presumably because his skydiving hobby had been temporarily paused, is a guaranteed audience-pleaser. From beans on toast to bavaresis and Breton tart in just a few short months; what a guy. Meanwhile, we can only be a whiff of woodsmoke away from a plethora of TV shows and newspaper articles painstakingly guiding us through the art of homemade tree baubles, an annual rite of passage that only sharpens the nostalgic longing for proper, old-fashioned Christmases, when you gathered up as much cheap and gaudy decoration as you could in Woolworths, bought a cake from M&S and waited with your highlighter pen for the double-issue Radio Times.

Clean Tezpur, Green Tezpur

Sir,

Being a resident of Tezpur I am personally very glad to hear that Tezpur is again crowned as the cleanest city of the North East zone under the Swachh Survekshan mission. Tezpur has already emerged as the second cleanest city among the cities of North East region in the swachh Sarvekshan 2020. From the very beginning municipality board of Tezpur and the district administration has stepped forward to keep Tezpur clean and green. In comparison to the other towns of Assam Tezpur is unique in many ways. But slowly Tezpur is going to lose its past glory on cleanliness for untoward behaviour of some netizens towards the circle of our environment. We can make our beloved city more clean and green. If we don't throw our domestic garbages here and there, if we don't use plastics and other pollutants, if we can make every institution, office, every public places as plastic free environment, we can surely uplift the stage of cleanliness of Tezpur to national and international level.

So I urge everyone to treat Tezpur as his own home onwards. Yours etc.

Aditya Ankur Nath
Cotton University

Nagaland Childrens Home A journey of love, compassion and hope

Dimapur, Nov 22: One man's journey across remote villages of Nagaland and his encounters with helpless, starving fellow-Nagas translated into a humanitarian service that would change thousands of lives and continue to give hope to many more even after his passing. The story of Nagaland Childrens Home (NCH) can best be described as a journey of love, compassion and hope. Established in 1972 in Diphuphar village, Dimapur by the late Soyelo Wetsah (fondly known as SP Wetsah) and his wife Kedu-u Lasuh, NCH was built with a mission to help the poor, destitute and downtrodden children and women. NCH is funded by the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Ministry of Women and Child Development. In his memoir, SP Wetsah wrote: "During my journeys I encountered orphans, children and women suffering and in need of care and protection. These encounters changed my perspective and mission in life for good". Late SP Wetsah was born at Chizami village under Phek district in 1931. In 1940 he joined the lower primary schools in his village but the school closed down in 1943 when World War II broke out. In 1945 after the end of the war, he rejoined school



and also converted to Christianity. For that he was banished from home. He reunited with his family in 1949 after his parents converted to Christianity. While in his high school, SP's heart yearned to serve the community and ultimately he decided to drop out of school and take his family to Mon district to serve the people there on his first mission. While in Mon, he travelled to some of the remotest villages bordering Myanmar and Arunachal Pradesh. There, he and his wife taught the Konyak people the art of administration and economic sustenance. However, given the situation back then, his works would invite suspicion of the Armed forces and ultimately he and his family were vacated from Mon. With a heavy heart, SP returned home and joined the Naga national movement in 1963. He

served as a Joint Secretary of the Naga Army Organisation, Federal Government of Nagaland. During his journey as a Naga freedom fighter he travelled through the length and breadth of Naga inhabited areas, and it was there that he witnessed the lack of love, help and compassion among many Naga communities. "I realised that the truth of each person's responsibility is to care for another fellow being...it burned like a fire in my heart," he wrote in his memoir. NCH takes care of orphans and children between the ages of 5 to 18 from poor/underprivileged background. "Our mission has been and is to educate, train and equip them for their future," says Kolhi Wetsah, director of NCH who took over after his father's demise in 2013. NCH has been home to over 5000 plus children

in the last 50 years. Its alumni include doctors, army officers, bankers, lecturers among others. Currently the Home has 39 children (26 boys and 13 girls). No child is made to leave till he or she pass class 12 (even if they fail). Apart from free education, children here are imparted with life skills like farming, gardening, cleaning etc. "Although ICDS guidelines mention that children should be provided with a cook and washer, we don't want them to depend on others for their survival. They need to be equipped to in all aspects to face the world after they leave from here," Kolhi says. The tradition of running the Home has been passed down under the guardianship of Kedu-u, who continues to be the 'Housemother'. Though she is no longer actively involved in the day to day affairs of the Home, her role cannot be ignored. "She has been the backbone

of the Home," Khrolhi-u Wetsah, counsellor of the Home. The journey of 50 years has had its share of ups and downs. Funding has become irregular especially in the last two to three years. However, donations and assistance from well wishers has kept the Home running smoothly. Kolhi says, "God has been very kind to us." As NCH looks to the future to celebrate 50 years, preparation is on to commemorate the life of man and woman who dedicated their entire life to the welfare of the downtrodden and the endeavour to carry on the legacy remains. As SP Wetsah wrote in his memoir, 'I express my genuine hope that Nagaland Childrens Home will continue to be a torchbearer for the destitute and others in dire plight. I believe it will continue to be a channel of blessing.'

'Ghum Festival' in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway inaugurated

Darjeeling, Nov 15: The three-week long 'Ghum Festival' in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) started with festivities. The festival was inaugurated by Anshul Gupta, GM North-east Frontier railway (NFR) in presence of senior railway officials and local people. The festival is being organised by the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway at Ghum (the highest railway station in India) and Darjeeling Railway Stations in order to rejuvenate the tourism industry of Darjeeling, at the core of which lies the 150-Year old world heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), NFR CPRO Guneeet Kaur informed in a press release on Saturday. The festival starts from November 13 and will conclude on December 5; the day DHR got its UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999. The fest also aims to attract the pandemic-tired popula-



tion of the entire country and the world, lift up the status of Darjeeling as a premium tourist destination and thus boost the earnings of Indian Railways through DHR, the CPRO informed. The DHR is running numerous Toy-trains rides namely Joy Rides, Jungle Tea Safari, Red Panda, Him Kanya, New Jalpaiguri - Darjeeling Passenger Train as per need of tourists. This Ghum Festival fest will simultaneously provide a huge platform for the artists, performers, craftsmen, engineers and workers in the district as

well as Indian Railways to showcase their creativity to the world and increase their earnings. The fest will run along 3 verticals, namely: Culture, Adventure and Tourism. The cultural aspect includes several events that will be hosted in the stations and the famous Chaurasta stage in Darjeeling such as folk dances, folk music, singing, music and dance performances, Stand-up comedy, plays and talent shows. Local performers as well as internal talents from Indian Railways are coming together to make it a reality.

CSU conducts 'Mapumo Seta' at Chizami

Kohima, Nov 22: Chizami Students' Union (CSU) has conducted Mapumo Seta (Morung Conversations), an initiative to bridge inter-generational knowledge gaps between the elder and younger generations on November 20 last at Chizami under Phek district. This programme was part of the 75th anniversary celebration of CSU under the theme 'Educate, Empower, Inspire'. The 'Mapumo' or Morung, a traditional institute of learning and education, was an indispensable part of the Naga way of life prior to the arrival of the British administration and Christian missionaries. It played a major role in educating the past Naga society of its rich value system, wisdom and knowledge that were passed on from one generation to another. The rich oral folklores, songs and games, traditional knowledge and wisdom on agriculture, handicrafts, social etiquettes, leadership and many others were taught and handed down to the younger generation through this institution. However, with the advent of Christianity and the giving up of the old ways, the institution of Morung went out of sync with modernity, leading to the complete abandonment of its practice. With the old indigenous values under



threat, there is an urgent need to protect and preserve them before they are lost completely with the passage of time. With this sense of preservation in mind, the Mapumo Seta is aimed at reviving the age old practice of learning from the elders of the community about the varied traditional value systems, knowledge and wisdom which has sustained our people through the ages. It is an interactive platform where modern education meets traditional knowledge systems. The resource persons for the programme were indigenous community knowledge holders of the village who shared their own stories and recounts of the past. They highlighted the importance of Morung as an institution and of traditional farming system; importance of agriculture as a means of food sustenance and food security and traditional seed keeping systems.

Kelhezulo Mero, a former teacher and local historian, emphasized the importance and makeup of the Morung as a medium of learning for the young in the past. He shared that in the old days, a well-structured and well-designed system exist that ensured the transmission of knowledge, skills, values and etiquettes to the younger generation alongside the culture of respect and coexistence as a community. Diligence and hard work, respect and integrity which he considered were the rich values of the ancestors. Khenemvu L Mero, another indigenous knowledge holder stressed on the importance of the practice of agriculture and its sustenance. He opined that the village is blessed with a land that is favourable for different types of cropping and for which people must utilise the land with 'diligence and hard work' which he consider values of the ancestors. He

further added that the knowledge and wisdom are required in farming too. He stressed on the significance to value the traditional knowledge systems and that young people must learn apart from the formal education. Edikhwe-u Wezah, a seed keeper encouraged young students to take keen interest at farming and seed keeping. While displaying some samples of seeds, she also shared about different traditional methods to preserve seeds. The most common equipment to preserve seeds is local bamboo cups and gourd containers instead of plastic containers. She saves more than 50 varieties of seeds which she also shared with the community members. She mentioned that the climate variability has impacted farmers' productivity and yield particularly this year due to rise in temperature, delay in monsoon arrival and change in rainfall intensity. Therefore, she emphasized on the importance of saving local traditional seeds instead of relying on the external market which is emerging in recent years. She encouraged the young students to learn from their parents practically and be proud of their roots and heritage. This was stated in a release issued by Khrolhiweu Tshuah (Awi), General Secretary, CSU.

Private schools attracting more than 62% students



Kohima, Nov 22: Nagaland Chief Secretary J Alam said that Nagaland has 2,706 schools out of which 1,961 are government schools with 1.66 lakh students and 745 private schools with 2.78 lakh students. "It is obvious that private schools are attracting more than 62% of the total enrolled school going children," he said while speaking at the Golden Jubilee grand fi-

nale programme of Don Bosco Kohima. He said that among these private schools, the schools run by faith based organizations and charities have a substantial share. "Since quality of education is a major concern, the state government is taking several important steps to improve the quality of education in government schools," he said adding that an important intervention is

the implementation of a World Bank assisted project to develop 'Light-house schools' in different clusters that will become a model for other schools to follow. In terms of technology also, a large number of schools are being provided with e-class rooms and good quality labs to improve quality, he said. The chief secretary said that when it comes to school education, the immense con-

tribution of Catholic schools cannot be ignored. He said that as per the Global Catholic Education Report 2020 by Quentin Wodon, a World Bank lead economist, 63 million students are studying in more than 2,20,000 catholic schools worldwide. As per conservative estimate, the governments which have the primary responsibility for providing school education are saving 63 billion USD annually, he said. What is more important to note is that the quality of education in these schools is much better than many government and other private schools, Alam said. Stating that the Don Bosco fraternity is also making an immense contribution to humanity by running more than 3,000 institutions worldwide, Alam said "And in Nagaland, six Don Bosco schools are imparting quality education to thousands of students irrespective of their caste, creed, colour, faith or religion."

Gov Mishra urges army to adopt cautious approach in dealing with people of insurgency-affected dists

Itanagar, Nov 22: Governor BD Mishra suggested to GOC-in-Chief of the Eastern Army Command, Lt Gen Manoj Pande to "adopt a cautious approach while dealing with the local populations in the insurgency-affected areas of Arunachal Pradesh." Mishra made the suggestion when the army commander called on him at the Raj Bhavan here on Sunday and discussed issues related to border defence and healthier civil-army liaison. Sharing the observations he made during his recent visit to insurgency-affected districts of eastern Arunachal, the governor

said that the army units, along with their prime responsibility of guarding the frontiers, should also adopt villages and schools and conduct medical camps in their areas of responsibility. "Such initiatives by the army will help in arresting the migration of the indigenous population from border areas to urban settlements," Mishra said. The governor, who always bats for recruitment of home-grown soldiers to further strengthen the army, said that the recruitment of local youths in the army would have multifaceted advantages. "Our youths with an inherent



son-of-the-soil instinct to defend every inch of our land are tough, know the terrain of the border areas like the back of their palms, and are well adapted to the topography," he said. The gover-

nor complimented the GOC-in-C for maintaining the territorial integrity of the nation, particularly in Arunachal. The army commander briefed the governor on the overall scenario of the army's presence in the state.

No. TECH-09/SE(R&B)/PWD/2019-20/68

Dtd. Kokrajhar, the 20-11-2021

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER.

Sealed tenders affixing a non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only with a validity period of 180 days, which will subsequently be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 form are invited from the registered contractors of class-I (A,B,C); Class-II & III Category registered under PWD (Roads) Department, Assam and Bodoland Territorial Council, according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the work as stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to **2.00 P.M on 08-12- 2021** and will be opened on the same date & place at **2.15 P.M.**

1	Restoration of damaged road pavement for laying of OFC by open Bijni Gaon Market- Borobazar -Chamugao-Ballamguri Bazar- Bishpani-Borgaon-PSC-Ballimari-Patiladaha -NHT Point via NDD/OT (Total Length= 64.80km) from Ch.0.00m to Ch.29400.00m)	Rs. 18,71,334.00	Class-I (A,B & C) Class-II & III	Rs. 1000/-	3(three) Months
2	Restoration of damaged road pavement for laying of OFC by open Bijni Gaon Market- Borobazar -Chamugao-Ballamguri Bazar- Bishpani-Borgaon-PSC-Ballimari-Patiladaha -NHT Point via NDD/OT (Total Length= 64.80km) from (Ch.29400.00m to Ch.64800.00m)	Rs. 22,53,239.00	Class-I (A,B & C), Class-II & III	Rs.1000/-	3(three) Months

Detail N.I.T. may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractor or their authorized agent upto 12 Noon on all working days from **25-11-2021 to 08-12- 2021** in the office of the undersigned on payment in the form of Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque, duly pledged to the Principal Secretary Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar. The contractor should submit attested copy of Registration Certificate for the year **2021-22**, latest clearance certificate of Income Tax and Sales Tax. GST. along with the tenders. In case the office remain closed on the tender receiving/ opening the same will be received/opened on the next working day.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
PWD, (R&B)Circle, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)-419/2021

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Protesting farmers put six

is a key point in the letter. The Lakhimpur Kheri incident and our demands of action against the Union Minister (Union MoS Ajay Mishra) have been mentioned as well," said Balbir Singh Rajewal of BKU Rajewal. In the letter, released late Sunday, the SKM stated that they were "disappointed" due to lack of "concrete" announcements on their remaining demands. It also sought a memorial for the "more than 700 farmers" who had died during the protests. The letter sought the immediate withdrawal of action against farm protesters who "have been implicated in hundreds of cases during this movement (June 2020 till date) in Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and several other states". "We noted that after 11 rounds of talks, you chose the path of unilateral declaration rather than a bilateral solution; nonetheless, we are glad that you have announced the decision to withdraw all three farm laws. We welcome this announcement and hope that your Government will fulfill this promise at the earliest and in full," said the letter. Raising their key demand on MSP, the SKM's letter said: "Minimum Support Price based on the comprehensive cost of production (C2+50%) should be made a legal entitlement of all farmers for all agricultural produce, so that every farmer of the country can be guaranteed at least the MSP announced by the government for their entire crop." Apart from the electricity Bill and the demand for scrapping any penal action against farmers on air pollution, the letter referred to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident in UP on October 3, when four protesters were killed after being hit by a convoy of three vehicles, including one owned by MoS Mishra. "Ajay Mishra Teni, the mastermind of Lakhimpur Kheri murder case and accused of section 120B, is still roaming freely and remains a Minister in your cabinet. He is also sharing the stage with you and other senior ministers. He should be sacked and arrested," it said. "During this movement, so far about 700 farmers have given their lives to the cause, as their supreme sacrifice. There should be compensation and rehabilitation support for their families. To build a martyrs' memorial in the memory of the martyr farmers, land should be given at Singhu Border," it said. "Prime Minister, you have appealed to the farmers that now we should go back home. We want to assure you that we are not fond of sitting on the streets. We too desire that after resolving these other issues as soon as possible, we return to our homes, families and farming. If you want the same, then the government should immediately resume talks with the Samyukta Kisan Morcha on the above six issues," the letter said. At the protest site at Singhu, several protesters spoke about a "fresh wave of energy" in their ranks. "The completion of one year is a huge moment for us. If the government still tries to delay the repeal, we will stay here for another year. In the mean time, we are making preparations for different events that will take place in the coming days," said Gurinder Singh, a protester from Jalandhar. Last Friday, Prime Minister Modi announced his decision to repeal the three farm laws: Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. The Indian Express reported on Sunday that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution - the two ministries in charge of administering the three laws - have begun the process of drafting the repeal Bills.

Taliban target 'immoral' Afghan

promises of the inclusive government, the Taliban have appointed an all-male cabinet. They abolished the Ministry of Women's Affairs and handed over the women's ministry building to the reinstated Ministry of Vice and Virtue, which was responsible for some of the worst abuses against women during the Taliban's previous period in power from 1996-2001. Last week, the United Nations had called for a more inclusive government in Afghanistan as the country has seen a curtailment of the fundamental rights of women and girls under the Taliban rule. Deborah Lyons, UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), said "These range from limiting the right to work to the absence of women from major decision-making fora and from senior echelons of the civil service."

Railway week award ceremony

of N. F. Railway. Altogether 87 Individual Awards, 18 Group Awards, 34 Efficiency Shields were distributed for outstanding performance during last year. The Railway Week Awards have been instituted to recognize the efforts and endeavour of railway employees in efficient and dedicated discharge of their duties. In his speech, Shri Anshul Gupta, General Manager, N. F. Railway highlighted that N. F. Railway became No. 1 performer among all the zones over Indian Railways till September, 2021. Almost all long distance and intercity expresses could be resumed due to united efforts of all employees although there was hostile environment. The General Manager also stated that so many new lines, double line projects are there in N. F. Railway in various stages of execution. Due to dedicated efforts of employees, train on electric traction now reached Kamakhya. Moreover, N. F. Railway has planned to redevelop more than eight stations as world class stations in which Kamakhya station is one of them. Development works with unique child-friendly facilities in Children Ward in the N. F. Railway Central Hospital has been started and is being planned to start in all divisions very soon, the General Manager stated. He also appreciated the hard work being done by employees in this regard. The Alipurduar junction station received the Best Kept Station Shield for the year 2020-21. The Divisional Railway Hospital, Lumding won the Best Kept Hospital award. Dibrugarh workshop got the Best Kept Workshop Shield while New Brick Field Railway Colony of Rangiya division won the Best Kept Railway Colony Shield. Alipurduar division got the shields for Accounts and Commercial departments while Lumding division got it for Mechanical and Signal & Telecommunication departments. Katihar division won shields for Operating, Stores and EnHM (Environment and Housekeeping Management) departments while Rangiya division won it for Safety department. Alipurduar and Rangiya divisions jointly won the Efficiency Shield for Engineering and Personnel departments while Lumding and Alipurduar divisions jointly won Shield for Electrical department. Shield for Security department was jointly won by Tinsukia and Katihar divisions. The Overall Efficiency Shield for all-round performances during last financial year went jointly to Alipurduar and Katihar Divisions of N. F. Railway. Apart from these, various departments and workshops that excelled in various fields were given Efficiency Shields. Railway officials involved in activities pertaining to Bharat Scouts & Guides, railway unions/associations and NFRWWO etc. were also honoured for their excellent performance during last year.

IAF Group Capt Abhinandan

F-16 fighter aircraft during aerial combat on February 27 a day after the Balakot airstrike. In the process, he flew over Pakistan occupied Kashmir and his MiG-21 was hit and he had to eject over the territory controlled by the enemy. He was then taken into custody by the Pakistan Army. The Pakistan Army was forced to release him due to the extensive pressure exerted by the Indian side along with international intervention into the matter. Abhinandan was part of the Srinagar-based 51 squadron and had flown to thwart an aerial attack launched by the Pakistanis on February 27, 2019. India had launched an aerial strike on Pakistan's terrorist facility in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area run by the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) on February 26. Meanwhile, Major Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal's wife Lieutenant Nitika Kaul and mother Saroj Dhoundiyal receive his Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous) for an operation in Jammu and Kashmir in which five terrorists were killed and 200 kg explosives were recovered. Naib Subedar Sombir was also accorded Shaurya Chakra posthumously for killing an A++ category terrorist during an operation in Jammu and Kashmir. His wife and mother receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind.

CM Reviews construction works

MDoNER) and NEC funded schemes in the State with the senior officials of T&D Department. Dr Sarma directed T&D Department to be prompt and more active in reviewing implementation of such schemes and urged implementing departments to take appropriate steps for completion of all NLCPR and NEC funded projects within stipulated time frame. It is worth mentioning that out of 562 NLCPR-Assam projects with total financial allocation of Rs. 3680.03 crore, at present there are 188 ongoing projects under various departments. Similarly, 27 NEC funded projects are under implementation in the State under 15 nos. of departments in 90:10 funding pattern. Additional Chief Secretary of T&D Department Pawan Kumar Barthakur and Principal Secretary to CM Samir Kumar Sinha were also present during the review meeting among others.

Drugs case: NCB mulls moving

Sena via its mouthpiece Saamana on Monday, claimed that NCB had spun its own tale to arrest the star kid along with eight others in the Mumbai cruise drug bust. Pointing out that the Bombay HC had ruled out any drug conspiracy in the case and that no drugs were found on Khan's person, Sena claimed that several NCB officers had attempted to collect bribes to let go of the 'kids'. Demanding the arrest of all such officers, Sena lauded minister Nawab Malik for publicising all evidence of wrongdoing by NCB. "Children of film stars, businessmen, and relatives of politicians are being targeted by NCB and demanded to pay huge sums of money to be left alone. Sharad Pawar has warned that every day Anil Deshmukh remains in jail, they will have to pay. After the many expose by Nawab Malik, BJP has now fallen silent," claimed Sena. On Saturday, in the Bombay HC's detailed bail order on Aryan Khan's arrest, Justice Nitin Sambre said that there is no concrete evidence to convince the court that all accused persons with common intentions agreed to commit an unlawful act and repudiated the conspiracy angle. The court stated that no drugs were recovered from Aryan Khan's possession and the drugs seized from the possession of Arbaaz Khan and Munmun Dhamecha was a small quantity. SRK's son Aryan Khan along with Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha were granted bail by the Bombay High Court on October 30. The court added that WhatsApp chats recovered from Aryan's phone suggest nothing objectionable. Citing the investigation done till date, the court stated that the evidence does not verify that the three 'have hatched conspiracy committing the offence in question'. "The investigation carried out till this date suggests that Applicant/Accused nos 1 & 2 (Aryan & Arbaaz) were travelling independent of Applicant/Accused no 3 (Munmun) and there was no meeting of minds on the aforesaid issue," read the order. After weeks of legal battle, Aryan Khan along with Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha were granted bail by the Bombay High Court under stringent conditions. According to the bail order accessed by Republic Media Network, the three have to surrender their passports before the Special NDPS court and are not allowed to leave India without prior permission. Other conditions also include a prohibition from tampering evidence, influencing witnesses and they must visit the NCB office every Friday between 11 am to 2 PM.

Nepal International Heroes Games: Golaghat Girl Bagged Gold

CORRESPONDENT, Golaghat, Nov 22: Megha Jain from Golaghat, Assam bagged Gold in 4th Nepal International Heroes Games Championship 2021 which was organized by Youth Sports Development Forum, Nepal (Regby - International Youth Sports and Education Federation) and held at Rangshala Stadium, Pokhara, Nepal. It is to be known that she got the 1st position in 'Kick Boxing' which was held in the 2nd week of November. Megha is the proud daughter of Lt. Manoj Singhvi and Anju Singhvi Jain. Recently In the National Kick Boxing Championship organised by 'Khelo India Fit India' in Goa too Megha Jain bagged Gold Medal. Back to back two medals at National as well as International level has made Golaghatians proud.



Book released at Nagaon

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 22: Noted TV news anchor and editor in chief of Pratidin Time news channel, Nitumoni Saikia ceremonially released a book of essays on various topics of Indian philosophy in Assamese language - "Antardarshan" by Ruprekha Bora here at a function held at the auditorium of Nowgong Govt Boys' HS School on Sunday last. The programme was organized by Suror Panchoi Silpi Somaj, Nagaon and noted Assamese short story teller of Ramdhanu era Bhadreswar Rajkuhwa inaugurated the function. Literary activist Pranjal Bordoloi anchored the entire programme. Noted Assamese litterateur and story teller Sibananda Kakoti, artiste and singer Ranjan Bezbaruah, Atikur Rahman and other graced the occasion.

TRIBUTE
Niranjan Goswami

Nagaon, Nov 22 : Niranjan Goswami, an eminent forest official of North Eastern state, died at the age of 94 years at Kolkata on November 14 last. Born at Hujgaon on the outskirts of Nagaon town in 1927. He was the eldest son of Lt Trailokya Goswami and Lt Sneha Devi. A brilliant student passed the High School Examination in 1944 and received a gold medal from the British government. Thereafter he was admitted to Cotton College, Ghy and passed I. Sc. and B. Sc. examination with credit. In 1950, he joined Forest Research Institution, Dehradun and completed courses in soil conservation and forestry. In 1952, he joined the service of the govt of Assam and started service life as DFO, Dibrugarh district. He worked in Lushai Hill now Mizoram and Garo Hills now known as Meghalaya as an expert of development of hill forestry. In 1965, he went to the USA for training in development of forestry planning especially in maintenance of rain forest. After returning from the USA, he joined the Meghalaya Forest Department and was elevated to the post of Chief Conservator of Forest. He retired from the same post in 1987. During his tenure as a forest official, he planned and developed rural forest in Upper Assam, planned forest in Karbi Anglong, Meghalaya, Mizoram and planted chew nuts garden in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. After retirement, he used to reside in Zoo Narengi road in Guwahati. Goswami earned name and fame as an honest forest officer of the North Eastern region among the govt of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. On his death, North East lost an eminent forest expert who advised the forest department of the three states till his death. He leaves behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives.

Run for vote organised in Chirang

CORRESPONDENT, Kajalgaon, Nov 22 : As part of its various initiatives for the special campaign in connection with Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to January 1, 2022, a Run for Vote was organised by the Chirang district administration at Kajalgaon on Sunday. The programme was flagged off by Wahidul Islam, Sub-Divisional Officer (Sadar), Chirang in the presence of Jashnabati Mahilary, in-charge District Sports Officer and other officials of the sports department, Chirang. The programme organised for creating awareness among the newly eligible generations to encourage them to enroll as general voters was attended by more than hundred participants from different schools, colleges and sports clubs of the district. A massive awareness drive through mobile miking across the district is also being carried out by the district administration after the publication of integrated draft photo electoral rolls on November 1 last.



CM Dr. Sarma visiting the residence of late Deben Sharma at Agdala, Baihata Charali on November 22

All Assam one-act Play Competition

STAFFREPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 22: The Lankeshwar Das Memorial Trust in association with Halugaon Sevak Sangha and Library are going to organize the 3rd All Assam Shashanka Das Kalita Memorial Rupalim one-act play competition on 5th and 6th February 2022. The two-day long programme will be held at Halugaon L.P. School. The three best drama teams will be honoured with running trophies and cash prizes. Along with that the male and female best actors, best script, best director will also be honoured with cash prizes. Teams willing to participate in the one-act play competition can contact Hiranya Bhattacharya on 887651512 & 9706263192 with their application, manuscript of the play and a joining fee Rs. 500 within December 31, 2021. Manuscript of the play can also be send through post/courier to - Shashanka Das Kalita Memorial Rupalim one-act play competition, C/o - Maa Hotel & Fast food, House No. 247, Hengrabari Road, Ganeshguri, Guwahati- 781006, Assam.

Biennial session of North Lakhimpur Press Club held

Correspondent, North Lakhimpur, Nov 22: The biennial session of the North Lakhimpur Press Club (NLPC), commenced from November 21 at the Press Club Bhawan, Chandmari, North Lakhimpur town, with a two-day long programs, concludes today successfully. The program of the event began with the unfurling of the club flag by its outgoing president Sailen Baruah at 9-30 a.m. on November 21. The delegates' meeting and the next executive body constitution meeting were held at 6-00 p.m. on the same day where a new 18 members executive committee was formed for the year--2021-2023 with Kumud Baruah as president and Karuna Krishna Nath as general secretary. The programs of the concluding day on November 22 began with the smriti tarpan program by journalist Nabil Hussain at 10-00 a.m. The open meeting commenced from 1-00 p.m. under the presidency of Sailen Baruah. It was inaugurated by former NLPC president Surajit Bhuyan. Internationally fame innovator Padma Shri Dr. Uddhav Bharali was present as the special guest while Lakhimpur District Information and Public Relation Officer Mandira Chayengia attended the meeting as the invited guest. Tutumoni Phukan, the secretary of Assam Union of Working Journalists (AUWJ) attended in the meeting as the appointed speaker. Leaders of various organisations Sazad Hazarika, Raju Singh and Rupjyoti Dutta also spoke in the meeting, besides two college students. Swapnil Nath, the son of journalist Karuna Krishna Nath, was felicitated in the event for his fame as an actor in the internationally acclaimed film 'Breeze'. Leaders of several organisations were present in the meeting, along with many students of colleges from North Lakhimpur.

Road Accident: 2 dead

Correspondent, Golaghat, Nov 22: Two people were killed in a major road accident at Dhekiel area in Golaghat early in the morning today. As per the report a Mahindra Marazzo vehicle bearing registration number AS 01 EA 9060 was coming from Jhanji in Sibsagar towards Golaghat. The persons in the vehicle were returning from a Marriage Ceremony. The speedy vehicle lost its control near Dhekiel Tini Ali and hit a tree. In the accident two persons were died on the spot and four other persons were injured. The deceased have been identified as Mahananda Kalita and Bipul Shastri. The injured persons Munindra Das, Dibyajyoti Gogoi, Abhijit Saha, Chitram Gogoi and Diganta Baruah were rushed to Swahid Kushal Konwar Civil Hospital in Golaghat. Later two of the injured persons were referred to the GMCH in a critical condition. It is to be mentioned that one of the dead Bipul Shastri was a Purohit (priest) and a well known Sanskrit scholar of Golaghat.

Annual Magazine 'Ganit Utkarsha' Inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT, Golaghat, Nov 22: The Annual Magazine of Assam Academy of Mathematics, Golaghat Branch, named 'Ganit Utkarsha', 2nd Edition, was inaugurated at Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Golaghat yesterday. Published under Swarnalim Dutta, Magazine Secretary, AAM, Golaghat Branch, the annual magazine was inaugurated by Dr. Surajit Dutta, Principal of Chandranath Bezbaruah College, Bokakhat and a central executive member of Assam Academy of Mathematics. The programme was conducted by Sailendra Kumar Dutta Baruah, secretary, AAM, Golaghat Branch and was presided over by Dr. Bipul Chandra Bhuyan, Principal, Hemo Prova Borborra Girls' College. The joint secretary of AAM, Golaghat Branch, Syed Akram Hussain and the Principal of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Golaghat Achintya Goswami were also the chief guests of the inaugural ceremony. One minute silence was observed at the very beginning of the ceremony in the memory and honour of deceased Mr. Himen Das, the famous social worker of Golaghat and a noted decorator of welcoming gates of various programmes of Assam. In the presence of all the members of Assam Academy of Mathematics, Golaghat Branch and other noted guests, the rank holders of Ganit Utkarsha Xadhan Pariksha, 2020 were felicitated with prize money along with books and certificates. As stated by Siddhartha Protim Gogoi, Executive Member of Assam Academy of Mathematics, Golaghat Branch, certificates of merit and certificate of appreciation holders of the said exam can collect their certificates, books and a copy of the annual magazine from their respective exam centre from November 22 onwards. The ceremony ended with the announcement of the upcoming dates of Ganit Utkarsha Xadhan Pariksha, 2021 to be held on December 26 and Ganit Mela to be held on January 22 and 23 next year.

Publications initiate neo revolution to read books

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 22: To encourage the children of the remote as well as comparatively backward villages to read books and earn knowledge, 'Sabhayata', a leading quarterly magazine of art, culture and social science in association with local Assamese weekly news paper - Kolongpar initiated a neo revolutionary move across the state and were organizing rural children book festival. During the festival, they distributed books, copies, pen, pencil, drawing materials and other items among those poor children of the remote villages. Besides, during the festival, the organizers also conducted song and music competition, story telling competition and poem recitation competition among the children so that the children could be attracted to the festival. As part of this revolutionary move, these Nagaon based publications groups organized the rural children book festival at Chapanal tea estate on Saturday last and distributed books, children magazines like Rangmon, Sanphura, Mouchak, Mukuta, Natun Abiskar among 70 children of the remote tea estate. Earlier they also organized such rural children book festivals at Nagaon Mikir Bamunigaon village and Bor Lalung gaon village a few days back. Pragjyotish Bonia, general secretary of Nagaon district unit of Asom Jatiyatbadi Yuba Chatra Parishad, student leader Manuj Singha Raja, Pratyush Ranjan Bhagawati, Biplob Jyoti Bhuyan, coordinators of 'Sabhayata', poet Pradeep Saikia and some other distinguished persons graced the festival held at Chapanal tea estate, Mikir Bamunigaon and Lalung gaon villages respectively, a release added. Talking to this correspondent here, Pratyush Ranjan Bhagawati and Biplob Jyoti Bhuyan, the coordinators of 'Sabhayata' said they will take the rural children book festival to all nook and corners of the state in the days to come. It is just in a very initial stage. We will try our level best to take the festival to all those remote and backward villages in the state, they added further.

Gerwyn Price crushes Peter Wright to regain Grand Slam of Darts title



London, November 22 : What a statement of intent this was by Gerwyn Price, the world champion and world No 1 regaining his Grand Slam of Darts title with an imperious 16-8 victory over Peter Wright. In truth the world No 2 was never really

in the contest, and an average of 91.5 was a fair reflection of both a desperately disappointing performance on his part and a mildly disappointing spectacle lasting barely an hour. But take nothing away from Price, who after sweeping aside James Wade 16-9 in the afternoon semi-final was again relentless and ruthless when it mattered. After entering the arena to his customary chorus of boos, Price began the match with a 140 checkout, went into the first interval 4-1 up and after a brief revival from Wright reeled off six legs in a row to lead 10-3. He did not miss a

dart at double until the eighth leg of the match. Price averaged 104 on the night, but more ominously he was still able to chalk up legs when not throwing at his best. This, perhaps, is the most instructive lesson of the last nine days: while there are plenty of players on the circuit who can match Price's A-game, few possess his ability to grind out tournament wins with their B-game. This was once Michael van Gerwen's domain, but the world No 3's defeat to Michael Smith in the quarter-finals was further evidence that his margin for error is nothing like what it was.

Lewis Hamilton dominates F1 Qatar GP to cut Max Verstappen's title lead

London, November 22 : Twenty races into a gruelling Formula One season, Lewis Hamilton remains relentless and unbowed in his determination to take the title fight to the wire. With his dominant victory over rival Max Verstappen at the debut Qatar Grand Prix, the world champion has ensured this gripping and finely poised battle hangs in the balance. Hamilton is clearly pumped up for it and rightly so on this evidence from the Losail circuit, where his Mercedes team may have delivered the car to make the difference at a vital moment. Hamilton won with a consummate, controlled run from pole to flag, inch

perfect with pace that Verstappen could not challenge. He has cut the lead to the Dutchman from 14 points to eight, with 52 available from the final two races, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. A visibly energised Hamilton, enjoying back-to-back wins after victory at the last round in Brazil, was relishing the challenge and it was impossible not to sense the momentum had shifted behind his attempt to take a record eighth title. "I'm loving it," he said. "I love the close battle, and the pressure, and the demands it puts on you, and the whole team. I thoroughly enjoyed it, we'll be bringing our triple-A game for the last two races. I feel great, the car is better than ever, I am looking forward to the battle." Verstappen's Red Bull simply could not match the pace of the Mercedes but he did at least stay close to Hamilton all race while they left the field far in their wake. The Dutchman counted his second as a very good recovery having started from seventh after



he was given a grid penalty shortly before the race for failing to slow for waved yellow flags in qualifying. Alpine's Fernando Alonso secured a superb third, his first podium for 104 races, the last being at Hungary in 2014. Mercedes and Hamilton delivered at Losail with the flawless execution they know will be required to take the title but, crucially, with fearsome pace. Their car, the team principal Toto Wolff confirmed when asked, was better now than it had been all season with his driver in menacing form after his recovery from penalties in Brazil. "Yes, definitely," he said. "The car is quick on the straight and

good in the corners. Lewis is totally in the zone, the lion got woken up at Interlagos. Saudi Arabia should be a good track for us. If everybody finishes the race, [the battle] is going to go to Abu Dhabi." Notably both are night races in conditions very similar to Qatar where Mercedes found the car's sweet spot with alacrity. Verstappen acknowledged there was nothing he could do. "We just didn't have the pace to match them," he said. "But there are two races to go and a lot of things can happen." After the race Red Bull's team principal Christian Horner, who had endured a trying weekend,

found no respite when he was summoned to the stewards for potentially bringing the sport into disrepute after his critical comments regarding the marshalling on Verstappen's penalty. He was given a warning, but of greater concern will be Red Bull's deficit to Mercedes. After Verstappen's win in Mexico, Horner had said they should throw away the form book in anticipating who might have the edge at these final meetings. Yet with Hamilton's back to back wins that form seems to have swung ominously in Mercedes' favour at a pivotal time. Hamilton was four-tenths up in qualifying and enjoyed a definitive advantage in race pace. Red Bull are still questioning the legality of the Mercedes' rear wing and the straightline speed it is conferring on their car and, after a weekend dominated by fractious politicking between the teams, this off-track battle likely to be staged in the steward's room will only intensify.

Dow leads England Women's rout of USA in perfect end to dominant year

London, November 22 : It is an intriguing thought. If the Red Roses can rack up four straight autumn international wins with consummate ease, what might they be capable of at next year's World Cup in New Zealand? Simon Middleton's side reduced USA to rubble in front of a lively Worcester crowd of 7,515, capping a perfect end to 2021 and equalling the men's team's record of 18 successive Test victories. Marcus Smith kicks the match-winning penalty for England to seal their 27-26 victory against South Africa at Twickenham. It means England Women have scored 37 tries and 239 points during autumn wins over New Zealand, twice, Canada and USA, enhancing their status as the world's No 1 ranked side as they bid to become world champions in less than a year's time. They breached their opponents' defence 15 times here, running amok on a day



when positives emerged everywhere for Middleton. The Red Roses' head coach said: "We had high hopes for this series but I just said to the girls in the circle that we haven't just improved our game, we've improved the women's game. We've shown what's possible when you back the girls and you're given the resources and you put them in the right environment. They're just fantastic players so full credit to them." It's taken some time to build this so what we've got to do is make sure we continue to do so. We're definitely heading in the right direction. "There will be greater challenges for

England. There has to be. It cannot be this easy. But there is an energy and a self-belief about this team and Middleton spoke endlessly after the game about their desire in attack and defence. Certainly from the moment the Harlequins prop Vicki Cornborough powered over the line from another expertly executed lineout, a feature of England's displays this autumn, in the second minute, this was one-way traffic. After Cornborough's opener, Sixways had its breath taken away courtesy of a stunning individual score from the full-back Abby Dow. The Wasps

player collected possession and showed remarkable pace to saunter past a clutch of leaden-footed USA defenders on a diagonal left-hand run which took her all the way over the visitors' line. Last Monday, Dow was nominated for the International Rugby Players' Women's try of the year for her scintillating effort against France in April. This was another collector's item. When England's third try arrived it was a moment to savour for the Worcester wing Lydia Thompson. Quick hands following a well-worked scrum for England saw them stretch the USA defence, before Dow showed intelligence to send Thompson over in the right corner on her 50th appearance for the Red Roses. The try was rapturously received by Thompson's home crowd, but USA finally steadied themselves and began to match England's physicality at the breakdown.

Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai tells IOC she is 'safe and well'

Beijing, November 22 : The Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai said she was safe and well in a video call on Sunday, the International Olympic Committee has said, amid growing international demands for assurances that she is free and not under threat. In a statement, the IOC said Peng had spoken to its president, Thomas Bach, for 30 minutes. "She explained that she is safe and well, living at her home in Beijing, but would like to have her privacy respected at this time," it said in a statement. "That is why she prefers to

spend her time with friends and family right now. Nevertheless, she will continue to be involved in tennis, the sport she loves so much." Photos and videos of Peng at a tournament in Beijing earlier on Sunday had done little to dampen global concerns about her wellbeing, following a nearly three-week public absence after she alleged that a former senior Chinese official sexually assaulted her. The call - with Bach, the athletes' commission chair, Emma Terho, and IOC member Li Lingwei, a former vice-president of the Chinese



Tennis Association - appears to be Peng's first direct contact with sports officials outside China since she disappeared from public view on 2 November. Pressure was growing on Boris Johnson, the UK prime minister, to toughen his stance towards China, with senior MPs calling for a boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics. The IOC has been criticised for being relatively silent in public as concern for Peng grew in the past week. It insists it has pursued a "quiet diplomacy" policy with the 2022 Olympics host nation. The Beijing Winter Games open in February. Bach invited Peng to join him at a dinner when he arrives in Beijing in January "which she gladly accepted", the IOC said. Terho and Li were also invited. "I was relieved to see that Peng Shuai was doing fine, which was our main concern," Terho said in the IOC statement. Terho, a retired ice hockey player from Finland, represents athletes on the IOC executive board. "She appeared to be relaxed," Terho said. "I offered her our support and to stay in touch at any time of her convenience, which she obviously appreciated." Peng, 35, had not been seen or heard from since she accused the country's former vice-premier Zhang Gaoli of

sexually assaulting her. The allegations, which she made on the Chinese social media site Weibo, were quickly deleted from the platform. Her silence, as well as blanket censorship inside China of her accusations, had prompted calls across the world for information on her whereabouts and wellbeing, including threats by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) to pull all its tennis tournaments that are scheduled to be held in China. After the IOC video was released, a spokesperson for the WTA and chairman Steve Simon said, "It was good to see Peng Shuai in recent videos, but they don't alleviate or address the WTA's concern about her well-being and ability to communicate without censorship or coercion. This video does not change our call for a full, fair and transparent investigation, without censorship, into her allegation of sexual assault, which is the issue that gave rise to our initial concern." On Sunday, Hu Xijin, the editor of the state tabloid the Global Times, posted video of Peng attending a junior tennis tournament where she waved at the crowd. Hu said the footage was from the opening ceremony of a final in Beijing on Sunday.

Henry Slade's England display gives Jones food for thought over Farrell

London, November 22 : Eddie Jones spent Sunday morning holding one-on-one meetings with his players before sending them home with a spring in their step. He then met his coaches and, again, you would expect a bit of mutual backslapping, though it is unclear if this was deemed the right time to address the elephant in the room. Maybe best to leave it for another day, but it is unlikely to go away any time soon. Because when Owen Farrell returns to fitness

in hand was as courageous as it was classy. It came after he had been installed as the vice-captain with Farrell and Ellis Genge both missing and Slade has now started 12 of England's last 13 matches, missing only the dismal defeat in Ireland. If he seemed liberated without Farrell alongside him in the centres perhaps George Ford's omission from the squad has had a similar effect too. It was he who was expected to make way against Australia with Farrell

Pochettino and Zidane on Manchester United list after Solskjaer's tearful exit



Manchester, November 22 : Manchester United are considering candidates including Zinedine Zidane, Mauricio Pochettino, Erik ten Hag, Luis Enrique and Brendan Rodgers to take charge from next summer after sacking Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Solskjaer lost his job a month short of his three-year anniversary as manager after Saturday's dismal 4-1 loss at Watford. On Sunday the Norwegian gave an emotional farewell interview to the club, tears welling in his eyes, as United also started searching for an interim coach to take over for the rest of this season. There is no timeframe regarding that appointment and Michael Carrick, one of Solskjaer's coaching staff, will oversee Tuesday's Champions League group match at Villarreal and continue leading the side until someone is found. Lokomotiv Moscow's head of sports and development, Ralf Rangnick, may be a candidate. Of those who could take over for the longer term, Zidane has the outstanding CV. He guided Real Madrid to three consecutive Champions Leagues and two La Liga titles across two spells, the second of which ended in May. But though the 49-year-old is out of work, he has not previously regarded England as an ideal fit. It is understood Pochettino would be keen to take the job. The Paris Saint-Germain manager was coveted by United during his tenure at

Tottenham but the timing was never right for him. However he has never played down his interest in United. PSG, who have no desire to change manager mid-season, activated a one-year option on Pochettino's contract in summer after he was linked with a return to Spurs. His deal runs to June 2023 but an agreement allowing him to leave could be possible at the end of this campaign. In a 13-year, four-club managerial career Pochettino has won only one trophy - last season's Coupe de France. Despite PSG being 11 points clear at the top of Ligue 1, Pochettino has been heavily criticised for his team's performances. He is still living in a hotel in Paris, with his wife, Karina, remaining in the family home in London. Ten Hag's resume shows two Eredivisie titles with Ajax, including last season's, and he guided the Dutch side to the Champions League semi-final in 2019 before Pochettino's Spurs knocked them out. On Sunday Ten Hag attempted to distance himself from United. "I am focused on my team," he told ESPN. "We have a

brilliant squad and we want to achieve a lot. I expect from my players that they are focused on Ajax, so I have to give the right example for that too. I heard nothing about it, so I can't think about it." Zidane, Pochettino or Ten Hag would represent an upgrade on Solskjaer with regard to tactical acumen, as would Enrique or Rodgers. Enrique, who claimed the second treble of Barcelona's history by winning La Liga, the Champions League and a Copa del Rey in 2014-15, is Spain's coach and laughed off links to United. Taking the job next summer would mean missing the chance to lead his country to the World Cup in Qatar. "Is it Dia de los Inocentes [Spain's April Fool's Day]?" he said on Sunday. "I'm at the biggest team in Spain: the selection. There are 5,000 players, I have all the players I could wish for. Bigger than that, what is there?" Rodgers claimed two Scottish titles, two Scottish Cups and three Scottish League Cups in less than three years at Celtic before he departed in 2019 for Leicester City, with whom he won last season's FA Cup. Of links with United, Rodgers said on



Jones must address the issue of how his captain gets back into this side. Recent evidence suggests that on merit Farrell has a job on his hands and that is in no small part down to the form of Henry Slade, who against South Africa stepped out of the absent captain's shadow, rose to the occasion when Manu Tuilagi limped off and produced his finest display in an England jersey. It has long since been lamented that while he has often shown his abundant talent in flashes he rarely seizes matches by the scruff of the neck. But at Twickenham on Saturday, Slade's performance with ball

returning but as it was Tuilagi was moved to the wing so that Slade kept hold of the No 13 jersey and it was he who was central to England's attacking gameplan against the Springboks. As Jones had alluded to previously, England wanted to implement a rope-a-dope strategy and the attack coach Martin Gleeson had been tasked with finding a way to beat the Springboks' blitz defence. Slade's passing ability was key to England's success in that regard, notably when he whipped the ball to Tuilagi for the opening try.

Cousins wins slugfest with Rodgers as Vikings beat Packers at the death

Washington, November 22:

Greg Joseph made a 29-yard field goal as time expired to give the Minnesota Vikings a 34-31 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, finishing a classic back-and-forth with Aaron Rodgers by making sure the three-time NFL MVP didn't get to touch the ball last. Kirk Cousins passed for 341 yards and three touchdowns for the Vikings (5-5), who watched yet another game come down to the final play after Rodgers threw three of his four touchdown passes in the second half. Unable to practice much at all this week because of a toe injury, after missing much of the first half of the month with Covid-19, Rodgers finished 23 for 33 for a season-high 385 yards. Justin Jefferson had eight receptions for 169 yards and two scores, including a third-down catch against rookie Eric Stokes that Cousins delivered for a 23-yard touchdown while being decked on a blitz by Darnell Savage. Dalvin Cook ran in the two-point conversion to make up for an earlier missed extra point by Joseph. Then on the next play from scrimmage, Rodgers threw a rainbow to Marquez Valdes-Scantling streaking past safety Xavier Woods for a 75-yard score to tie the game just before the two-minute warning. When the Vikings regained the ball, Cousins



nearly cost himself the comeback by slightly underthrowing Jefferson, whom Savage darted in front of to intercept the ball. He bobbled it on the way down, though, and a replay review overturned the call. Cousins then went 3 for 3 for 51 yards on the next three snaps. Cook ran for one more first down, and then the Vikings knelt down to set up the final kick by Joseph. They posted the highest score against the Packers since Green Bay's 38-3 loss to New Orleans in the season opener. Jonathan Taylor rushed for 185 yards Sunday and scored a franchise-record five touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts walloped the Buffalo Bills. Taylor tallied four scores on the ground and another one on a pass as Indianapolis (6-5) made a mockery of the point spread that had Buffalo

listed as a seven-point favorite. Taylor is the 16th player in NFL history to score at least five touchdowns in a game. It was the third loss in four games for the Bills (6-4), who fell a half-game behind surging New England in the AFC East. Buffalo's performance was rife with mistakes, including seven penalties and four turnovers. Tyrod Taylor ran for two touchdowns and threw for 107 yards and the Houston Texans snapped the NFL's longest active skid by beating the Tennessee Titans to end the league's longest winning streak on a wet and rainy Sunday. The Texans (2-8) came in having lost eight straight since winning their season opener and hadn't scored a TD on the road since 19 September. Desmond King had two of the Texans' four interceptions three in the fourth quarter to snuff out the Titans' attempted rally. Houston

turned those and a fumbled punt into 13 points. The Texans also had two sacks. The Titans (8-3) snapped their six-game winning streak when their first loss since 3 October. Clyde Edwards-Helaire ran for 63 yards and a touchdown in his return from injured reserve. Chris Jones and the Kansas City defense made life miserable for Dak Prescott, and the Chiefs beat the Dallas Cowboys. Patrick Mahomes was 23 of 37 for 260 yards with an interception and a fumble for Kansas City, but he was bailed out by a defense that played its best game of the year. Charvarius Ward picked off Prescott in the end zone near the end of the first half, and Chris Jones had 3.5 sacks while forcing and recovering a fumble. The result: The Chiefs (7-4) improved to 4-0 against the NFC East with their fourth straight win overall. Colt

McCoy was outstanding filling in for Kyle Murray, throwing for 328 yards and two touchdowns, and the Arizona Cardinals beat the Seattle Seahawks. For the second straight season, McCoy was a backup thrust into a starting role in Seattle and walked away with a victory. Last year, McCoy was with the New York Giants. This season, it was with Murray missing a third straight game due to an ankle injury. McCoy went 35 of 44 and thoroughly outplayed Seattle's Russell Wilson in his first home start since undergoing finger surgery. McCoy threw touchdown passes to Zach Ertz in the first half, got a bit of luck in the third quarter when a potential interception was overturned on replay, and had his first 300-yard passing game since 2014. Nick Chubb caught a touchdown pass and ran for 130 yards as the Cleveland Browns held on to avoid a season-wrecking upset and keep Detroit winless with a sloppy victory over the Lions. Chubb returned to Cleveland's lineup after a one-game absence due to Covid-19. The star running back caught a five-yard TD pass from Baker Mayfield and then helped the Browns (6-5) run out the clock. Taylor Heinicke threw three touchdown passes to upstage former teammate Cam Newton, helping the Washington Football Team post a 27-21 win over the Caro-

lina Panthers. Newton was playing his first home game with the Panthers since 2019. He was signed as a free agent prior to last weekend's upset victory at Arizona. Yet it was a good homecoming for Washington coach Ron Rivera, who guided the Panthers to the Super Bowl in the 2015 season. He was fired during the 2019 season. Joe Mixon rushed for 123 yards and scored two touchdowns and the Cincinnati Bengals defeated the Las Vegas Raiders. The well-rested Bengals (6-4) came out of their bye week and snapped a two-game skid to climb back into the AFC North race, while the Raiders (5-5) lost their third straight since their bye week when they led the AFC West. Joe Burrow was 20 of 29 for 148 yards and threw one touchdown for Cincinnati, while Offensive Rookie of the Year candidate Ja'Marr Chase hauled in three passes, including one TD. Chase leads all rookies with eight touchdowns this season.



Alexander Zverev downs Daniil Medvedev to win second ATP Finals crown

Cincinnati, November 22:

Germany's Alexander Zverev swept aside Russian world number two and defending champion Daniil Medvedev 6-4 6-4 to win the ATP Finals on Sunday, claiming the title for the second time in his career. Zverev, who also beat world number one Novak Djokovic on Saturday, becomes only the fourth player to beat the top two players in the world in the semis and final of the season-ending tournament. Victory was also sweet revenge for Zverev who lost in three sets to Medvedev in the round robin stage, and came into the match having lost his last five meetings against the Russian. "You

keep talking about the perfect match... It was great. I mean in the final against somebody I had lost five times in a row, so I had to play one of my best matches," Zverev said in a post-match interview. "I'm happy about that, happy to go on holidays with this win now... There's no better way to end this season than winning here, so I'm obviously fairly happy, but I'm also now very much looking forward to next year already." The 24-year-old Zverev, who did not face a single break point in the final, has now won six titles in six finals this year - including Olympic gold in Tokyo and two Masters titles in Madrid and Cincinnati.

Good series win but we are quite realistic: Rahul Dravid



Kolkata, Nov 22: Newly-appointed India chief coach Rahul Dravid says the 3-0 result over New Zealand augurs well for the team in the long-run but at the same time, he is realistic enough to not read too much into the overall outcome with Black Caps having to play the series three days after the T20 World Cup final. Some of the key players from both teams were rested for the series as part of workload management. "It was a really good series win. Everyone played really well right through the series. It feels good, nice to start well. We are also quite realistic. We have to keep our feet on the ground and be a bit realistic about this win," Dravid said at the post-match pre-

sensation here. The series was also Dravid's first assignment as head coach. The Kiwis had reached Jaipur for the series opener less than 24 hours after losing the World Cup final to Australia in Dubai. "Not easy for NZ to play a World Cup final and then to turn up three days later and play three games in six days, was never going to be easy for them. It was nice from our perspective but we have to learn from this series and move forward." It's a long journey ahead over the next two years and we'll have our share of ups and downs. "India also rested some of their crucial players including the likes of Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja. New Zealand gave rest to their

skipper Kane Williamson. India also gave debut caps to IPL performers Venkatesh Iyer (Kolkata Knight Riders) and Harshal Patel (Royal Challengers Bangalore) in the series. "It's been really good to see some of the young guys come through. We have given opportunities to some of the boys who haven't played a lot of cricket over the last few months. We have seen some of the skills available to us and we have to keep building on those skills as we go forward. It's going to be a long season between now and the next World Cup being realistic with how much cricket some of our experienced players will play," Dravid signed off.

Tottenham seal comeback win against Leeds; Manchester City go second



Tottenham, November 22:

Sergio Reguilon's first goal for Tottenham Hotspur earned his side a 2-1 victory over Leeds United in manager Antonio Conte's first home Premier League game in charge on Sunday. The Spanish left back tucked home a rebound in the 69th minute to seal a

comeback win for Tottenham Hotspur who were abysmal in the first half and trailed to Daniel James's opener. Tottenham were booed off at halftime but whatever words of wisdom Conte offered inspired quite a transformation with the hosts vastly improved after the interval. After Harry Kane and

Son Heung-min were both denied equalisers by the woodwork, Pierre-Emile Højbjerg equalised with a left-footed finish from the edge of the area in the 58th minute as the hosts began to dominate. Reguilon then sealed Tottenham's first win in four league games to lift them above Manchester United into seventh place with 19 points from 12 games. An injury-hit Leeds team appeared to run out of steam in the second half and defeat left them one place and two points above the relegation zone with 11 points. Manchester City moved back to second in the Premier League after a stylish 3-0 win over Everton at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday as Pep Guardiola's side responded to convincing

Chelsea and Liverpool wins with a reminder of their class. Champions City dominated possession from the start against an Everton side that struggled to get a foothold in the game, but created few real openings in the opening half hour. Guardiola was left frustrated when a penalty was awarded after Raheem Sterling went down under challenge from Michael Keane but referee Stuart Attwell overturned his decision after reviewing the incident at the pitchside monitor. Sterling did put City ahead a minute before the break, side-footing home after a magnificent pass, struck with the outside of his foot, by full back Joao Cancelo. Spanish midfielder Rodri made it

2-0 with a thundering long-strike from over 20 metres out that whistled past Everton keeper Jordan Pickford. Sterling missed a great chance to end the contest but mis-controlled the ball in front of goal after a low cross from Riyad Mahrez. Cole Palmer, the 19-year-old making his first Premier League start, had set Mahrez through for that opportunity and it was his blocked shot was pounced on by Bernardo Silva who calmly slotted home the third. Chelsea lead the table on 29 points, with City three points behind and Liverpool one further back in third. Rafa Benitez's Everton are without a win in six games and are 11th on 15 points.

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