

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VI ■ Issue No. 278 ■ RNI-ASSENG/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ THURSDAY ■ NOVEMBER 25, 2021 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 7.00

Man who murdered Meredith Kercher released from jail in Italy

02

GSCL will begin 17 projects including the Brahmaputra riverfront ...

07

NEWS IN BRIEF

CM Tamang Meets BTC Chief

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

Sikkim Chief Minister P S Tamang along with his cabinet ministers, Bedu Singh Pant and Arun Upreti arrived at the Central Institute of Technology (CIT) guest house in Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) on his visit to Kokrajhar. The BTC Chief Executive Member Pramod Boro and deputy CEM Gabinda Chandra Basumatary gave him a warm welcome. The Sikkim CM was in Guwahati on Monday and was supposed to leave for Siliguri. He traveled via road and halted in Kokrajhar due to poor weather conditions.

Drugs seized

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

About 50,000 tablets of the 'World is Yours' drug were seized during an operation today, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma informed. In a tweet, CM Sarma said, "Assam Against Drugs. Another major drug haul by Assam police. The timely interception by Guwahati Police has led to the successful recovery of 50,000 'World is Yours' tablets." "We shall not allow our youth to get trapped by the drugs menace," he added.

Death threat From ISIS

New Delhi, November 24:

BJP MP Gautam Gambhir has alleged a death threat to him and his family from the terror group ISIS Kashmir in a police complaint filed in Delhi. Security has been tightened outside his home in the national capital after the complaint was filed last night, and a probe has been ordered. "Gautam Gambhir has received death threats from ISIS Kashmir through e-mail. Security has been beefed up outside his residence," police officer Shweta Chauhan said. The 40-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who represents East Delhi, said he got the email on Tuesday.

MoU signed between KAAC and OIL



Assam Rising, Reporter Diphu, November 24:

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) over crude oil exploration at Dhansiri, Karbi Anglong District bordering Nagaland state was signed for the term of two years between Karbi

Assam Cabinet held at Bongaigaon, several decisions taken

Cabinet decided to merge SEBA and AHSEC



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

The Assam Cabinet on Wednesday decided to merge the Board of Secondary Education Assam (SEBA) and Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC). The decision was taken at the

Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, held at the office of the Bongaigaon Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall. While addressing a press conference after the meeting CM Sarma said that currently the SEBA and AHSEC are functioning separately and

the decision to merge the two educational boards in Assam has been taken in order to fully implement the new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The Assam Cabinet has decided to implement the 5+3+3+4 system in the state. The decision has been taken keeping in view

of the new National Education Policy, which talks about abolishment of higher secondary classes from colleges at the earliest. According to the announcement, all high schools will be converted into HS schools. A total of 1000 schools will be converted into Higher Second-

ary (HS) schools in the first phase. Whereas, all lower primary schools will be merged with nearby Middle English (ME) schools with an aim to prevent student dropouts. "The focus areas decided for the onward journey include inspection of Anganwadi centres, hospitals including community health centres, primary health centres etc, Jal Jeevan Mission Schemes, LP Schools, vaccination centres along with other important issues," an official statement issued here said. Similarly the focus areas decided for the return journey include interactions with Orunodoy

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Lachit Borphukan Birth Anniversary: Assam CM Pays Homage

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

On the birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday paid homage to the Ahom general, who defeated the Mughal army on the banks of the Brahmaputra in the Battle

of Saraighat in 1671. Taking to Twitter, the chief minister said, "I bow in reverence to the great Ahom General Lachit Borphukan on the occasion of #LachitDiwas. A strong leader and an epitome of bravery, Bir Lachit Borphukan's heroics will continue to inspire generations to fight for the pride

& sovereignty of their motherland." Moreover, various events are being organised across the state in remembrance of the legendary warrior. In Guwahati, a bike rally is being organized by Hindu Jagaran Manch from Chandmari to Guwahati club to mark the occasion. Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) along with Lachit Sangh will be observing the occasion at Saniram Bora field in Guwahati's Ulubari area. The programme will be inaugurated by AJP chief Lurin Jyoti Gogoi. In Dergaon, a marathon is be-

ing organized to mark the occasion. Further, Bir Lachit Sena group in Lakhimpur has organized a 2-day programme in memory of the late Ahom general. During the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, the legendary Ahom general led his army and defeated the mighty Mughal forces and overcome all challenges. The Mughal Army under Ram Singh consisted of 30,000 infantry, 15,000 archers, 18,000 Turkish cavalries, 5,000 gunners, and over 1000 cannons besides

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Assam govt issues notification to fill 6,000 vacant posts in police department



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

To strengthen the policing in the state, Sarma introduced various reformative measures that include 1,000 new quarters for police, infrastructure upgrade for Director General Police and

Commissioner offices. The Assam government would issue a notification within a week to fill 6,000 vacant posts in the police department that include five commando battalions. The announcement to this effect was made by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma following a meeting with police officials. To

Subramanian Swamy meets Mamata Banerjee in Delhi: 'I was already with her.'

New Delhi, November 24:

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy held a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday. Following the meeting, Swamy laid speculations about him joining the Trinamool Congress to rest. "I was already with her (Mamata). There is no need for me to join the party," he told reporters. The meeting took place at TMC general sec-



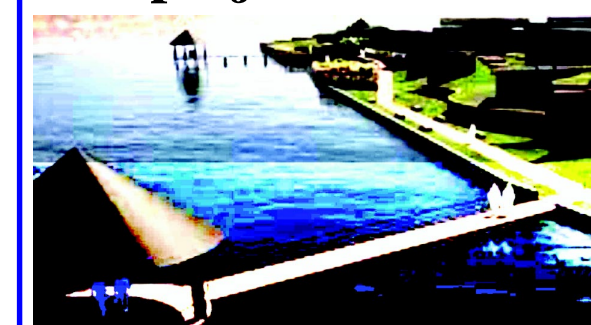
retary Abhishek Banerjee's official residence in Delhi around 3.30 pm. Incidentally, on Tuesday, Swamy

was in Kolkata, where he met West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. At 5 pm, Mamata will meet Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, where she will flag various issues, including the BSF's territorial jurisdiction in Bengal and the attacks on TMC workers in Tripura, the party said. Swamy, who was dropped from the BJP's national executive committee last month, has praised the TMC supremo on many occasions in the past. Most recently, he had criticised the Centre over its

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

GSCL to start 17 New projects soon



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

The Guwahati Smart City Limited (GSCL) will begin 17 projects, including the Brahmaputra riverfront development and integrated traffic management system, soon in the city at a cost of over Rs 887 crore. GSCL managing director Ghanshyam Dass said tenders have been floated for some of the projects while for the rest the tenders will be issued shortly. He said

the river front development project will cost over Rs 308 crore, the procurement of 200 non-AC electric buses will cost Rs 236 crore, the integrated traffic management system will cost Rs 127 crore and buying the desilting super sucker machines will cost Rs 30 crore. The development of Aswakanta temple, Umananda temple and Dakshinpat Satra Shanti Ashram are part of the

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Union Cabinet clears withdrawal of three farm laws ahead of Winter Session of Parliament

New Delhi, November 24:

The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 24 approved the proposal to withdraw three controversial farm laws that triggered year-long protests by thousands of farmers. After the Cabinet nod, the government will now introduce "The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021" in Parliament during the Winter Session beginning on November 29. "Today, the Union Cabinet led by PM completed formalities to repeal the three Farm Laws. During the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, it will be our priority to take back these three laws," Union Minister



Anurag Thakur said in a news conference. The Union Ministry of Agriculture has finalised this Bill after holding consultations with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), according to reports. Prime Minister Modi supervised the Cabinet meeting which took up other issues as well. The Repeal Bill seeks to repeal the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmer's (Em-

powerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. The move comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced last week that the Centre has decided to repeal the three farm laws. "While apologizing to the nation, I want to say with a sincere and pure heart that maybe something was lacking in our efforts that we could not explain the truth to some of our farmer brothers," the Prime Minister said in his address to the nation on June 19, marking Guru Purab festival. In September 2020, Parliament

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BHEJA FRY



CM & police are now strict enough. It's time to leave our illegal business, otherwise we will lose everything and if so, who will marry a baker?

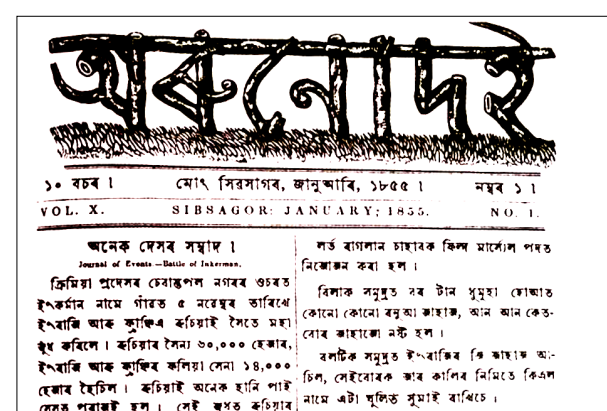
The first Assamese-language magazine 'Orunodoy' magazine to be put For 3 month -exhibition from December 1, 2021

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 24:

175-year-old Orunodoy magazine will be put under exhibition for the first time in the history of Assam in the majestic Mahabahu Brahmaputra Heritage centre by the Nanda Talukdar Foundation. "The exhibition shall be there for three months starting from December 1, 2021, to

Feb 28, 2022, and I wish every Assamese see this historic piece and pride of Assamese heritage," said Nanda Talukdar Foundation Secretary Mrinal Talukdar. The Nanda Talukdar Foundation and GMDA have jointly have organized this exhibition, which happens to be the first display of Orunodoy anywhere in the world. Besides these only surviving copies in Assam, a few are

being preserved in British Museum London, Oxford University Library, Oxford Cambridge University Library and National Library, Kolkata. "This is for the first time, people of Assam will be able to see the physical copy of Orunodoy," said Mr Talukdar. The Christian Missionaries published the magazine in 1846 and continued till 1882, heralding the golden age for the



Assamese language. The missionaries brought the

printing press all the way from the United States along with Assamese fonts and got no support from the English administration. Oliver T Cutter was the editor for the first five years and then Dr Nathan Brown took charge as the editor. First-year subscription was 577 of which 249 are natives. Later it rose to 800 but got

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



The scenery of Miaoshanzhai scenic area in Baihe County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province

A child injured in the Waukesha parade has died, bringing the toll to six

London, November 24 : Prosecutors in Wisconsin on Tuesday charged a man with intentional homicide in the deaths of five people who were killed when an SUV was driven into a Christmas parade earlier this week that also left 62 people injured, including many children. Prosecutors say a sixth person, a child, has

times but Brooks drove past him. The complaint said the detective was wearing police insignia and a neon orange safety vest. Brooks had been free on \$1,000 bail for a case in Milwaukee county earlier in November in which he is accused of intentionally striking a woman with his car. Prosecutors said they



died and more charges are pending. Several of those injured remain in critical condition. Darrell Brooks Jr was charged with five counts of intentional homicide in the crash Sunday in Waukesha, a Milwaukee suburb. Conviction on first-degree intentional homicide carries a mandatory life sentence, Wisconsin's stiffest penalty. The court commissioner set bail at \$5m. Brooks made his initial appearance in court Tuesday. He could be heard crying during the proceeding. According to the criminal complaint, witnesses told police that the vehicle "appeared to be intentionally moving side to side," with no attempt to slow down or stop as it struck multiple people and sent bodies and objects flying. The criminal complaint said a police officer shot at the vehicle, striking it three times, and a detective stepped in front of Brooks' vehicle and pounded on the hood, shouting "Stop" several

are investigating their bail recommendation in that case, calling it inappropriately low. "He was accused of running over the mother of his kid and to put it as \$1,000 strikes me as low," said Julius Kim, a defense attorney and former assistant prosecutor. Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson said Brooks, 39, was leaving the scene of a domestic dispute that had taken place just minutes earlier when he drove into the parade route. Brooks has been charged with crimes more than a dozen times since 1999 and had two outstanding cases against him at the time of the parade disaster. That included resisting or obstructing an officer, recklessly endangering, disorderly conduct, bail jumping and battery for the 2 November incident. Ahead of a first court appearance by the suspect for the parade incident, friends and family members of the

injured spoke of their ordeal online. Car Drives Through Holiday Parade In Waukesha, Wisconsin - WUKESHA, WI - NOVEMBER 22: People embrace one another during a vigil in Cutler Park on November 22, 2021 in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Five people were killed and several injured after Darrell Brooks, Jr. drove an SUV through a holiday parade route on November 21st. The vigil is being held at Cutler Park, near the crime scene, to honor the victims. A young girl who is a member of a dance troupe struck by the SUV told doctors, "Just glue me back together," according to a fundraising page organized by a family friend. Online, 12 verified fundraising pages detail some of the injuries from the parade incident. At least 18 children suffered facial abrasions, broken bones and serious head injuries. A girl named Jessalyn, whose last name is not given, is shown smiling at the camera on one page, wearing a white Santa hat and holding pom-poms. She is standing with other members of the Waukesha Xtreme Dance team in a picture taken moments before she was hit. Jessalyn is "fighting for her life", according to the account established by a friend, Oscar Luna. She lost a kidney, broke her pelvis and has damage to her liver and lungs, Luna said. "This holiday season will be a brutal one for them," he said of her family. In an update posted on Tuesday morning, Luna wrote that Jessalyn woke up briefly on Monday. "She is not fully aware of the severity of her injuries but managed to say, 'Just glue me back together,'" he wrote. "Only a child could reference themselves as a little doll in this situation."

Boris Johnson is not unwell and has not lost his grip, says No 10



London, November 24 : Boris Johnson is physically well and has a full grasp on the prime ministership, Downing Street has said following his rambling speech to business leaders on Monday in which he lost his place for about 20 seconds. People who watched the speech Johnson gave to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) conference were impressed with it, his spokesman argued, adding that cabinet ministers could speak freely if they had any concerns. The speech at the Port of Tyne, which

included a vocal impression of a revving car engine and a section on the lessons for capitalism and officialdom presented by the children's cartoon character Peppa Pig, prompted worries from a number of Tory MPs. Asked if Johnson "has a grip", his spokesman replied: "Of course. I'd point to the CBI themselves, who when asked about the speech said leaders would be heartened to hear the prime minister talk passionately about the role of the private sector working in partnership with government to achieve our shared ambition for a high-skilled, high-investment economy." It would be wrong to read too much into the section of the speech where Johnson paused for a long period and shuffled the pages at his speech, muttering,

"forgive me" three times. "The prime minister briefly lost his place in the speech," the spokesman said. "He's given hundreds of speeches. I don't think it's unusual for people, on rare occasions, to lose their place in space." Johnson had appeared to be struggling with a cold last week, but his spokesman insisted he was in good health, saying: "The prime minister is well. He's focused on delivering for the public." The spokesman declined to comment on a BBC report that an unnamed "senior Downing St source" said there was "a lot of concern inside the building about the PM", and a feeling that ministers should demand changes. "I've seen a number of anonymous source quotes, and I'm not, as you know, going to respond to anonymous sources," the spokesman said.

AAP will announce the name before....: Arvind Kejriwal on party's Punjab CM candidate

Amritsar, November 24 : Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has said that his party will announce its chief ministerial candidates for the upcoming assembly election in Punjab before the Congress or the BJP. Asked when would AAP announce its chief ministerial candidate, Kejriwal said, "Parties either declare the CM candidate or they don't. The parties which declare CM candidate do so at close to the polls." "So far, the Congress has not declared their candidate. They are not saying whether Sidhu or (Sukhjinder) Randhwa will be the choice or Channi will continue," he said. "In Uttar Pradesh too, no one knows who will be BJP's CM candidate. In Uttarakhand and Goa too, there is a similar situation," Kejriwal said while addressing a press conference in Amritsar. The AAP chief while evading a direct reply on his party's chief ministerial candidate in

Punjab said, "I want to assure you that (in Punjab) we will do it before others." Kejriwal also made it clear that he is "not a chief ministerial candidate for Punjab" and that he said this earlier too. The AAP chief praised Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu for raising public welfare issues but claimed he faced suppression from both the present and former chief ministers of his party in the state. On a two-day visit to Punjab, the Delhi Chief Minister also claimed that about 25 Congress MLAs and two-three MPs from the state are in touch with his party, seeking to join it, but, he said, "We do not take garbage from other parties." "I praise Sidhu for his courage," Kejriwal said, adding the Punjab Congress president had corrected state Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi when the latter claimed that sand was being sold to the public at Rs 5 per cubic foot. "Sidhu told the chief minister that it was still



being sold at Rs 20 per cubic foot," said Aam Aadmi Party's national convenor Kejriwal. He said Sidhu has always been raising issues of public interest, but he was earlier suppressed by former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and is now being suppressed by Channi. Kejriwal also hit out at Channi, who became chief minister in September after the unceremonious exit of Amarinder Singh, alleging that he has not fulfilled till now any of his promises to people, like that of giving free electricity or building mohalla clinics. On being asked about a couple

of Punjab's AAP leaders joining the Congress ahead of the state assembly polls, Kejriwal shot back, "About 25 Congress MLAs and two-three of their MPs are in touch with us to join our party." "Many from the Congress are also in our contact, but we don't take their kachra (garbage). If we start taking their kachra, 25 of their MLAs will join our party by evening, but we don't have to get into this competition." Kejriwal had on Monday promised to transfer Rs 1,000 per month into the account of every woman in Punjab if AAP is voted to power in the upcoming assembly polls. The Delhi chief minister had made the promise while dubbing Chief Minister Channi as a "fake Kejriwal". Asked from where the AAP will generate funds to meet his promise, Kejriwal asserted, "I was listening to statements of Channi and other leaders that Punjab's

coffers are empty." "Who did it? They were in power for five years and looted it. Earlier, for 10 years the SAD-led government was in power and they too used to say the same thing," he retorted. Kejriwal, meanwhile, held a meeting with traders and industrialists and assured them of creating a business-friendly atmosphere in the state, if AAP is voted to power. During his meeting with businessmen and industrialists, Kejriwal unveiled his plan to launch a "Mission Punjab", incorporating AAP's seven guarantees aimed at revolutionising business, trade, commerce and industrial development of the state. These guarantees included setting up of a commission, abolishing 'inspector raj', fixing VAT refunds, ensuring power supply, setting up of a Punjab Bazaar portal, improving the state's law and order and construction and development of focal points. Talking about the Punjab government's school education system, Kejriwal dubbed the plight of government schools and teachers in Punjab as dismal. He gave eight 'guarantees' to teachers for comprehensive education reform in Punjab and promised that these guarantees would be implemented on a priority basis if an AAP government is formed in 2022.

Albert Einstein's relativity theory notes sold at Paris auction, do you know how much they fetched?

Paris, November 24 : A manuscript co-written by Albert Einstein on his Theory of Relativity was auctioned on Tuesday for 11.7 million euros (about \$13 million). The manuscript was sold by Christie's in Paris to an anonymous buyer, according to Xinhua news agency. Christie's said on its website that the 54-page working manuscript, co-written by Einstein and Michele Besso between June 1913 and early 1914, was a crucial stage in the development of the General Theory of Relativity. It is one of only two surviving manuscripts documenting the genesis of the theory and provides a fascinating glimpse into the mind of the scientist, Christie's added. The auction house had previously estimated the value of the manuscript at between 2.4 million and 3.5 million dollars. In 2019, an exhibition marking the 140th anniversary of Einstein's birth was held in Shanghai, China. Handwritten pages of the General Theory of Relativity and famous equation $E=MC^2$ (squared) were displayed.

PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Guwahati Building Circle-I, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-1 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites item rate bids in electronic tendering system for the work "Infrastructure Development of Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, Nalbari during the financial year 2020-2021" with an approximate value of work of Rs. 1,79,64,662.00 (Excluding GST) from APWD Building registered contractor of Class-I (A,B,C), having upto date registration and requisite experience in similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Notes :-

1. Any modification of tender may be seen in the P.W.D. portal www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.
Guwahati Building Circle-I,
Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-1
Janasanyog/C/8143/21



A teller counts banknotes in an exchange office in Ankara, Turkey

Guest House

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

Eight Colleges from Assam Sign MoU with USTM



STAFFREPORTER

Guwahati, Nov 24: With the purpose to create a framework for collaboration, Principals from eight leading colleges of Assam have signed eight separate Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM) today. The eight colleges are: Ledo College, Tinsukia; Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Digboi; N. L. Borgohain College, Dibrugarh; Amguri College, Sivasagar; Nowgong Girls' College, Nagaon; Morigaon College, Morigaon; Karmashree Hiteswar saikia

College, Guwahati and Goalpara College, Goalpara. The MoUs have been signed by Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor USTM and the Principals of the respective colleges. Speaking on the occasion, Prof GD Sharma said that the MoUs will facilitate joint collaborative research works between students, faculty and staff of the institutions. "USTM will offer freeship / scholarship for poor meritorious students for higher education on recommendation from the respective college authorities", he added. An open interactive session

was held with the college principals at the NKC Auditorium of USTM which was also addressed by Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM. He said that the agreements with the colleges would be beneficial for academic collaboration in ICT, Counseling, Training etc. for teachers, staff and students. The objectives of the MoUs include, establishing close linkage and functional co-ordination between USTM and the colleges through collaborative efforts in different student activities including academic, sports as well as cultural activities,

to jointly organize Seminars, Workshops, Conferences, Symposiums & Competitions, celebrate important occasions and appreciate good works by offering felicitation to the performers from time to time. The institutions will jointly undertake research & project works in emerging areas with local relevance by the students/ scholars and faculty members of the University. The different colleges agreed to facilitate the students of USTM for Internship programmes/ project works/ exposure trips/ placement. The signatory institutions have also agreed to organize extension and outreach activities like socio economic & welfare initiatives for neighboring & rural communities. The institutions have unanimously agreed to extend support to the people in distress during any natural calamity of the region, e.g. flood, earthquake, landslides etc. and to work for peace, brotherhood, national integrity and communal harmony. The agreements are valid for a period of three years from the date of signing and can be extended for a period of two years on the recommendation of a review committee.

Minister inspected sites of the ongoing Dimapur - Kohima new railway line project that will connect the state capital of Nagaland. The line starts from Dhanisiri station, which is about 18 km before Dimapur on the main line in between Lumding and Dimapur. The new line will end at Zubza adjacent to Kohima. The Minister inspected the newly built Shokhuvu railway station, tunneling and bridge works during his visit. Raosaheb Patil Danve, Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways, Coal & Mines also inaugurated a 60 bedded AC Running room with modern facilities at Kamakya station on November, 23. It has a veg/non-veg kitchen and separate rooms for ladies staff. He also interacted with the running staff.

BPCL petrol pump equipped with NEXT GEN PFS



STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Nov 24: Continuing the technological Revolution, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has taken a giant leap to bring a technological change in the Petrol Pumps to understand the customer experience while fueling at Petrol Pumps. New innovative systems like IRIS, IPS (Integrated Payment system), EM Lock, UFill and SMART DRIVE have been placed to empower both the Dealer and Customers and further our promise of Quality and Quantity at BPCL Petrol Pumps. These Petrol Pumps have been given the tag of NEXT GEN PFS.

Guwahati City was one of the chosen few Cities where PFS NEXT GEN ROs was launched on November 22 last at BPCL's flagship RO, M/s Kamakhya Energy Point, Bhetapara. All esteemed customers can visit our PFS NEXT GEN ROs and be a part of the technological revolution- BPCL official release stated.

Union minister Danve hold review meeting with NFR officials

STAFFREPORTER

Guwahati, Nov 24: Raosaheb Patil Danve, Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways, Coal & Mines held a review meeting with General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway at Guwahati on November, 24 on various developmental works and the ongoing railway projects in the North-eastern region. The meeting was also attended by the General Manager of N. F. Railway Construction Organisation and other senior railway officials. Anshul Gupta, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway was present during discussion with the Hon'ble Minister on overall performance of Northeast Frontier Railway (Open line) and day to day functioning pertaining to



operation of trains and development of passenger amenities in various states. Sunil Sharma, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) along with senior railway officials from the construction organization also gave a presentation of the ongoing projects of Railway Construction in Northeast. N. F. Railway is executing various new railway line projects for connecting the capitals of North-eastern states. The projects are in various stages of completion. Various issues related to timely completion of

these projects were discussed by all stakeholders during the review meeting. Once the projects are completed, it will create a new mode of communication for the people of North-eastern states and will largely help in boosting the economy in these regions. The Union Minister earlier on Monday, inspected bridge and tunneling works of the Sivok- Rangpo new railway line project. Sikkim will be connected by the railway network through this project. Next day, the

Dibrugarh Police issues helpline numbers to curb extortion

STAFFREPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 24: The Dibrugarh police are on a mission to curb illegal extortion activities from unlawful groups. On Monday, the Dibrugarh Police Department launched an anti-extortion cell wherein victims can directly complain here and the authorities can take subsequent action against the perpetrators. Helpline Numbers for assisting the public have also been initiated by the police department. People can directly contact the following numbers: 6026901264, 6026901270, 6026901265, 6026901273, and 6026901272. "Anti extortion cell of @dibrugarhpolice has been formed for receiving complaints regarding extortion from genuine business en-

ties and ensuring swift action. We @assampolice are committed to put #EndToExtortion," the Dibrugarh police wrote in their official Twitter handle. The Tinsukia Police also joined the anti-extortion campaign by pledging to take strict action against those who are involved in illegal Chanda (Donations) in the district. The Tinsukia police also took to their official Twitter handle to demonstrate their initiatives. "In order to provide assistance to the victims of "Donations" or "Chanda" by any organization, the victims can contact Hiranya Kr. Dohutia, APS, DSP (S&I), Tinsukia in such incidents for needful action at 81360-74800 & 60269-01095", said their Twitter statement.

Election observer stresses on error-free electoral roll

STAFF REPORTER, Aalo, Nov 24:

The ECI Election Observer for 27-Liromoba, 28-Likabali, 29- Basar , 30- Aalo West and 31- Aalo East, Shri Rajeev Takur had detail interactive meeting with DEO, EROs, AEROs and representatives of all political parties of the district for preparing a Error free Electoral Rolls in the district at Conference Hall of DC office Aalo on 23rd Nov. last. Takur said national duty like election cannot be taken lightly and he will be visiting all places to verify the electoral roll preparation works three times, during submission of related forms, hearing and final draft Electoral Roll preparation to see to it that it is done in a fair and transparent manner. He reiterated that many of the political parties have no BLAs in many of the polling stations which not a healthy trend in a democratic set and they should settle the discrepancies during this preparatory time instead of making hue and cry in the time of election and asked all EROs/AEROs persuade all political parties in writing and through awareness programme as it is imperative that ECI guidelines percolate down to masses. The DEO West Siang Shri Panga Tato and ERO Smti Koj Yabang highlighted the election related activities being geared up in the district. The ERO Yomcha Shri Hento Karga pointed out the two problems of lack of net connectivity and shortage of two AEROs for Yomcha and Liromoba to carry forward the works in his jurisdiction. The other ERO/AEROs also pointed out non appointment of BLAs by the Political Parties.

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, Nov 23: Former president of Assam Sahitya Sabha Padmashree Imran Shah was felicitated by a host of organisations and his numerous admirers on Tuesday on the occasion of his 89th birthday. Representatives of Sivasagar Jila Sahitya Sabha, Rangpur Sahitya Sabha, Arunodai Sahitya Sabha, Demow Sahitya Sabha, Dikhowmukh Sahitya Sabha, Sibsagar College, Minority Students union, Sivasagar Press Club, and many other organisations wished the prolific writer, poet, lyricist, and playwright a long healthy life and presented him with flower bouquet, books, sadars, gamosa and saplings. Shah in his speech referred to a line from Hem Baruah's poem "momorom buksusa bobo moi nuwaru ...", and said that he would not be able to carry the weight of so much love and respect bestowed on him and thanked all for the overwhelmingly warm wishes.

Wishing him more than a century of a lifetime, his friend and colleague in Sibsagar College, Sahityachariya Nahendra Padun said that there are few writers who can contribute so much to every branch of literature for over fifty years like Imran Shah has been doing. Dr. Prakash Kotoky, former principal, Sibsagar College said that he felt extremely fortunate to have Imran Shah as a teacher and then as a colleague at Sibsagar College and he was amazed by Shah sir's wide-ranging information from literature to science. Shah ap-

preciated two promising young poets Ankuran Arf and Kishore Manjit Kalita and wished them higher recognition as poets. Prominent persons that felicitated Imran Shah were Jaga Gogoi, Haren Ch Nath, Dr. Sabyasachi Mahanta, Dr. Ritamoni Bora, Rekha Moni Bora, Punaram Mili, Rajendra Joshi, Prema Gogoi, Dilip Buragohain, Manoj Kumar Borthakur,




Jehiruddin Khan, Muktab Hussain, Anamuddin Ahmed, Deba Hazarika and many more. Santosh Dutta did the anchoring while Prabin Hazarika sang a song written by Shah. Nabanit Hazarika and Ankuran Arf recited poems.

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<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned herein below calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees with their respective branches to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</p>							
Sl. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagees	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding	
1	Nazira Branch	Mrs. Khetrada Konwar	Mrs. Khetrada Konwar, Address: Gargaon, Hemanbari, P.O. Simalaguri-785686, Dist. Sibsagar, Assam and Guarantors: Shri Jiten Changmai, Address: Gargaon, Hemanbari, P.O. Simalaguri-785686, Dist. Sibsagar, Assam.	Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of land measuring 1 Katha 5 Lessas, Periodic Patna No. 548, Dag No. 1224, Gift Deed No. 315, Takala Bari - Non Agricultural Land Situated at Bokola, Gargaon, Simalaguri, Dist. Sibsagar, Butted and bounded as:- North: Land of Thapra Arandra, South: Land of Denkan Baillang, East: Land of Jiten Changmai and Village Road, West: Land of Garh.	08.06.2021 19.11.2021	Rs. 12,73,447.79 as on 19.11.2021 and interest thereon.	
2	Jorhat Branch	Mr. Utpal Saha	Mr. Utpal Saha of Itakuli Garmur, P.O. JEC, Jorhat, Assam-785007 and Guarantors:- Sri Ratan Saha & Smt. Madhavi Das of Itakuli Garmur, P.O. JEC, Jorhat, Assam-785007 & Sri Manti Das, Smt. Rimi Das & Smt. Momi Das of Kumar Kaibatra Gaon, Garmur, P.O. JEC, Jorhat, Assam-785007.	All that part and parcel of the properties consisting of :- (1) Land and building at PP No. 238, Dag No. 915, Area - 0 Bigha 1 Katha 10 Lessa in the name of Ratan Saha located at Itakuli Garmur, P.O. JEC, within the Registration sub-district Jorhat and District Jorhat. Bounded:- On the North by: Road, On the North by: Christian Bari, On the East by: Land of Haru Ladi, On the West by: Land of Anant Dutta; (2) Land and building at PP No. 239, Dag No. 330, Area - 0 Bigha 0 Katha 15 Lessa of Madhavi Das, Manti Das, Momi Das & Rimi Das located at Kumar Kaibatra Gaon, Garmur, P.O. JEC, within the Registration Sub-District Jorhat and District Jorhat. Bounded:- On the North by: Land of Salia Suren, On the South by: Land of Nitali Das & Hariakad Path, On the East by: Land of Babua Masi, On the West by: Land of Mnohar Sarma.	16.06.2021 19.11.2021	Rs. 21,94,453.00 as on 19.11.2021 and interest thereon.	
3	Tipling Tinali Branch	Shri Pranjal Sharma	Shri Pranjal Sharma, Address: S/o Late Norendra Nath Sharma, College Road, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602 and Guarantors:- Shri Pranjal Sharma, Address: S/o Late Norendra Nath Sharma, College Road, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602.	Land & Building built on the land measuring 0B - 1K - 0L (2880 sqft) covered by Dag No. 566, Periodic Patna No. 153 situated at Dulaijan Town under Kheremia Mouza, P.O. Dulaijan, P.S. Dulaijan, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602. Butted & bounded by:- On the North by: Sri Hema Kanta Hazarika, On the South by: Common Road, On the East by: Common Road, On the West by: Road.	22.01.2019 20.11.2021	Rs. 18,11,819.00 and Rs. 15,76,751.00 as on 22.01.2019 and further interest.	
4	Tipling Tinali Branch	Shri Raja Parikhit Borah	Shri Raja Parikhit Borah, Address: S/o Chiken Chandra Borah, Nandan Path, Jayanagar, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602 and Guarantors:- Mrs. Bijaya Dutta, Address: S/o Chiken Chandra Borah, Nandan Path, Jayanagar, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602.	Land & Building built on the land measuring 01 Katha covered by PP No. 343 Dag No. 830 (P) situated at Dulaijan Town under Kheremia Mouza, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602. Butted & bounded by:- On the North by: Land of Rudhra Devi, On the South by: Kamalabari Road, On the East by: Land of Rudhra Devi, On the West by: Tipling Road. Hypothecated Assets:- Present and future Stock of goods and Book Debts.	02.06.2018 20.11.2021	Rs. 65,74,607.00 as on 20.11.2021 and further interest	
5	Bokakhat Branch	Mr. Priyanku Bhardwaj	Mr. Priyanku Bhardwaj, Address: Seujeepar, P.O. Bokakhat, Golaghat Dist, Assam-785612 and Guarantors:- Mrs. Bijaya Dutta, Address: S/o Chiken Chandra Borah, Nandan Path, Jayanagar, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam, Pin-786602.	All that part and parcel of the land and building property at Seujeepar, P.O. Bokakhat, Dist. Golaghat, Assam covered by Dag No. 19 Periodic Patna No. 29 measuring 0 Bighas 4 Katha 12 Lessas in the name of Priyanku Bhardwaj, Butted & bounded by:- On the North by: Land of Proposed Mortgagee, On the South by: Land of Road, On the East by: Land of Yaku Das, On the West by: Land of Sallen Tamuli.	28.04.2021 20.11.2021	Rs. 9,88,398.00 as on 28.04.2021 and interest thereon.	
6	Dulaijan Branch	Shri Jagadish Singh	Shri Jagadish Singh, S/o Sri Dulu Singh, Address: Mahal Road, Jayanagar, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam-786602 and Guarantors:- Shri Dulu Singh, Address: Mahal Road, Jayanagar, P.O. Dulaijan, Dist-Dibrugarh, Assam-786602.	All that part and parcel of land and building property at Sanpathera Bengali Gaon, Mouza-Kheremia, District-Dibrugarh, Assam covered by Dag No. 748, appertaining to the Periodic Patna No. 22 vide Deed No. 2484 (Sale Deed) for the year 1996 Dated 18.11.1996, measuring 00 Bigha 01 Katha 16 Lessa in the name of Shri Dulu Singh, Butted & bounded by:- On the North by: 6.70 m & Land of Sri Puri Murari, On the South by: 6.70 m & Road, On the East by: 71.80 m & Land of Sri Debananda Baruah, On the West by: 71.80 m & Land of Sri Jogen Gohain.	20.02.2019 20.11.2021	Rs. 42,28,214.15 as on 20.11.2021 and further interest	
<p>"Please note that the Possession Notice issued under the SARFAESI ACT on 22.01.2020 under is hereby recalled for all purpose and fresh Possession Notice dated 20.11.2021 is being issued which shall be used for all the purposes henceforth."</p>							
Date: 25.11.2021, Place: Nazira Jorhat Dibrugarh Bokakhat Dulaijan							
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank							

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 278 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

The issue of climate

The Glasgow climate pact signed at Cop26 is a historic agreement. It was the result of two years of marathon work, and a two-week sprint of negotiations, but we achieved what we wanted. We can credibly say that we kept the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels in reach. And besides that, we have won historic commitments from countries to act on coal, cars, cash and trees. These are valuable agreements that begin to fill in the details of how we will navigate this immense, worldwide challenge. Cop26 was the biggest political gathering of any kind ever held in the UK. Glasgow hosted representatives from 194 countries, and 120 world leaders, with 38,000 accredited delegates attending. From outside, the negotiations may have appeared incredibly technocratic. But they were so much more than that. They were ultimately about protecting the lives and livelihoods of those on the frontline of the climate crisis. And protecting future generations who, if we fail, will be condemned to live in a dangerous, uncertain and depleted world. Science tells us that the world is already on average 1.1C warmer than in pre-industrial times, and many millions of people are already suffering from the acute effects of a changing climate. Extreme weather is on the rise across the world and climate change does not recognise national borders. Ultimately, the Glasgow climate pact is an outcome of which all parties can be proud. The cooperation we have seen in this process should give the world hope. In a world of fractured global politics, countries have shown a unity of purpose on the issue of climate. Yes, there were difficulties with these negotiations, particularly in the final hours when an agreement looked in real jeopardy. But overall we saw a willingness from countries to compromise. There was growth in trust between nations, and a genuine determination to reach agreement. Driven by the latest science, our pact recognises the gulf between where countries are on emissions reductions and where we need to be. It emphasises the urgent need for faster action. It commits countries to revisit and strengthen their 2030 emissions reductions targets and develop mid-century net-zero strategies in 2022. The pact makes progress on adaptation, finance, and loss and damage resulting from the climate crisis. And, for the first time, it commits to a plan to move away from coal power and inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies. After six years of wrangling, Cop26 also finalised the outstanding elements of the Paris rulebook - the rules governing the Paris agreement - the resolution of which will unleash its full potential. Outside the negotiating halls, we welcomed commitments that speed up the move to clean power and clean cars, that put the brakes on deforestation, and that increase the finance flowing to climate action. We can count an \$8.5bn (£6.3bn) Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa; manufacturers representing around a third of the global car market committing to ending the sale of polluting vehicles; a pledge from countries home to more than 90% of the world's forests to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation; and the highest single mobilisation to the Adaptation Fund, which supports climate-vulnerable communities. I could go on. With so many positive announcements, it could be tempting to become complacent. But this would be a mistake. The 1.5C limit lives. We brought it back from the brink. But its pulse remains weak. We must steer it to safety by ensuring countries deliver on the promises they have made, and on the expectations set out in this pact to increase climate ambition to 2030 and beyond. And this is why the UK's work as the Cop26 presidency is really only just beginning. Over the course of the next year, we will work with countries, urging them to take action and honour their promises. There is no formal policing process in the UN framework convention on climate change system, and so we must keep up the constructive pressure, and build on the trust and goodwill generated through Cop26. Because the world has now shown that it can work together to accelerate the pace of change.

Be a Citizen Journalist

Are you against of violence or corruption? Do you really want revolution in the social, educational, political or economical system? Do you have any questions for the Government, political or non political parties? Don't worry, be a part of The Assam Rising family. Be a citizen journalist and write to us about your problem and we will take the responsibility to publish your voice. We will give you a platform to raise your voice, because your simple voice can change society.

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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

Farm laws repeal wasn't about UP, Punjab elections. The answer lies in what Savarkar wrote



The symbolism was too profound to be missed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to repeal the three contentious farm laws came on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti on 19 November. He especially mentioned that he chose the auspicious occasion for the announcement. It may be a coincidence, but on the same day, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat went to a gurdwara in Chhattisgarh's Raipur and paid obeisance. The Prime Minister's announcement has been generally seen and analysed in the context of impending assembly elections in the states of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in 2022. The popular theory is that the farmers' movement was causing damage to the electoral prospects of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the PM was forced to take a U-turn on the farm laws. Even farmer leaders have been saying that. Such analyses were made despite the fact that Punjab has never been an electorally important territory for the BJP, and in UP, the movement was limited to half-a-dozen districts in the western and terai regions, where Sikh farmers were allotted land after Partition in 1947. It's true that assembly elections are just around the corner, and the PM's decision can impact the electoral arithmetic, but I would like to argue that the government's move is more social, cultural, and ideological than electoral. It has been done to safeguard something that is most important for the Hindutva brigade-the 'idea of Hindutva' itself as envisioned by V.D. Savarkar. In effect, the BJP (and the RSS) took the decision to repeal the farm laws to tell the Sikhs that they are not 'another Muslim' for them. Sikhs are very important within

Hindutva narratives, and the RSS and the BJP cannot afford to treat them like they treat Muslims. The latter's othering is not just acceptable, but also essential to the idea of Hindutva. In his book Essentials of Hindutva, V.D. Savarkar constantly argued that "If any community in India is Hindu beyond cavil or criticism, it is our Sikh brotherhood in the Punjab, being almost the autochthonous dwellers of the Sapta Sindhu land and the direct descendants of the Sindhu or Hindu people. The Sikh of today is the Hindu of yesterday, and the Hindu of today may be the Sikh of tomorrow. The change of a dress, or a custom, or detail of daily life cannot change the blood or the seed, nor can efface and blot out history itself." This shows the importance that Savarkar ascribed to the idea that Sikhs should remain within the Hindu fold. At the time of writing this book, his project was to create a grand Hindutva narrative, and he wanted to club the Sanatanists, Satnamis, Sikhs, Aryas, Anaryas, Marathas and Madrasis, Brahmins and Panchamas ('untouchables') under the Hindutva fold. So, Savarkar sounded more progressive than Gandhi, who held puritanical views on caste and varna. Savarkar said, "The system of four varnas may disappear when it has served its end or ceases to serve it, but will that make our land a Mlechchadesha-a land of foreigners? The Sanyasis, the Arya Samajis, the Sikhs and many others do not recognise the system of the four castes, and yet are they foreigners? God forbid! They are ours by blood, by race, by country, by God. We, Hindus, are all one and a nation, because chiefly of our common

blood: Bharati Santati." In Essentials of Hindutva, Savarkar used the word 'Sikh' more than 60 times. This number is another way to understand the importance of Sikhs in his Hindutva project. He further said that Sikhs should continue to profess their religion and continue to fight for minority rights. He added, "The Sikhs are free to reject any or all superstitions they dislike in sanatana dharma," even the binding authority of the Vedas as a revelation. They, thereby, may cease to be Sanatanis, but cannot cease to be Hindus. "Sikhs are Hindus in the sense of our definition of Hindutva and not in any religious sense whatever," said Savarkar. On the face of it, one may postulate that the farmers' movement was a non-religious social movement, as many of its leaders were Hindus and even Muslims such as Hannan Mollah, the general secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha. Farmers from all religious groups took part in the movement and their demands were all economic and related to government policies. The organisers took extra effort to ensure that the movement doesn't look like a religious programme by making Hindu

and Muslim leaders a part of all the delegations and press conferences. But the fact remains that the Sikhs were at the core of the movement, and the religious overtones were never missed. The protests started in Punjab just after the three Bills were passed in Parliament in mid-September 2020. The state government, led by the Congress, supported the farmers' agitation and the Punjab assembly even passed a resolution that the Acts would not be implemented in the state. The principal opposition party in Punjab, the Akali Dal, also took the same position. For two months, the farmers' unions protested, blocking roads and rail networks. All this while the movement remained largely confined to the Sikh farmers. Later on, Hindu Jats also joined the agitation. Other communities soon became a part of the protests, but these two were at the core. A vast majority of the farmers who died during the protests were Sikhs. In November 2020, the farmers gave a call to march to Delhi, and farmers from Haryana and western UP became a part of the agitation as well. Despite the movement broad-basing its social structure, the

Dilip Mandal

China can't use sports as soft power for long. 2022 Winter Olympics looks set to fail

China has used sports for soft power purposes but it might be coming to an end. US President Joe Biden is considering boycotting the Winter Olympics. Experts often question if China even exercises soft power like some countries in the English-speaking world. China's presence in sports, video games, and big-ticket movies is the hallmark of a different type of soft power. China believes in mixing its soft power with a hard economic power, which often subtly becomes coercion. Through the coercion tactics, Beijing has ensured Taiwan remains sidelined in international sporting events. The 2008 Summer Olympics established China's international legitimacy with very minimal opposition. Tibetan activists protested then, but the world turned a blind eye to the uprising in Lhasa. There has been a significant shift since 2008. 'No Beijing 2022' is a campaign led by Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hong Kongers, Taiwanese, Southern Mongolians, and Chinese rights activists. The #BoycottBeijing2022 has become a prominent social media trend on Twitter. The 2008 Olympics was a personal statement for Xi Jinping, who was in-charge of organising it. The successful conclusion of the Olympics that year further elevated Xi's status as a young and promising member of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The Chinese government and people feel confident about the upcoming Olympics. A narrative arc between 2008 and 2022 has been built by the state media. The hashtag 'The same Chinese romance in 2008 and 2022' was widely used on Weibo. But we are now at another inflection point. Biden has indicated that the US may boycott the Winter Olympics, while the UK government too said they are mulling a boycott. If Biden and other leaders decide to boycott the upcoming Olympics, it will mark a shift in relations with China. The separation between sports and politics will disappear. Sports personalities are increasingly questioning the artificial separation between politics and sports. Enes Kanter of the Boston Celtics feels strongly about call-



ing out Beijing for its human rights record. Kanter's activism in support of the Tibetan and Uyghur communities has started a debate within the sporting world about the ethics of supporting the CCP and its agenda. Kanter's videos messages have been watched and shared across the world. He is now at odds with other NBA stars such as LeBron James, whom he has chastised for profiting off the Chinese market. Kanter's activism breaks the ice within the NBA - a sport very popular in China - which didn't transpire after the 2019 Daryl Morey tweet in support of Hong Kong protests. China even banned the broadcast of NBA games for almost a year. This time around, games by Boston Celtics - Kanter's current team - have been censored. Kanter and NBA may not change China, but the pressure keeps mounting. In China, sports and nationalism are intertwined as they are in other parts of the world. Players are trained from a young age and are considered State assets. The cultural domination and owning of the sportsperson by the Chinese State is out of the Soviet playbook. But unlike the Soviet Union, China's economy and society are far more entangled with the rest of the world. Tennis player Peng Shuai's sexual assault allegation against Zhang Gaoli, China's former vice-premier, have created a perfect storm for the party - a domestic scandal with international ramifications. Though Gaoli isn't in power anymore, the CCP protects its own even after they leave office. Any

negative news about Chinese politicians has been increasingly squashed at the source, as highlighted by the story of China-born Swedish bookseller Gui Minhai. Gui published books carrying sensational revelations about Chinese politicians, and the bookseller was given a 10-year jail sentence. Beijing has used all tools in its playbook to ensure the Peng scandal blows over. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach's video call with Peng Shuai failed to make the desired impact as stories about Gaoli's past interactions with

Bach surfaced. Before retiring, Gaoli oversaw the Beijing Olympics 2022 campaign launch and has been a part of the organisational planning team. Peng's body language in the staged events tell us about her plight. People seem to have forgotten about her original allegations against Gaoli, and Beijing may have already achieved

what it hoped to by staging her appearances. In China, sports and diplomacy have always found themselves in an entangled web. In 1983, Chinese tennis player Hu Na defected to the US during the 32-nation Federation Cup tournament in Santa Clara. The US Department of Justice granted Hu Na political asylum, upsetting Deng Xiaoping, who personally demanded her return because she used to play tennis with Wan Li, a former senior Chinese politician who served on the Politburo Standing Committee. China pursued the dream of becoming a sporting nation in the 1980s through the Olympic gold medal dream. Xi Jinping's assertive China now feels confident in its sporting prowess as it bags the second-highest number of medals year after year. Beijing's old strategy to lure the sports world by offering the promise of the Chinese market may have started to fail. Like 2008, the Beijing 2022 Olympics is once again a different kind of test for Xi Jinping.

Britain is in desperate need of workers. So why is it trying to keep them out?

Nothing makes sense. Along the east coast of England, British employers scan the horizon. They are desperate for any migrant workers whom Boris Johnson will bless with visas to pick fruit, kill turkeys, staff hotels or care for elderly people. At the same time along the south coast British politicians howl with horror at boatloads of just such people as they come ashore, desperate to offer their services. Brexit is a shamble of hypocrisies. Immigration materially affects very few Britons. It is more a feature of the politics of xenophobia. The 24,000 asylum seekers who have crossed the Channel so far this year are presented by eager Tories as presaging a new Viking horde or a Norman conquest. There is something ominous in people arriving on **Simon Jenkins** beaches, rather than coming through Terminal 5. Turn the boats around, cries home secretary Priti Patel. Send them to Albania or the Falklands. Blame the French. Blame the Border Force. Blame those snowflakes in the lifeboat service. If the refugees land, make them sorry they ever left home. Johnson may have backed immigrants when he was London mayor - and needed them. Now he apparently spends half his time trying to stop them. In reality the cabinet should fall to its knees and give thanks for having to deal with only 24,000 refugees. Italy this year has had 60,000. More than 150,000 entered Europe, mostly through the Balkans. This is paltry alongside the Syrian surge of close to a million in 2015, who now seem to have merged miraculously into the German economy. Most of these refugees are by definition "middle class". They have paid dearly for their journey. They include doctors, engineers, academics and nurses; builders, cooks and farmers.

Cuban Tody: humming bird-sized jewel of the Caribbean

Cuban Tody with big-headed and short-tailed is a cute leaf-green bird that is not much bigger than a hummingbird. A small, gemlike, woodland species that is usually found in pairs. The rather large head, long bill, and short tail create a unique profile. Also, note its shimmering green upperparts and red throat and sides. No similar species occur within its range. It usually hunts from low-to-middle level perches, sitting nearly still before leaping upwards to snatch prey from twigs and leaves. Vocalizations include a loud "chuk, chuk, chuk, chuk," uttered at a rate of about seven to ten notes per second, with each burst consisting of one to ten notes; bursts often come in rapid succession. The Cuban tody diet is dominated by insects, but also may include small fruits, spiders, and small lizards. Although the birds' ecology has been little-studied, they are known to participate in mixed-species flocks. They are also food items: predators include both people in poor



areas and mongoose. The species is characterized by small size (11 cm (4.3 in), 5.9 g (0.21 oz)), large head relative to body size, and a thin, flat bill. Similar to other todies, the coloration of the Cuban tody includes iridescent green dorsum, pale whitish-grey underparts, and red highlights. This species is

distinguished by its pink flanks, red throat, yellow lores, and blue ear patch.

The bill is bicolored: black on the top and red on the bottom. The Cuban tody is a year-round resident of portions of Cuba and the islands just off the Cuban coast. Analysis of song variation suggests that the species is structured into two populations, corresponding to eastern and western Cuba. The tody, like many resident Cuban bird species, is a habitat generalist. It is known to live in dry lowlands, evergreen forests, coastal vegetation, and near streams and rivers. Cuban todies may be difficult to see; Vaurie reported, "Only one seen at the Cape, in dense underbrush, but several heard." They often are seen in pairs. When perched, they sometimes repeat a peculiar short "tot-tot-tot-tot", but their most characteristic call is a soft "ppreeee-ppreeee" (which is the origin of its

Cuban common name, 'Pedorrera'). Its wings produce a whirring sound that is used during display flights. Nests consist of a tunnel about 30 cm (12 in) long in a clay embankment, with a terminal chamber, although sometimes they use a rotten trunk or tree cavity. They cover the walls of the tunnel and the egg chamber with a thick glue-like substance mixed with grass, lichen, algae, small feathers, and other materials. Three The diet of the Cuban tody is dominated by insects, but also may include small fruits, small lizards, and spiders. Although the ecology of these birds has been little-studied, they are known to participate in mixed-species flocks. They also are prey used as food items: predators include both the mongoose and humans in poor areas. e to four eggs are laid and they are incubated by both parents.

High methane in drinking water near fracking sites



Drinking water from wells near hydraulic fracturing operations in Pennsylvania and New York contains more methane than samples taken farther away, a new study finds. The results point to faulty construction and local geology as contributing factors. Local geology "absolutely matters," says environmental scientist Robert Jackson of Duke University who led the work. Similar studies in Arkansas have not found evidence of methane infiltrat-

ing drinking water wells. Chemical signatures suggest that some of the 141 wells contain gases that may have bubbled up from relatively shallow rock layers. But in six drinking water wells near drilling sites, the chemical signatures of some of the gases - including methane, ethane, propane and helium - and the mix of those gases suggest that they may have originated deeper down. Two problems with the construction of wells for hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, may have contributed to drink-

ing water contamination, researchers propose June 24 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. If cement seals in the upper part of the fracking well fail, gas from an intermediate layer can drift up into drinking water. In the six drinking water wells containing gases that appear to have originated much deeper down, steel lining the fracking well might be faulty, potentially allowing chemical-laden water injected into fracking wells to seep into surface waters.

Fertilizer has staying power



Fertilizer applied today could still be there in 2093, scientists report October 21 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study is the first to measure how long nitrogen-based fertilizers persist in the field. In 1982, a team led by Mathieu Sebilo of the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris infused soil with fertilizer containing nitrogen-15, a form of the element uncommon in nature. The next year, the researchers found that crops had absorbed around half of the fertilizer, with most of the rest taken up by microorganisms and released back into the soil. For the next 30 years, the scientists grew sugar beets and winter wheat and fertilized them with compounds containing the more common nitrogen-14. They found that nitrogen-15 in the soil decreased slowly, with small amounts taken up by plants or leached into groundwater each year. In 2010, 12 to 15 percent of the original nitrogen-15 remained in the soil; the researchers calculate that it will take at least another 50 years for it to disappear entirely. The finding helps explain why nitrogen pollution can continue in rivers even when farmers in the area reduce their fertilizer use.

Two degrees Celsius: the point of no return. Once average global temperatures exceed preindustrial levels by this amount, scientists warn, a climate catastrophe could become inevitable. Current projections indicate that it would be too late to prevent sea ice from disappearing, ice sheets from collapsing and rising seas from swallowing heavily populated coastlines. A whole new climate would emerge. Lasting millennia, this hotter world would be humankind's most enduring legacy, perhaps outlasting our species. Fears over this new climate order spurred more than 100 nations to sign the Copenhagen Accord, drafted in 2009. Although nonbinding, the signatories agree that actions are needed to hold global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). Industrial activities and urbanization since the late 19th century have already spewed enough greenhouse gases to elevate average global temperature by 0.8 degrees Celsius. And because carbon dioxide lingers in the atmosphere for a century or longer, it will take many decades before benefits from any future CO2 cuts are felt. Even if the world

slashed CO2 emissions in half within the next few decades - a herculean feat - some climate projections suggest Earth would still surpass the 2-degree benchmark before the end of this century. But CO2 isn't the only culprit in global warming. Over the last several decades, researchers have identified a substantial supporting cast of co-conspirators. Four pollutants that make a relatively brief but powerful appearance in the atmosphere are known as the short-lived climate warmers: methane, near-surface ozone, a class of industrial chemicals called hydrofluorocarbons and the black-carbon component of soot. These typically stick around the atmosphere for no more than a week to roughly a decade. A growing number of climate scientists say the quickest way to stall Earth's slowly rising fever in the short term is to reduce the output of these more ephemeral warmers. In fact, some studies indicate, clearing them from the atmosphere might drastically shrink the rate of climate change in a mere 10 to 20 years and help the world avoid as much as 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2050. Such cuts could buy nations a little time to tackle the more challenging problem of weaning themselves from CO2-producing fossil fuels, the only way to prevent cata-



strophic warming in the long run. Cleaning up methane, black carbon and other short-lived warmers requires no new technology and would improve air quality, an added benefit that could save millions of lives annually while boosting agricultural productivity. As a result, countries are joining the short-lived-warmers bandwagon. In 2011, the European Parliament passed a resolution urging its 28 member nations to adopt climate policies that target these pollutants. Last year, the United States partnered with several other countries to found the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which promotes initiatives to cut emissions of short-lived warmers. In September, the United States, China and dozens of other countries took a more concrete step and agreed to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons, also known as HFCs. But some critics argue that these fleeting climate warmers may offer more hype than hope. Scientific uncertainty still surrounds some of them, especially black carbon. Depending on the conditions, it can either warm or cool the climate. It also enters the atmosphere along with a mix of climate-cooling pollutants. So targeting soot may not control near-term warming as reliably as researchers have claimed. Worse, some scientists worry, eliminating it might actually aggravate global warming. With the climate doomsday clock ticking away, viable options that offer even a smidgen of relief can't be ignored. "Dealing with these [warmers] doesn't get you off the hook of dealing with carbon dioxide," says climate scientist Drew Shindell of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City. But they "at least offer a way to make some progress." Without a doubt, CO2 is the chief driver of human-caused cli-

mate change. People have flooded the atmosphere with so much CO2 that it's responsible for more than half of the extra energy humans have trapped around the planet. So focusing on ways to chop its emissions is "a sensible thing," Shindell says. But it's not the only greenhouse gas humans unleash into the air. Like CO2, methane absorbs heat emitted from the Earth. Fossil fuel production releases methane to the atmosphere. So do landfills and wastewater treatment plants, where microbes generate the gas. Cows and other livestock also belch out a substantial amount. Although atmospheric CO2 is more than 200 times as plentiful, methane is actually the more potent heat-trapper: Over 100 years, a kilogram of methane emitted into the atmosphere will absorb 25 times as much heat as a kilogram of CO2. Methane is one of the main gases that contribute to the formation of another short-term warmer: ground-level ozone. Way up in the stratosphere, ozone filters out much of the sun's biologically harmful ultraviolet light. Closer to the ground, ozone isn't helpful. In the troposphere, it absorbs heat, creates smog and interferes with plant growth. Over the last century, near-ground ozone concentrations in the Northern Hemisphere have more than doubled. Hydrofluorocarbons are a more recent concern. Companies are increasingly turning to these organic compounds as greener replacements for stratospheric-ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration, air conditioning and foam production. Although HFC emissions currently are very low, one molecule of these chemicals can soak up hundreds of times more heat than a molecule of CO2. And their re-

leases are expected to double within seven years. Many recent climate simulations have largely overlooked the advantages of cutting HFCs because their emissions are still so small. "The benefit you gain is by preventing them from growing," Shindell explains. Given the pace of growth in HFC emissions, researchers have started giving them a closer look. Unchecked, HFC emissions could contribute nearly as much to global warming by 2100 as black carbon does today, concludes Veerabhadran Ramanathan, an atmospheric scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif. Replacing HFCs with any of several available substitutes could shave a half-degree from global warming by century's end, he and several colleagues report June 26 in Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics. Black sheep of quick warmers. Among short-term warmers, black carbon is the most concerning and complicated. Produced by incomplete combustion, it is one among many tiny solid particles called aerosols that enter the atmosphere in the exhaust of diesel-fueled trucks, the smoke from charcoal-burning cookstoves and the haze from forest fires. In general, aerosol particles produced by combustion cool the planet by scattering sunlight. Not black carbon. In the early 2000s, atmospheric scientist Mark Jacobson of Stanford University demonstrated that black carbon delivers a warming double-whammy. Unlike greenhouse gases, these particles both absorb incoming sunlight and trap outgoing heat. As if that weren't bad enough, these particles also can boost temperatures by breaking up light-reflecting clouds. And even after it settles back to Earth, black

carbon can continue to foster warming. Particles that land in the Arctic or the Himalayas darken ice and snow, boosting heat absorption and melting. In the past, many climate simulations have failed to include all of these varied climate effects, leading some scientists to underestimate soot's warming potential, notes Tami Bond, an engineer and atmospheric scientist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In the June 16 Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, she and her colleagues offer the most comprehensive soot assessment to date. It pegs black carbon's direct effect on warming - not counting cloud- or ice-related impacts - at double some estimates. It's the second-largest contributor to human-driven warming, causing almost two-thirds as much over the past two centuries as CO2. But in contrast to CO2's century-long life span, black-carbon particles typically settle out of the atmosphere within a few days to weeks. The potency and short life span associated with non-CO2 greenhouse pollutants is giving climate-mitigation analysts some much-needed optimism. Last year a team led by NASA's Shindell reported in Science that adopting 14 tactics to curb emissions of black carbon and methane (and by extension tropospheric ozone) could reduce global warming by roughly half a degree Celsius within the next 35 years or so. These reductions would come through activities such as capturing the methane that currently escapes from oil and natural-gas wells and pipelines, adding soot filters to diesel vehicles and switching to cleaner-burning cookstoves in developing countries. For this simulation, the researchers assumed that cuts began in 2010 and only gradually reached full implementation by 2030. These reductions would do more than just fight global warming, Shindell's group adds. By trimming black carbon and other aerosols that make up particulate matter, as well as ground-level ozone, the pollution cuts would prevent up to 4.7 million deaths annually. And at the same time, global crop yields would grow by as much as 135 million metric tons a year.

Manas National Park

Located in the Himalayan foothills in western Assam, Manas was originally a game reserve since 1928 and became a Tiger Reserve in 1974, a World Heritage Site in 1985, a Biosphere Reserve in 1989. Then declared as a National Park in 1990. The park is contiguous with the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal and in 2003, it was declared part of Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve which serves as the international corridor for elephant migration between Indian and Bhutan. Spread over an area of 500 sq. kms., the park has extensive grasslands and is famous for its unique scenic beauty. The park harbours more than 20 endangered species. Considered one of



the the world's rarest simian species, the golden langur was first spotted in Manas in the mid 20th century. Other mammals commonly found here are Rhino, Elephant, Tiger, Pygmy hog, Hispid hare, Assamese Macaque, Rhesus Macaque, Leopard, Golden Cat, Clouded leopard, Fishing cat, Leopard cat, Jungle

Cat, the Large Indian civet, the Small Indian civet or Toddy cat, Himalaya palm civet, Binturong, Common mongoose, Small Indian mongoose, Himalayan black bear, Sloth bear, Gaur, Water buffalo, Sambar, Hog deer, Barking deer,

Swamp deer, Wild pigs etc. How to reach : Located 176 kms from Guwahati and Barpeta Road Railway Station is 20 Kms. away. Contact Person: Director, Manas National Park Contact Numbers: +91 3666-261413/+91 3666-260288 Best season to visit: November to April

Contd. From Page 1

The first Assamese-language magazine

closed down by 1882. The ceremonial inauguration of the exhibition shall be done by Asomiya Praidin Editor Jayanta Barua. From a modest beginning with making public, the personal library of renowned litterateur Late Nanda Talukdar in 1996, the Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) has come a long way in the past 25 years to emerge as a name to reckon with in Assam, especially in the sphere of Publication, Contemporary Social History Research, Social Audit, Media Advocacy and Ground-level intervention. Today the Nanda Talukdar Foundation has emerged a focal point of pioneering contemporary social history, advocacy, as well as intervention and their area of activities, is spread both horizontally and vertically first in Assam and then slowly in other parts of the North-East India. For the Assamese literature, the library of the Nanda Talukdar Foundation is considered as one of the final frontiers. No research on Assamese literature in the past five decades have been completed without the Foundation's help. The Foundation is the treasure house of the Assamese literature of the early nineteenth century to the twentieth century, where scientifically the documents, journals and books are preserved through digitalization as well as the conventional method.

Assam govt issues notification

strengthen the policing in the state, Sarma introduced various reformative measures that include 1,000 new quarters for police, infrastructure upgrade for Director-General Police and Commissioner offices. "Advertisement for 6,000 posts including 5 commando battalions to be published by next week. Vacant SI posts are also to be filled up," tweeted Sarma. "With an aim to strengthen our policing infrastructure, a key to the safety and growth of our society, we have decided to take several reformative measures in a review meeting held at Assam police headquarters," added Sarma. "1,000 new quarters for police, infrastructure upgrade for DGP and Commissioner offices," he further said. "Settlement of as many unresolved cases as possible by March 31, 2022," he stated. "To review and resolve all cases dismissed by Guwahati Police without logical conclusion since 1992. The number of settled cases every month should be more than the number of freshly booked ones by Guwahati Police. Settlement of as many unresolved cases as possible by March 31, 2022," he further stated. "Investigation to be started within 24 hours of lodging FIR," he added. "The second SP conference is to be held at Duliayan on January 8 and January 9," he further added. "New SOP relating to accident report, passport, post-mortem report to be released soon. Passport verification is to be completed within 30 days," he stated. The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma met with top officials of the Assam Police in a review meeting. As many as eight key decisions were taken regarding policing in the state. Addressing the media, the CM said, "To strengthen our policing infrastructure, a key to safety and growth of our society, we have decided to take several reformative measures". The decisions that were taken are: To review and resolve all cases dismissed by Guwahati Police without logical conclusion since 1992. The number of settled cases every month should be more than the number of freshly booked ones by Guwahati Police. Settlement of as many unresolved cases as possible by March 31, 2022. Advertisement for 6,000 posts including 5 commando battalions to be published by next week. Vacant SI posts also to be filled up. New SOP relating to the accident report, passport, post-mortem report to be released soon. Passport verification to be completed within 30 days. Investigation to be started within 24 hours of lodging FIR. Second SP conference to be held at Duliayan on January 8 and 9. 1,000 new quarters for police, infrastructure upgrade for DGP and Commissioner offices.

MoU signed between KAAC

On behalf of KAAC Mukul Kr. Saikia, ACS, Principal Secretary, KAAC and on behalf of OIL Manash Kumar Sarma, Executive Director, OIL has exchanged the booklet of MoU agreement between them in presence of KAAC Chief Executive Member (CEM) Dr. Tuliram Ronghang. "It is a great day after signing a MoU agreement between KAAC and OIL over oil exploration for the term of two years. The process for exploration will start soon. Hope the KAAC will associate with us in the coming days also," said Manash Kumar Sarma, Executive Director, OIL. The exploration block will cover 396 sq. km. and the place for exploration will be set up at Timung village and a place inside Dhansiri Reserve Forest, he further stated. "The process for oil exploration by OIL will start in 3-4 days from today. The MoU between KAAC and OIL will be highly benefited to the local youths as KAAC will be given appointment to all the 3rd and 4th grade post (technical & non technical) and also how much men power shall required in it," said KAAC CEM Dr. Tuliram Ronghang. Compensation will be given to those who lose their land on the process of oil exploration and regarding forest land, OIL will deposit all the possible revenue to the KAAC as agreed in the MoU, he further stated. He also mentioned that, KAAC will receive more than Rs. 5 Crores monthly as revenue from OIL if the oil is extracted and they have also agreed to pay whatever taxes required. MP Horensing Bey, MLA Bidya Sing Englang, MLA Darsing Ronghang, MLA Rupsing Teron, KAAC EM's, MAC's, OIL Executive Director (Rtd.) Indrajeet Baruah, Chief General Manager Ajit Kumar Barua, General Manager Khanim Buragohain, Dy. General Manager Gautam Hazarika, Manager Ranjit Das and several other officials were also present in the MoU agreement.

GSCL to start 17 New projects

GSCL's new projects. A number of offices like the Kamrup (Metro) deputy commissioner's office, Guwahati police commissioner's office and the Guwahati municipal corporation commissioner's office will have to be shifted from their present location to different parts of the city to accommodate the riverfront makeover work. The government has already identified new locations and preliminary work is on. Under the integrated traffic management system, automatic traffic signal lights and CCTV cameras to monitor traffic rule violations will be installed across the city. This was announced by the urban affairs minister Ashok Singhal last week. It may be mentioned here that the GSCL had failed to implement several important projects earlier in the city. The Assam Police and GSCL had in 2019 initiated the 'City Surveillance' project to install a total of 4,000 CCTV cameras, but had dropped it. The development of the Borsola beel was the first project on the GSCL list. A total allotment of Rs 80 crore was made for the development of the beel, but the project was shelved.

Assam Cabinet held at Bongaigaon

beneficiaries, widow pension beneficiaries, old-age pension beneficiaries, COVID Relief Scheme beneficiaries and PMJAY beneficiaries. Chief minister Sarma had, after the first Cabinet meeting outside Guwahati, said that the tradition would continue. The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled to be held in Haflong in December. The Assam Cabinet on Wednesday announced that the candidates appearing for APSC exam should be the citizens of the state and that there will be no language papers. The cabinet also decided that the candidates appearing for APSC should register their names in the employment exchange. It said that the candidates must be orally fluent to speak Assamese or any other co-official languages of the state — Bengali, Bodo, Tiwa etc. Key decisions are: Significant changes in the educational sector of the state. It will be according to the new National Educational policy. MLA Prodig Hazarika was given the cabinet status. Team to be formed to look over illegal land acquisition, headed by MLA Pradip Hazarika. Youth Commission to be formed to train the candidates for competitive exams like medical and engineering. Formation of trust for the martyrs of Assam Agitation. There will be no language paper in Assam Public Service Commission; instead, they have to be permanent residents of Assam and should know a regional language other than the Assamese language. People who do not have 'land patta' will get compensation under 'Assam Mala Achni.' Government leaves on January 6 and 7 for government employees whose parents or in-laws are alive. Bongaigaon college will be upgraded to University within three years. Next Cabinet meeting on January 5 at Haflong. New DC office to be constructed in Bongaigaon. Construction of Bongaigaon Medical college will be started within 3 months, for which the Assam government has taken a loan from NABARD.

Union Cabinet clears withdrawal

passed three bills the government said were aimed at freeing up pricing, production and trade in agriculture through ways such as contract farming, allowing farmers to sell their produce wherever they wanted instead of restricting them to local government-controlled mandis. But, the laws triggered protests by farmers across the country — especially those from the bread basket states of Punjab and Haryana — who have been camping at several points on Delhi's borders since November last year. The laws can be withdrawn only by the passage of Repeal Bills in Parliament. The Centre will have to seek permission from both Houses of Parliament to proceed with their repeal before its approval by the President of India, as is the process in legislation enacted by Parliament. The government has to pass a Bill in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha before its approval by the President of India, as is the process in legislation enacted by Parliament. The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 is one of the 26 Bills listed by the government in its agenda for the Winter Session of the Parliament.

Lachit Borphukan Birth Anniversary

a large flotilla of boats. They failed to make any advances against the Assamese army during the first phase of the war itself. Lachit Borphukan was victorious and the Mughals were forced to retreat from Guwahati. Every year on November 24, Lachit Divas is celebrated across Assam to remember the legendary Ahom general. The Chief Minister Tweeted, "I bow in reverence to the great Ahom General Lachit Borphukan on the occasion of #LachitDivas. A strong leader and an epitome of bravery, Bir Lachit Borphukan's heroics will continue to inspire generations to fight for the pride & sovereignty of their motherland." Moreover, various events are being organised across the state in remembrance of the legendary warrior. During the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, the legendary Ahom general led his army and defeated the mighty Mughal forces and overcame all challenges. The Mughal Army under Ram Singh consisted of 30,000 infantry, 15,000 archers, 18,000 Turkish cavalries, 5,000 gunners, and over 1000 cannons besides a large flotilla of boats. They failed to make any advances against the Assamese army during the first phase of the war itself. Lachit Borphukan was victorious and the Mughals were forced to retreat from Guwahati. Every year on November 24, Lachit Divas is celebrated across Assam to remember the legendary Ahom general.

Subramanian Swamy meets

denial of nod to the West Bengal CM to visit Rome to attend a global peace conference in October. He had also conveyed his "best wishes" to Mamata after she had sustained injuries to her leg while campaigning in Nandigram. The incident had sparked a war of words between the TMC and the BJP in the run-up to the Bengal assembly polls. In 2020, Swamy had responded to a tweet criticising her politics, saying: "According to me Mamata Banerjee is a pucca Hindu and Durga Bhakt. On a case by case basis she will act. Her politics is different. That we will fight in the maiden." On Tuesday, the TMC inducted former Congress leaders Ashok Tanwar, Kirti Azad, and former JD(U) MP Pavan Varma as part of its push to register a national presence.

CM pays tributes to Lachit Borphukan on Lachit Divas



Staff Reporter, Guwahati, Nove 24: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today offered floral tributes at Lachit Borphukan's statue in Bongaigaon DC office premises on the occasion of Lachit Divas. He said that the patriotism and dedication towards one's motherland should be imbibed by the young generation from the glorious example of great Ahom General Lachit Borphukan. Later the Chief Minister chaired the cabinet meeting held at Bongaigaon and launched several development projects in Bongaigaon district. The Chief Minister laid foundation stone of the Central Market at Borobazar in Bongaigaon Town which will be built with a total cost of Rs. 16.68 crore from Urban Infrastructure Development Fund. The 2123.78 square meter building will facilitate commercial activities while also enhancing the beauty of the town. After that, the Chief Minister visited Birjara HS School and interacted with teachers and students there. The Chief Minister also inspected the renovated building of Birjara Girl's High School built in the model of a train under the Building as Learning Aids (BaLA) and interacted with the students and teachers. Later the Chief Minister inaugurated a Biofloc unit set up under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Bongaigaon Deuripara. He also distributed ice container boxes to five women SHGs for helping in fish trade along with five three wheeler vehicles. He also inaugurated the Clock Tower near Chilarai Flyover at Bongaigaon. The clock tower was constructed with the fund received under 15th Finance Commission. The Chief Minister also dedicated a public aquarium to the people at Bongaigaon Eco Park. He also interacted with cross section of the society and representatives of various organizations at Bongaigaon Circuit House. Fishery Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of Information and Public Relations Pijush Hazarika, MLA Phani Bhushan Choudhury, DC Bongaigaon were also present in today's programmes along with other dignitaries.

Lynching : four culprit convicted

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 24: Four persons from Assam Cachar district were sentenced to five years of imprisonment 18 years after they lynched a person in the district. The four were identified as Ajoy Das, Anup Das, Satya Ranjan Das and Shubhash Das. All of them are residents of the Cachar district. They had been convicted of murdering a person named Dipak Deb back in 2003. Deb was beaten by wooden sticks, batons and sharp weapons as he had intervened in a fight between two "gangs". The incident took place during the Bhuban mela. Although after the incident, the locals had taken him to medical facilities, he succumbed to his injuries in a hospital in Guwahati. Eighteen years had passed since then and finally, on November 22, a local court had convicted the four. They have also been asked to deposit Rs 3000 as a fine each.

Free medical camp at Biswanath

A.R Correspondent, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 24:

A medical camp was organized by Lokra Battalion Headquarter 21 sector of Assam Rifles at Haleswar M.E. School, Kuwari under Sakomota



development block of Biswanath on Wednesday. A good number of people of Japuwbari and Kuwari area thronged to the medical camp organized by the 17th AR battalion. The medical camp was attended by BBL Noutiyal; second in command of Assam Rifles along with other officials.

Govt Employees to get four-day leave

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 24: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after the Cabinet meeting announced that Assam Government employees will be given a four-day leave so that they can spend time with their parents in January 2021. Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that all employees of the Assam Government will be given the holidays so that they can spend time with their parents. "We have given them these leaves for their parents, but if an employee lost both their parents, then these leaves can be used for their Parents-in-Law", he added. He further said that during this leave, employees leaving away from their parents can go and visit them while some employees leaving with the parents can go for a vacation but the leaves will be used for parents only. He added that people who do not wish to visit their parents will not be given the leaves. Even ministers, IAS-IPS officers will be available with the leaves.

Nath Yogi Students Union committee formed

Correspondent, Dhemaji, Nov. 24:

A public meeting was convened at Likabali Bijoypur to form Malinipur branch committee of Silapathar area of Dhemaji Zilla Samiti and All Assam Nath Yogi Students



Union. Kanu Nath presided over the meeting held by Paritosh Nath, explaining the purpose of the meeting by district secretary Prasanna Nath. Narayan Debnath President, Kutu Nath Vice President, Gobin Nath Secretary, Arun Nath as Organizing Secretary, Ananta Nath as Publishing Secretary, Samiran Nath as Education Secretary.

3785 hectares of forest land encroached under Kampur forest range in Nagaon : forest official survey

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 24: Around 3785 hectares of forest land in six forests under Kampur range in Nagaon Forest Division have been encroached within the last twenty years and encroachers also settled 17 villages in those six forests. It came to light in a recent survey report initiated by the state forest department. As per the survey report, around 1250 hectares of forest land have been encroached in Lutumari forest, 2212 hectares of land in Borpani forest while 139 hectares in Jukuta forest, 110 hectares in Dhansila forest, 44 Palkhana forest and 32 hectares of forest land in Madhabpara forest have been encroached by the people from nearby areas as well as from other districts. It is noteworthy to mention that all these forests covered around 6600 hectares of land earlier and marked it as an evergreen zone of the district. Taking the issue as a major concern as well as a threat to the biodiversity of the forest, the then range officer of Kampur range, submitted the survey report to the authority concerned of state forest department for initiating immediate lawful action against those encroachers in July last. Significantly, the authority concerned of the state forest had paid no heed to the survey report till date and stored it in the office shelf instead of taking action to clear the encroachment, sources added. Conscious people of the district urged the government to take adequate measures to clear the encroachment in those six forests under Kampur range as early as possible and also appealed to conduct a massive tree plantation drive in the entire areas so that the green environment could be sustained in the area again.

Birth Anniversary of Satya Sai Baba Observed

CORRESPONDENT, Golaghat, Nov 24: Under the aegis of Sri Satya Sai Sewa Samiti Golaghat and in association with Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar School Golaghat the 96 th Birth Anniversary of Lord Sri Satya Sai Baba was observed yesterday at Satya Sai Bal Vikash Kendra in Golaghat. To mark the occasion a day-long program was organized maintaining all the Covid protocols. The program started with lighting of lamp and hoisting of Prashanti Dhvaj by former District President (Sibsagar) of Sri Satya Sai Seva Sangathan Jatin Dutta. After that the teachers and students and members of Satya Sai Seva Samiti Golaghat performed Astottar Naam. In the program the statue of Apurba Kumar Borgohain who was the Director of Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar School and former state coordinator of Satya Sai Seva Sanstha was unveiled. The statue was unveiled by the vice president of Satya Sai Seva Sanstha (Zone I) Rajeev Borgohain. Later Narayan Sewa event was held under which food and blankets were distributed among poor and needy people. The local Forest Department officials distributed saplings for plantation. To mark the occasion of 96 th Birth Anniversary of Lord Sri Satya Sai Baba total 96 numbers of earthen lamps were lit. Chairman of Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar School Dr Giridhar Phukan, Principal Subhashish Rajkhowa, Vice principal Subrat Kar, Pradyumna Borgohain, teachers and students including teachers from Satya Sai Vidya Vihar School Balijan and Holy Child School were present in the program. On behalf of the organisers Bipul Rajkumar and Chandra Kanta Baruah have thanked all for their support and assistance in making the program successful.

Blood donation camp held

A.R Correspondent, Biswanath

Chariali, Nov 24: As a part of celebration of Lachit Divas, the Biswanath district committee of Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) had organized a blood donation camp like previous years at the blood bank premises located at Biswanath Chariali on Wednesday. The members of AJYCP Biswanath felicitated the doctors, nurses and other medical staff and expressed their gratitude towards the medical staff. A good number of youths from Biswanath Chariali who came forward to donate blood were felicitated by the members of AJYCP. Before the day's programme, Amrit Hazarika, the founder secretary of Biswanath regional committee of AJYCP paid rich tribute to Lachit Borphukan by offering floral tribute and lighting up the ceremonial lamps. Kulendra Nath Deka; Additional SP, Biswanath, Biswajit Saikia; ADC Sadar graced the occasion as invited guests. The blood donation camp was attended by Nasir Ahmed, Kamaljit Dutta, Diganta Barua, Bhaskar Samuwa, Suraj Bhuyan, Lakhajit Saikia, Dehabrat Medhi, Amarjyoti Bora, Priyanku Deka, Nihar Saikia, Biswajit Das, Mahesh Sattray among others.



Mock parliament held at D R College

CORRESPONDENT, Golaghat, Nov 24: The Election Branch of Golaghat District administration yesterday organised a Mock Parliament at Debraj Roy College in Golaghat. In the Mock Parliament the Best Parliamentary Award was bagged by a student of the college named Ipsita Baruah. On the other hand two students Subhansu Saikia and Sajmin Akhter Siraj received Best Debater from the Opposition and Best Debater from the Ruling awards respectively. In the program Principal of Debraj Roy College Dr Putal Chandra Saikia, District Election Officer Golaghat Sulakshana Borpatragohain, Executive Magistrate Papu Gogoi, Circle Officer Gopal Sharma, faculty members of Political Science department Dr Tarun Gogoi and Biplob Gogoi were present. A camp was also organized yesterday to enlist the names of students in the voter list.

Counties delay ECB diversity blueprint in aftermath of Rafiq scandal



London, November 24 : The England and Wales Cricket Board's plan to improve inclusivity within the sport in the wake of the Azeem Rafiq racism scandal has been held up as counties dispute the timescale for making their boards and leadership teams more diverse. The Guardian has seen the proposed plan, which comprises seven commitments that the ECB itself will make and a further 12 "tangible actions", split into five categories, to which each county will be expected to commit. Among these actions is "a commitment to best practice governance" which will involve delivering "board and leadership team

diversity (30% female, representative ethnicity) by April 2022". While the majority of the document has received unconditional backing, directors at multiple counties admitted to having reservations about this clause as phrased, both because of its aggressive deadline and its imprecise wording. The clause builds on one contained in the County Partnership Agreement, which was published in 2019 and committed counties to "adopt a target of, and take all appropriate actions to encourage, a minimum of 30% of each gender and a minimum of one board member from a BAME background on its

board", ideally by the end of January 2021. They are now committed not just to adopting this target but to meeting it, and have been given only a few months to do so. Meanwhile the identity, and even the definition, of a leadership team is hard to pin down and will vary considerably between counties, many of which remain unsure who exactly the clause is referring to. Hitting this target might be much harder for a county that has a dozen people in their leadership team than for one that has three, and it would become harder still if the definition of a leadership team is expanded to include all management-level staff. Many current members of county boards and executive teams feel they have worked extremely hard to help the game come through the last two pandemic-affected seasons and that the sudden imposition of a plan that will potentially force many of them to leave their roles with very little notice has not been welcomed.

Autumn international awards: Steward stands out as France flourish



London, November 24 : Best game France's 40-25 thrashing of New Zealand in Paris offered a tantalising glimpse of what might lie ahead in the 2023 Rugby World Cup. It was the first time the All Blacks have conceded 40 points to anyone since Ireland beat them in Chicago in 2016 and the 24-6 half-time deficit was the widest New Zealand have ever known. Best men's player Antoine Dupont (France). An absolute dead cert for the world men's player of the year award. Les Bleus have a scrum-half with no apparent weaknesses. Best women's player Sarah Bern (England). Back from injury and looking as strong, mobile and influential as ever. Most impressive individual performance Caelan Doris (Ireland v NZ). The Irish back-rower was all over the All Blacks in Dublin, his side's best performance since the heights of the Joe Schmidt

era. What a shame that injury ruled Doris out of contention for the British & Irish Lions tour. Most dominant team of the month England's Red Roses. They walloped all comers, including the Black Ferns twice. Will take some beating at next year's World Cup in New Zealand. Best try Waisea Nayacalevu (Fiji). The Flying Fijians could not beat Wales with 14 men but they did score the most exhilarating try of the month, a counter-attacking gem following a quick tap in their own 22. The rampaging Nayacalevu's unstoppable dive probably merited this award on its own. Champagne moment Romain Ntamack turning a tight defensive spot into a

glorious attacking opportunity from behind his own line against New Zealand in Paris. Best male newcomer Marcus Smith is front and centre of the "new" England but the 20-year-old Freddie Steward at full-back barely put a foot wrong. Best female newcomer Heather Cowell. Two tries and some nifty footwork on her Test debut from the former gymnast now playing on the wing for England. Biggest letdown Australia without Samu Kerevi, Quade Cooper and Sean McMahon. Their decision to return to their Japanese clubs for pre-season training robbed the Wallabies of any collective momentum. Head coach of the autumn Andy Farrell

(Ireland). His side's improvement in attitude, sharpness, desire, fitness and intent has been clear for all to see. Best tackle Courtney Lawes. How he managed to get back and catch Tonga's flying Telusa Veainu as he surged for the line was a minor miracle. Best pre-match backdrop A tie between Wales v New Zealand in Cardiff and England v Australia at Twickenham. Dramatic lighting, fireworks, flame throwers ... rugby union stages its biggest days increasingly well. Best referee Wayne Barnes (England). It was a nice touch by the Rugby Football Union this month to present all living English international referees with

their own "Test caps". Rassie Erasmus water-carrier award Richard Cockerill (England). If anything is finally going to propel World Rugby into banning coaches from running water on to the field it will be the sight of Cockerill on the Twickenham turf as the pressure mounted in the second half of the England v South Africa game. Provocative, moi? Biggest captaincy work-on Courtney Lawes (England). Did an outstanding - and unbeaten - job as England captain in place of Owen Farrell. That said, running on to the pitch after being substituted and remonstrating with the opposition with the game still ongoing is not a globally recognised diplomatic technique. Most emotional moment The Wallaby prop Ollie Hoskins, drafted in at late notice from club duty with London Irish following a raft of front-row injuries, shedding tears of pride and joy after learning of his first Test call-up at the age of 28. Biggest missed team-sheet opportunity What a divine moment it would have been had Wales's Christ Tshiunza and New Zealand's Josh Lord faced each other this month. Let's all pray it happens one day.

'I'm broken': emotional Kevin Sinfield completes 24-hour, 101-mile charity run

London, November 24 : The pain was visibly etched on to Kevin Sinfield's face when he completed his incredible latest fundraising challenge on Tuesday morning. He arrived at Headingley Stadium, 24 hours and 101 miles since leaving Leicester, alongside the wife and daughter of his former rugby league teammate Rob Burrow, the inspiration for his feats. Emotionally and physically exhausted, Sinfield pleaded with the BBC's Sally Nugent not to make him cry as he spoke of the epic run that has raised more than £1m in aid of research into motor neurone disease, which Burrow suffers from. But as he embraced Burrow on the Headingley pitch you would not have begrudged anyone else shedding a tear or two. Sinfield and Burrow shared an unbreakable bond as players with Leeds Rhinos, winning every trophy there was to win and solidifying themselves as giants of the game. Yet in the two years since Burrow was diagnosed with the disease, that bond has strengthened further. It is not difficult to see why. "To my amazing friend Kev, you don't realise the impact you have had on me and the whole MND community," Burrow said as they sat alongside each other. After



running seven marathons in seven days last year to support those living with MND, raising £2.7m in the process, Sinfield decided to push his body even further for his latest fundraising feat. The goal? Run the 101 miles from his new employers, the rugby union side Leicester Tigers, to his old home stadium in Leeds in 24 hours without sleep: the equivalent of just under four marathons. Split into 7km sections which Sinfield would aim to complete in under an hour before setting off again, he was joined at various points throughout his Extra Mile challenge by the likes of Alastair Campbell and the Brownlee brothers, Alistair and Jonny, as guest runners. But it was the sight of Burrow's wife Lindsey and daughter Macy running the final mile with Sinfield on Tuesday morning which truly stirred the emotions of everyone watching. The 41-year-old initially wanted to

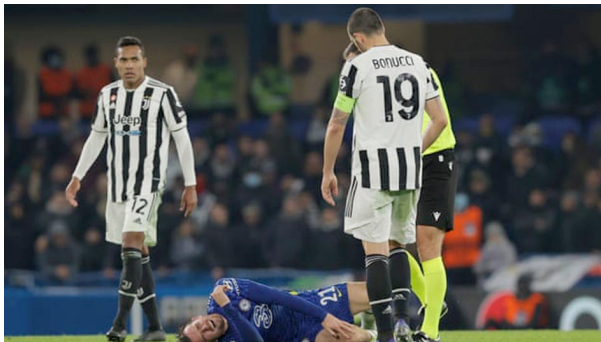
raise £100,000, split equally between the MND Association and Leeds Hospitals Charity, where a new care centre will be built in Burrow's name. By Tuesday lunchtime, the total stood at £1.1m, underlining how the friendship between two of the greatest rugby league players of their generation has captured the public's affection. The sight of Sinfield making a beeline for Burrow as he arrived at the finish line was poignant, to say the least. "I'm broken - I don't know when I'll be able to run again," Sinfield told the BBC shortly after the finish. "Rob knows how much we love and care about him. For those really dark moments, you have to think about Rob. It's been a real team effort from all the crew and I wouldn't have got it done without them. It was certainly a battle. We wanted a battle, and we got one." Sinfield, perhaps understandably, was unable to speak to reporters after

completing the challenge, and Burrow's father said that it is time the Leicester defence coach scales back on his incredible endurance challenges to protect his own wellbeing. "It's difficult to take in," Geoff Burrow told PA Media. "While we all knew he would do it, the main thing is that Kevin took care of himself. The money is great but nowhere as important as Kevin's health. But he's done it, I don't know how." Donations continued to pour in after Sinfield had completed his challenge, with the fundraising web page crashing repeatedly. The rugby league community refer to Sinfield as "Sir Kevin" given the manner in which he contributed so much to the sport during his glittering career as a player. He was awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list in June this year but given his recent achievements, the nickname bestowed upon him by supporters may become a reality.

Chelsea storm past Juventus into last 16 but Chilwell injury takes off gloss

London, November 24 : This is what revenge looks like but, moreover, what can happen when the Chelsea juggernaut is able to ramp up. After a first half of near total control, when Trevoh Chalobah's crashed finish on the half-volley represented scant reward, Thomas Tuchel could revel in how his team simply flattened Juventus to ensure their qualification to the Champions League last 16. If they win at Zenit St Petersburg next month, they will advance as seeded group winners. Perhaps Chelsea had been stung by the manner of their 1-0 loss in Turin at the end of September. More likely, they were intent on sending out a message. They do not intend to relinquish their grip on the trophy they won last season. The decisive blows

came in quick succession before the hour mark and, at that point, Tuchel was charging on to the pitch in celebration and Juve's players looked as if they did not know what had hit them. Part of the answer was Reece James, the player who, in the words of his England manager, Gareth Southgate, can be "anything he wants to be." Here, the wing-back was provider and finisher, wowing with his passing and shooting and, at all times, his strength and composure. As the second half played out and Juve's misery deepened, James seemed to be enjoying his team's supremacy, his supremacy. There were some impudent embellishments from him. He was not alone. Hakim Ziyech was excellent while Callum



Hudson-Odoi got the goal that the sharpness of his performance deserved. And for the icing on the cake? Look no further than Timo Werner's stoppage-time fourth, touched home from Ziyech's cross, the moment that condemned Juventus to their heaviest defeat in this competition. Werner had come on as a substitute for his first action since an ankle problem five weeks ago and the only blots

for Tuchel were the knee injuries that forced off N'Golo Kante and Ben Chilwell. The latter could barely put any weight on his leg as he was helped from the field. James ignited the occasion with his goal for 2-0. He controlled a Chilwell cross which had flicked off Matthijs de Ligt before thrashing a shot back into the far corner and he was involved in the third which came minutes later.

Anthony Watson given suspended one-week ban for tweet criticising referee

London, November 24 : Anthony Watson has been reprimanded by a Rugby Football Union disciplinary panel for conduct

prejudicial to the interest of the game after comments made on social media criticising a match official. The Bath and England wing has been given a one-week suspended ban for a tweet he posted last month, hitting out at the decision by the referee Ian Tempest to send off his teammate Mike Williams in Bath's defeat by Wasps. Watson is currently sidelined with a long-term knee injury - which led the disciplinary panel to suspend his sentence until the end of next season - but the RFU's insistence that he had "disrespected" Tempest's authority sends a clear message, hot on the heels of World Rugby's punishment of Rassie Erasmus following his outburst at match officials. Williams was sent off in the 47th minute of Wasps' 27-17 victory for a dangerous clear-out on Jimmy Gopperth. The forward was subsequently suspended for four weeks while the Bath kit manager Steve Middleton was also



acceptable," Watson wrote in a statement. "My actions cannot be explained simply by shifting the blame or placing extreme emphasis on my circumstances, I understand I must be accountable for my actions." However, contextually I believe it's important to understand how difficult the past month or so has been for me. A week prior to this game I suffered a potentially season-ending knee injury, which alone is not the easiest thing to deal with. However, when coupled with the fact that a mere two years ago I spent 13 months on the sideline watching my team and rehabilitating a double ruptured achilles - [that] can explain some level of the frustration I am feeling." The disciplinary panel also heard from the Rugby Football Referees' Union, which highlighted concerns over the acute shortage of match officials at grassroots level following the

pandemic-enforced layoff. "It is no secret that the number of referees taking up the whistle again after such a prolonged lay-off, is causing concern," read a statement. "A situation exacerbated by many of our members leaving the game having become disillusioned with, among other things, persistent challenging of their decisions and unfortunately, some serious incidences of match official abuse. Worse still, enticing new referees, especially young match officials, into the game becomes that more challenging." The refereeing community is a relatively tight-knit one and incidents of abuse and disrespect for the role soon permeate amongst officials, undermining their confidence and commitment. Furthermore, we cannot stress the impact that poor behaviour towards match officials, be it challenging decisions, appealing, disrespect or abuse, within the professional end of our game has on the wider game."

Manchester United meet Ernesto Valverde with Pochettino still in sights

Barcelona, November 24 : Manchester United have spoken to Ernesto Valverde regarding becoming their interim manager. The 57-year-old was Barcelona's manager from May 2017 until January 2020, winning La Liga twice and a Copa del Rey, and is out of work. It is understood Valverde has discussed with John Murtough, United's

football director, taking over on a temporary basis, with the club conscious that having worked with Lionel Messi at Barcelona he would be at ease managing Cristiano Ronaldo. Valverde has started sounding out potential players he could add to strengthen the squad should he be appointed. Ole Gunnar Soliskjær was sacked on



Sunday and Michael Carrick appointed as the caretaker on a match-to-match basis, the club's stated plan being to acquire an interim manager before making a permanent appointment in the close season. Mauricio Pochettino, the current favourite, failed to confirm he would see out his Paris Saint-Germain contract, which runs until summer 2023, when asked on Tuesday. Valverde is understood to be one of five candidates on the list for the interim role and United are ready to abandon that strategy if they can get Pochettino from Paris Saint-Germain now. Leicester's Brendan Rodgers is another manager regarded by United as being of the requisite calibre for the permanent job. Valverde, who has

managed at six clubs since 2002, was asked in an interview for the Observer in June about one day potentially working in England. "Could be," the Spaniard said. "I wouldn't mind trying it. You get the feeling that there's a respect there for what the game is." Pochettino was questioned about the United job on the eve of PSG's Champions League game at Manchester City. Asked to confirm he would still be at PSG in summer 2023, he said: "Football is today, football is not tomorrow. There is nothing in tomorrow. Of course the club need to plan, and we need to plan, and are working and thinking, always, about what is going to happen tomorrow. But football is about results.

Ashes has lost focus with scandals engulfing ECB and Cricket Australia

London, November 24 :

The Ashes are coming, the Ashes are coming. And yet, if you were paying attention to cricket over the past couple of weeks, you may identify with a weariness, a wariness, a general swirling malaise. Australia and England, that pair, where those leading the game and those leading the teams have been draping themselves in the inverse of glory. The two captains, as per the pre-series marketing, have dwindled to one captain, meaning that 100% of the remaining captains and 100% of the former captains in this series exist under a cloud. Australia's anointed repairer of reputation, Tim Paine, resigned his commission via the national tradition of a teary public apology after his homespun erotica attained belated publication. England's blameless golden child, Joe Root, has always been fiercely claimed as the property of Yorkshire, and thus must remain so, as a teammate who, Azeem Rafiq said in his testimony to a parliamentary hearing, was oblivious to racist chatter. To describe Cricket Australia as an administration in turmoil may falsely



suggest that this is an exception rather than a norm. It would also be overly kind in suggesting the possible visitation of trouble from outside. In reality, the text messages were coming from inside the house. For at least five years CA has been a rolling maul of incompetence, where a high attrition rate of failed executives and directors has been balanced by enough new substitutes joining in to keep the whole mess ploughing relentlessly on in the same direction. There are decent people in the place but so far they have

been kept on the sidelines, ignored as they shout directions towards something better. Nobody needs 1950s prurience about relationships any more. But even if Paine's is the kind of story that only concerns those within his marriage, the fact remains that Cricket Australia held an investigation into the workplace conduct of their new captain after he had led the team in a total of one Test match. Soon afterwards, in November 2018, at the same time as their hired hands were emblazoning "Elite Honesty" on large placards on the

changing room wall, all parties elected to bury that fact. Despite the ongoing threat of it becoming known, they never got out ahead of the story. They sat quietly and hoped it would do the same. All of which is before you come to the issue of consent or otherwise. CA this week restated its 2018 findings that the messages were mutually desired, but won't address why the recipient now disputes this. They also state that the interaction was a one-off, despite the familiarity in the correspondence strongly indicating that this is im-

plausible. As with Yorkshire and Rafiq, conclusions from cricket authorities investigating themselves are not worth the paper that they don't get printed on. Then you have the England and Wales Cricket Board, claiming shock and dismay at Rafiq's testimony that they have just spent 15 months not listening to, letting Yorkshire try to run down the clock. All the while, they were asking England players to wear nice T-shirts before each match with slogans about cricket being a game for everyone. They have hosed fortunes on a fortnight's play in the needlessly divisive Hundred competition, rather than investing those resources and ingenuity to elevate the county T20 tournament, and the top suits this year paid themselves £2.1m in bonuses to congratulate themselves on their wise financial stewardship last year in sacking 62 staff to get through the pandemic. It all correlates with the English Test captain's milquetoast response to Rafiq, a smoothie of motivational quotes about moving forward together, in that way that makes Root an ideal study in the Yeats formulation about the best lacking all conviction. When Root carries England with his

batting, it only emphasises the contrast. He will need to do plenty of that in the upcoming series. Teams can come to reflect the failings of their boards, just as the other way around. The Ashes boards along with India are responsible for so much, dominating the International Cricket Council as they do. Their recent schedule announcement gives India five major events in 10 years, including two out of three 50-over World Cups, while Australia and England take three events between them. By season's end, 14 of Australia's past 19 Tests will have been against India or England. Both CA and the ECB will be desperately hoping that come Brisbane, attention will shift on to the field. But they're hardly set for a 2005 barnstormer. And anyway, some of the heroes of 2005 have recently had a fair bit of gloss taken off. Instead, two already ordinary teams now look like something more tawdry and tarnished, a tired routine relying on too few stars, going through its paces to churn out some more money for the Old Firm. It's hard to feel inspired. It would really be something to have people leading the game who could manage that.

China condemns 'malicious hyping' over Peng Shuai

Beijing, November 24 :

China's foreign ministry has accused unnamed people of "malicious hyping" in the case of the tennis star Peng Shuai, in a hardline and unrepentant response to questions in the west over her wellbeing. The whereabouts and wellbeing of Peng, a former doubles world number one, has become a matter of international concern over the past three weeks, after she alleged in a message on the

online campaign under the hashtag # Where's Peng Shuai - joined by stars including Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams - has taken off, particularly after the Chinese state media published an email purportedly written by Peng that said she was "fine". Peng reappeared over the weekend in Beijing and held a video call with the Bach on Sunday. The IOC reported that she was "safe and well", but its apparent attempt to ease international concern



Chinese social media site Weibo that the country's former vice-premier, Zhang Gaoli, had sexually assaulted her. Peng ceased to be seen in public shortly after she made her allegation on 2 November. Some countries are weighing up a potential boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics, which is due to take place in February, and assurances by Chinese authorities that Peng is safe and well have been met with scepticism, especially by the Women's Tennis Association. "This is not a diplomatic matter," the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, told a regular press briefing on Tuesday. "I believe everyone will have seen she has recently attended some public activities and also held a video call with the IOC [International Olympic Committee] president, [Thomas] Bach. I hope certain people will cease malicious hyping, let alone politicisation. Mentions of the 35-year-old have been heavily censored in China since early this month. But outside the country, an

drew it into the line of fire. The organisation was subsequently accused of staging a "publicity stunt" for Beijing. "That's not a safeguarding call by any means. Tennis should have been able to have that call, it should have been a safeguarding officer having that call - not a publicity stunt," said Nikki Dryden, a human rights lawyer and former Olympic swimmer for Canada. With talk of a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Games on the rise, pro-government actors in China are framing the issue as an ideological struggle with the west. "The ideological conflicts between China and the west will escalate before the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022 as anti-Chinese forces will converge to make trouble for China," the Global Times wrote in an editorial on Monday. "China used to care about maintaining a harmonious atmosphere with the west and the way being regarded by the rest of the world, particularly by the west. This needs to be changed."

Champions League: Man United, Chelsea advance; Barcelona made to wait

Liverpool, November 24:

Energized by a change of manager and another opportunistic finish by Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League with a game to spare on Tuesday. Another newly appointed coach still has work to do, though, to get Barcelona into the last 16. United was led for the first time by Michael Carrick following the weekend firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and, just like his predecessor, the interim manager was left to be thankful for a goal by the Champions League's record scorer. Ronaldo produced a sublime lobbed finish to put United ahead against Villarreal and a 90th-minute strike by Jadon Sancho - his first goal since joining for \$100 million in the offseason -



sealed a 2-0 win to secure progress as the winner of Group F. Ronaldo has scored in all five group games so far, and now has a record-extending 140 Champions League goals in his career. Another English team, defending champion Chelsea, also advanced on the back of a 4-0

win over already-qualified Juventus, which slumped to its heaviest ever loss in the Champions League. With Liverpool also qualified and Manchester City likely to join them, the Premier League will again be well represented in the knockout stage. Barcelona, now

coached by former star midfielder Xavi Hernandez, has advanced from its group every season for almost two decades but a 0-0 draw at home to Benfica means the Spanish club might need to beat Bayern Munich in the final round of games to advance. All four teams in Group G are separated by three points and could still qualify heading into their last games after wins for Lille and Sevilla over Salzburg and Wolfsburg, respectively. Ronaldo had already scored two winners and a late equalizer in the Champions League this season before his smartly taken go-ahead goal against Villarreal in the 78th minute, prompted by Fred winning the ball high up the field. And both Fred and Ronaldo featured in a counterattack that ended with Sancho smashing a shot in off the underside of the

crossbar to seal the win. Carrick made a big call in his first game in charge by dropping playmaker Bruno Fernandes in a bid to set up in a more solid fashion and protect a defense that has been overrun this season. It led to a first clean sheet of the group stage. More joy was to follow as Atalanta's wild 3-3 draw at Young Boys meant United cannot be displaced as group leader courtesy of its superior head-to-head record against Villarreal, which is three points back in second place. Atalanta, which is a point further back, grabbed a point thanks to Luis Muriel's 87th-minute free kick with his first touch after coming on as a substitute. The thrashing of Juventus, achieved courtesy of goals by academy graduates Trevoh Chalobah, Reece James and Callum Hudson-

Odoi as well as a fourth by substitute Timo Werner, was marred by knee injuries to key players N'Golo Kante and Ben Chilwell. Kante went off in the first half while Chilwell looked in agony as he was helped off the field in the 71st. Chelsea and Juventus, who are tied on 12 points with a game left to play, both started an American in Christian Pulisic and Weston McKennie, respectively. They were two of six Americans to start Tuesday, a record in one night of group play. Zenit St. Petersburg is assured of finishing third and going into the Europa League knockout stage after drawing 1-1 at Malmo, which will end the group stage in last place but at least has a goal to show for its efforts.

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