



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Queen congratulates Barbados as it becomes a republic

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Alexia Putellas and Lionel Messi named 2021 Ballon d'Or winners



NEWS IN BRIEF

Two dead bodies recovered

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

Two dead bodies were recovered from a house under mysterious circumstances in Dibrugarh's Malakhubasa area on Tuesday. Sources said one of the dead bodies belonged to a male, while the other belonged to a female person. The male person was reportedly the landlord of the house and the female lived there on rent. Their identities could not be ascertained immediately.

No decision on nationwide NRC

Assam Rising, Reporter New Delhi, November 30 :

The government has not taken any decision yet to prepare a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC), the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said that The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was notified on December 12, 2019 and had come into force on January 10, 2020 and the people covered under the CAA may apply for citizenship after the rules are notified. "Till now, the Government has not taken any decision to prepare National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) at the national level," he said in a written reply to a question.

Fake Currency Racket

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

Two fake currency note racketeers have been arrested by Guwahati Police in Paltan Bazar area late Monday. As per sources, they had been operating the racket at Hotel Harish near Arya hospital. The two arrested individuals have been identified as Tensubam Leishemba Meitei and Nepram Somendro Shing, both hailing from Manipur. Police seized 20 nos of fake Rs 500 notes and also two mobile phones from their possession. Meanwhile, a case under IPC section 489 has been registered against the duo at Paltan Bazar police station.

Woman arrested

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

Acting on specific information, city police launched an operation and were able to bust the racket, which was operated by one Nayamoni Deka from a three-storey building near Rajgarh by lane no 3 for the past few months. One woman was also arrested in connection to it. Moreover, three more suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

Mob Lynching: Minister Ranoj Pegu Assures Trial in Fast-track Court

13 culprits including Kola Lora arrested by Jorhat police



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

Assam Education Minister Ranoj Pegu on Tuesday visited the residence of Animesh Bhuyan, the victim of Jorhat mob-lynching case and assured that the state government would take steps for the trial of the case in the fast-track court. While visiting the residence of



Animesh Bhuyan, Ranoj Pegu said that the trial of the case will be done in the fast-track court. The education minister visited the residence of the victim of mob lynching on the instruction of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Khakandaguri village under Dergaon police station in Golaghat district. He was accompanied by Mariani MLA Rupjiyoti Kurmi. The minister offered condolence



to the family members of the victim. While sharing pictures of his visit to Animesh Bhuyan's on his Twitter handle, Dr Pegu wrote: "At Khakandaguri village under Dergaon PS, visited and offered my condolences to the bereaved family members of

Animesh Bhuyan who was brutally killed in Jorhat yesterday. "The trial will be done in a fast-track court," said Pegu in his tweet. Minister Pegu said chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has already ordered the police to file the chargesheet within 15 days. "Hon'ble CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has already ordered police to file the chargesheet within 15 days," Dr Pegu said. The Jorhat Police has arrested a total 13 accused so far in connection to the case. A 23-year-old student leader was beaten to death in upper Assam's Jorhat town on Monday. A video of the incident that took place in the evening went viral on social media. The video shows around 50-60 people brutally attacking All Assam Student

Leader Animesh Bhuyan and his two friends in a crowded place where allegedly a couple of Assam police personnel were also present who remained helpless spectators of the heinous crime. Witness says the mob attacked them after they tried to help one elderly person who met with a minor two-wheeler accident. They were trying to help the person who fell from his scooter on the road when a crowd led by a few unscrupulous persons started attacking them alleging they were responsible for the accident. Animesh and his friends had kept on shouting about their innocence but the mob paid no heed and had beaten them to a pulp. The Jorhat Police team

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Charles Pyngrope, MLA from Nongthymmai appointed as president of AITC Meghalaya



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

Former Assembly Speaker and Nongthymmai legislator Charles Pyngrope appointed as the state president of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) in Meghalaya. Recently, the former chief minister Mukul Sangma and 11 other MLAs joined AITC Meghalaya. With the latest political development, despite not winning any seat in 2018 Assembly elec-

tions, the Trinamool Congress has now become the main opposition party in Meghalaya. In Kolkata, West Bengal, today, the 12 MLAs of the Meghalaya AITC met with TMC Chief Mamata Banerjee. His appointment was approved by the AITC supremo Mamata Banerjee during a meeting held at Kolkata. Mamata also met the 12 MLAs led by former chief minister of Meghalaya

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Opposition Parties Stage Parliament Walkout, Protest Over MPs' Suspension

New Delhi, November 30 :

On the second day of the 25-day Winter Session of Parliament, 16 opposition parties met with Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu to push back on 12 opposition MPs being suspended yesterday for the whole of Parliament's Winter session. The MPs were suspended by the House for exhibiting violent behaviour during the Monsoon session. When their request to revoke the MPs' suspension was denied, opposition parties walked out of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and have since been protesting at the Gandhi statue, much like they did yesterday. The Winter



Session of Parliament began on Monday amid protests and sloganeering by the opposition, who wanted discussion around the Farm

Laws Repeal Bill, in an attempt to guarantee farmers some of their other demands that go beyond just the repeal of the three farm

laws. However, as the 25-day session began with 36 legislative bills on the agenda, the Lok Sabha promptly passed the Farm Laws Repeal Bill

Omicron scare: Assam government may soon have to revise its SOP for fliers

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

The state government may soon have to revise its SOP for fliers in the wake of the worldwide alert over the new Omicron variant of Covid-19. Fully vaccinated passengers were being exempted from mandatory tests and screenings at air-

ports on arrival until now in the state. But the authorities at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here, the biggest airport in the region, have already started screening, testing international fliers and making quarantine compulsory till the RT-PCR test results arrive. "For international fliers, we are not allowing any-

one to escape without testing, though they are fully vaccinated. For fully vaccinated domestic fliers, there are some excuses. For children between one and 10 years, if their guardians are fully vaccinated, the children need not go through the mandatory test at the Guwahati airport," additional DC (health), Kamrup

(Metro), Dhruba Jyoti Hazarika, told TOI on Monday. "Usually RT-PCR reports come in about 48 hours, but till then international fliers have to be in isolation," he added. Hazarika, however, noted that in the last couple of weeks, there is no information about any

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Indian economy grew 8.4% in July-September quarter



New Delhi, November 30 :

India's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2021-22 grew at 8.4 percent, official data released on November 30 showed. The numbers mark a significant increase as compared to the COVID-19-hit second quarter of last fiscal year, when the GDP had declined by 7.4 percent. "GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2021-22 is estimated at Rs 35.73 lakh crore, as against Rs 32.97 lakh crore in Q2 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.4 percent as compared to 7.4

percent contraction in Q2 2020-21," the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said. In the previous quarter of FY22, the Indian economy had grown at a record pace of 20.1 percent. The gross value added (GVA) in Q2 has grown by 8.5 percent, as compared to a decline of 7.3 percent in the same quarter last year. In Q1 of FY22, the GVA had sharply surged by 18.8 percent. Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) in the July-September quarter rose by 8.61 percent on year in Q2, but

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Assam CM presents appointment letters to 723 candidates in education department

Future generations can't be burdened with inefficient teachers: CM

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today handed over appointment letters to 130 Assistant Professors of colleges, 16 Grade III employees in colleges, 17 compassionate appointments, 560 teachers in 88 provincialized HS schools at a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra organized by Secondary and Higher Education Departments. Saying that the state government is striving to make

higher and secondary education in the state holistic and contemporary through transparent teacher recruitment. Dr. Sarma asserted that future generations cannot be burdened with inefficient teachers who will hamper the development of able citizens for the country. He said that teachers have a very important role to play in setting good examples in the society and therefore they should not object to attendance monitoring of teachers through RIIMS App in schools as discipline is a must in the society. Inform-



ing that the State Government is taking steps to set up more schools, colleges and universities, the Chief Minister said that Higher Secondary classes are being separated from colleges as per NEP 2020 while taking

steps to ensure adequate numbers of science teachers in the schools. Structure, pedagogy and curriculum will be prepared in sync with NEP 2020 taking ideas from best practices in other states, he said. Remarking

that High and LP Schools' education is degrading in spite of more teacher recruitment in the state, Dr. Sarma informed that from next year Gunotsav will be organized to assess the aptitude of students and teachers in the schools. He also informed that the State Government is setting up a special committee for centralized recruitment of college teachers in Assam. He also said that all government colleges must go for NAAC assessment

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Birds perch on flowing ice at the Yellow River's middle reaches in Dalad Banner of Erdos, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Amid Omicron threat, India sees lowest one-day rise in new COVID-19 cases in 551 days

New Delhi, November 30 : As the world reels under fear from the newly discovered COVID-19 strain, Omicron, India in the last 24 hours saw its lowest one-day rise in 551 days. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Tuesday (November 30, 2021) morning, the country recorded 6,990 new coronavirus cases. With this, India's active caseload has now dropped to 1,00,543, which is the lowest in 546 days. The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has been below 20,000 for 53 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 155 consecutive days now. The Health Ministry also informed that there were 190 deaths and 10,116 recoveries across the country in the last 24 hours. India has now so far registered 4.68 lakh coronavirus-related fatalities and 3.4 crore recoveries. Meanwhile, the cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 123.25 crore. The Health Ministry stated that more than 22.70 crore balance and unutilized vaccine doses are still available with the States and UTs to be administered. Earlier on Monday, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that the global risk from the omicron variant is 'very high' based on the early evidence. It also said that the mutated coronavirus could lead to surges with 'severe consequences'. The assessment from the UN Health agency, contained in a technical paper issued to member states, amounted to WHO's strongest, most explicit warning yet about the new version that was first identified days ago by researchers in South Africa. WHO said there are 'considerable uncertainties' about the omicron variant. But it said preliminary evidence raises the possibility that the variant has mutations that could help it both evade an immune-system response and boost its ability to spread from one person to another.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan may see rainfall and thunderstorm on December 2: IMD



New Delhi, November 30 : A fresh, active Western disturbance is likely to affect Northwest and adjoining Central India from the night of November 30, said Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday. Due to its influence, scattered to fairly widespread rain/thunderstorm are likely over Gujarat, North Maharashtra and adjoining areas of Southwest Madhya Pradesh and South Rajasthan during November 30-December 2. "A fresh active Western Disturbance is likely to affect Northwest & adjoining Central India from the night of November 30, 2021. Under the influence of this trough in mid-latitude westerlies at mid and upper tropospheric levels and its interaction with lower-level trough in easterlies, Scattered to fairly widespread rain/

Jussie Smollett was 'real victim' of racist attack, lawyer says as trial begins

London, November 30 : Jussie Smollett "is a real victim" of a "real crime," his attorney said in opening statements at the ex-Empire actor's trial Monday, rejecting prosecutors' allegation that he staged a homophobic and racist attack in Chicago. Defense attorney Nyenye Uche said two brothers attacked Smollett in January 2019 because they didn't like him, and that a \$3,500 check the actor paid the men was for training so he could prepare for an upcoming music video, not as payment for staging a hate crime, as prosecutors allege. Uche also suggested a third attacker was involved and told jurors there is not a "shred" of physical and forensic evidence linking Smollett to the crime prosecutors allege. "Jussie Smollett is a real victim," Uche said. Special prosecutor Dan Webb said the actor recruited the brothers to help him carry out a fake attack, then reported it to Chicago police, who classified it as

a hate crime and spent 3,000 staff hours on the investigation. Smollett said he was attacked by supporters of then-president Donald Trump, a report that ignited political and ideological divisions around the country. "When he reported the fake hate crime that was a real crime," said Webb. Smollett is charged with felony disorderly conduct which carries a prison sentence of up to three years, but experts have said it is likely that if Smollett is convicted he would be placed on probation and perhaps ordered to perform community service. Webb told jurors Smollett was unhappy about how the studio handled the letter he received. That letter included a drawing of a stick figure hanging from a tree and "Maga", a reference to Trump's Make America Great Again campaign slogan, Webb said. He said Smollett then concocted the fake attack and had a "dress rehearsal" with the two brothers, who worked on the "Empire" set with Smollett, including telling them to shout racial and homophobic slurs and "Maga". Smollett also told

Queen congratulates Barbados as it becomes a republic

London, November 30 : As Barbados removes the Queen as its head of state and becomes a republic, the monarch has sent her congratulations on the nation's "momentous" day. Prince Charles arrived on the Caribbean island on Sunday to join the inauguration ceremony of the president-elect, Sandra Mason, who replaces the Queen as head of state overnight as Barbados sheds the vestiges of a colonial system stretching back 400 years. In a message to Mason, the Queen wished all Barbadians happiness, peace and

prosperity in the future. She said: "On this significant occasion and your assumption of office as the first president of Barbados, I extend my congratulations to you and all Barbadians. I first visited your beautiful country on the eve of independence in early 1966, and I am very pleased that my son is with you today. Since then, the people of Barbados have held a special place in my heart; it is a country rightly proud of its vibrant culture, its sporting prowess, and its natural beauty, that attracts visitors from all over the world, including many



people from the United Kingdom." She continued: "Over the years, our countries have enjoyed a partnership based on common values, shared prosperity, and close collaboration on a wide range of issues, including recent work on climate change. It is also a source of great satisfaction that Barbados remains an active participant within the Commonwealth, and I look forward to the continuation of the friendship between our two countries and peoples." As you celebrate this momentous day, I send you and all Barbadians my warmest good wishes for your happiness, peace and

prosperity in the future. Elizabeth R. "Charles travelled to the island on Sunday to reaffirm the "myriad" connections between the people of the two countries. He delivered an address as Barbados began a new chapter in its history on 30 November, the 55th anniversary of its independence from Britain. The celebrations began at 8pm local time, midnight UK time. The last time the Queen was removed as head of a state was in 1992, when Mauritius proclaimed itself a republic. Barbados's decision will be watched closely by other members of the Commonwealth, especially in the Caribbean.

Channel crossings are an English issue, says French minister

Paris, November 30 : Senior French ministers have accused the UK of operating a labour market akin to slavery and called on London to open safe routes for migrants, as the two governments continued to deflect blame for last week's drownings in the Channel. The criticism came hours after France's interior minister, Gérald Darmanin, held a crisis meeting with European ministers and border agencies to discuss the migrant emergency around the Channel ports. The UK home secretary, Priti Patel, was disinclined to the meeting after Boris Johnson riled President Emmanuel Macron by publishing a letter calling on France to accept people being returned, and calling for British troops or border police to patrol French beaches. Darmanin said cross-Channel migration was "first and foremost an English issue" and Britain must "accept its responsibilities". "Today, people who want to seek asylum in England have no other means than to cross the Channel. This is because there is no legal way for immigrants to go to Great Britain and because you can work without identity papers in England and that creates a demand," Darmanin told BFM TV. He added that France accepted 150,000 asylum applications a year, compared with 30,000 in the UK. France's European affairs minister, Clément Beaune, also hit back at the UK, accusing it of having "an economic model of, sometimes, quasi-modern slavery" that he said encouraged desperate people to attempt perilous Channel crossings. "We're asking the British to change their [legal] framework," Beaune told France Inter. He said exploitation of illegal workers was "more prevalent in the UK because there are fewer checks" and the UK needed "more humane" labour market regulation to discourage migrants. Darmanin, who gave an interview to the Guardian after Sunday's meeting, reiterated that France was not prepared to be treated as the UK's "vassal" and was fed up with the double talk coming from the British government. "I'm very happy to discuss things ... on the condition that we have a normal relationship and a spirit of equality," he said on Monday. France convened the meeting of ministers responsible for immigration from Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, as well as the European commissioner for internal affairs. Representatives from the EU's agency for law enforcement cooperation, Europol, and the EU's border management agency, Frontex, were also invited to the hastily arranged summit in Calais on Sunday. Last Wednesday 27 people died in the Channel, a tragedy that has prompted a blame game between London and Paris. Patel was due to attend the summit but the invitation was rescinded because of Johnson's letter, published on Twitter before it was seen by Macron.

Reporter denies William tacitly approved leak of Meghan bullying claims

London, November 30 : Allegations that the Duchess of Sussex had "bullied" two members of staff at Kensington Palace were "absolutely not" leaked with Prince William's tacit approval, according to the journalist who reported them. The final part of a controversial BBC documentary on the relationship between Prince William, Prince Harry and the media examined allegations of a briefing war between the brothers. The bullying claims, which the duchess has denied and which are the subject of an ongoing inquiry at Buckingham Palace, emerged just days before Harry and Meghan's interview with talkshow host



Oprah Winfrey. The BBC presenter Amol Rajan asked the Times journalist Valentine Low if he believed the people who leaked the bullying allegations to him had been licensed to do so by the Duke of Cambridge. "Did you think that the people speaking to you had his tacit approval?" Rajan asked. "Absolutely not,"

Low replied. The Sussexes' lawyer, Jenny Afia, told the documentary, The Princes and the Press, that the bullying story was untrue and had "massive, massive inaccuracies". But, she said, it was difficult to refute. "It is really hard to prove a negative. If you haven't bullied anyone, how do you show that you haven't?" she said. She also defended the Sussexes against newspaper criticism that they demanded privacy, and fought for it through the courts, while at the same time speaking out to others. She said: "It's not them who have said they want privacy. It's something that the tabloids have said about them that's latched on."

Jack Dorsey steps down as Twitter chief executive

New York, November 30 : Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey has stepped down from his executive role at the social media company. Dorsey will be replaced by chief technology officer (CTO) Parag Agrawal, the company announced on Monday. The surprise move ends Dorsey's much criticized tenure as chief executive officer of both Twitter and Square, his digital payments company, which led to Twitter stakeholders Elliott Management and billionaire investor Paul Singer calling on him to step down from one of those roles. Twitter's shares rose 11% after the news broke on CNBC before being briefly

suspended. The company said Dorsey would step down immediately but that Dorsey would remain on the board until Twitter's stockholder meeting in 2022. "I've decided to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders. My trust in Parag as Twitter's CEO is deep. His work over the past 10 years has been transformational. I'm deeply grateful for his skill, heart and soul. It's his time to lead," said Dorsey. "I want to thank the board for their confidence in my leadership and Jack for his continued mentorship, support and partnership," said Agrawal.



Staff members of Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) work at an excavation site in central Israeli city of Yavne

Guest House

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

PEC International award to journalist Nava Thakuria

Assam Rising, Reporter
Guwahati, November 30:

The Geneva-based Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) rewards senior journalist Nava Thakuria, a resident of northeast India, for his relentless initiatives to safeguard the rights of media persons in the south Asian country and also defending the press freedom in the region with an exemplary commitment. The Assam-based working journalist was awarded on November 30 remotely as it was difficult for him to reach Geneva because of the Covid-19 restrictions. "It is the first time that the PEC rewards a journalist from India, the second most populous country of the world. India has a strong democracy and a vibrant press. Last



year however, a record number of 15 journalists were killed in India and six this year. Journalists are targeted documenting abuses, corruption, criminal activities," stressed the PEC Secretary-General Blaise Lempen. In 2021, the media fraternity in India was the most affected

by the novel coronavirus along with Brazil. The PEC award also wants to pay tribute to some 300 journalists who died throughout India with Covid-19 complications. "Receiving the PEC award is a great honour and represents a strong incentive to continue my work. I now feel more responsible for my colleagues in the media fraternity. At the same time, I greatly appreciate this award which draws attention to the situation of journalists in my country," said Thakuria. Journalism, be it print, electronic or digital, remains a hazardous job in India. Media persons are not duly paid here and often they face threats from both the government and non-state actors including the

goons. This year, the Covid-19 has impacted severely upon the media industry in India, he added. Besides his home country, Thakuria has also taken the pain to document the media crisis in Myanmar (also known as Burma or Brahmadesh) and reported the detention of over 120 journalists after the military coup in February. Nearly 40 out of them are still behind the bars there. A graduate from Assam Engineering College (under Gauhati University), but preferred to be a professional journalist, Thakuria contributes to various newspapers of India along with several media outlets based in the different parts of the world. Starting his career as a reporter in Natun Dainik,

an Assamese language daily in 1990, Thakuria shifted to freelance journalism by 1999. His focus area of reporting remains the socio-political, cultural and environmental developments taking place in eastern India along with Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The changing faces of mainstream journalism after the advent of alternate media worldwide is also a primary focus area for him. He has visited most of the prime localities in India and also Thimphu, Dhaka, Yangon, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Copenhagen, Chicago, etc for different global events and professional assignments. Created in the Swiss city of Geneva in 2004 by a group of journalists, PEC

the global media safety and rights body with the consultative status at the United Nations, is devoted to strengthening the legal protection and safety of journalists around the world. Since 2009, it has been awarding its annual prize to an individual or an organization, who works for the protection of journalists and the press freedom on the ground. The award had earlier gone to Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui in 2020. On the previous year, the PEC rewarded the Afghanistan Journalists Center director Ahmad Quraishi, whereas in 2018 the award went to the family of Daphne Caruana Galizia (who was murdered in Malta in October 2017).



KAAC Chief Tuliram Ronghang Felicitated by Diphu MLA B.L. Englang and Party worker Srimanta Barthakur for his Doctorate Degree owned from B.V. University

LTK College organised lecture on Assamese literature

Assam Rising, Reporter
North Lakhimpur, November 30:

A unique program on literature was held successfully in Lakhimpur. Telahi Kamalabaria (LTK) College, Azad, North Lakhimpur on November 27 under the aegis of the Assamese Department of the college. In the event, which was held in the college auditorium, eminent story-writer, novelist and the associate editor of the 'Prakash' magazine Gitali Borah, eminent article writer, critic, translator Dr. Arindam Sarma and prominent writer Arnab Saikia participated as the resource persons. Gitali Borah discussed on the topic "Literature: creation and background", Dr. Arindam Sarma discussed "Modern

Poetry: Reading and Evaluation" and Arnab Saikia on "Books: for the life, for the dream". The event started with the singing of the college song which was followed by the reading of the written welcome address sent by the Principal of the college Dr. Bubul Kumar Saikia. It was read by the Head of the Assamese Department Dr. Bhaskarjit Borah. The co-ordinator of the event and the assistant professor of the Assamese Department Dr. Randip Borah anchored the event where more than hundred students of the college were present along with a number of professors. In the interaction session of the event, the students interacted with the resource persons actively.

'Ranangan Sanman 2021' to Rita Chaudhary

Assam Rising, Reporter
Nagaon, November 30:

'Ranangan Sanman 2021' will be ceremonially presented to noted Assamese novelist and litterateur Rita Chaudhary on December 3 at the auditorium of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Vishwavidyalaya here at Nagaon. The pioneer publication of the district - Ranangan publication is presenting the award to a noted Assamese litterateur, intellectual or a social activist every year. Noted Assamese litterateur, intellectual and journalist Lt Humen Borgohain was conferred with 'Ranangan Sanman 2020' last year. The award contains memento, Gamusa, Cheleng Sador,

Sorai, appraisal letter and cash of Rs 10,000, a release added. Around 12 years ago, two youngsters - respectively Sanjib Bora and Mintu Das of Nagaon set up the Ranangan publication at a rented house near Uttar Haiborgaon and started their hardship journey with an Assamese weekly - Ranangan. The same youngsters after overcoming a slew of obstacles on their way today have designed their dreams and regularly publish a monthly magazine as well as an Assamese weekly newsletter in the same name - Ranangan respectively. Besides, the youths also started a web portal news channel recently in the same name - Ranangan.

AASU protests against the assassination of Animesh Bhuyan



Assam Rising, Reporter
Udalguri, November 30:

The recurrence of the Abhi-Nil incident is a shameful event for a civilized society. Animesh Bhuyan, education secretary of Brahmaputra Anchalik Students' Union of Golaghat district, was killed while getting assaulted by a crowd in Jorhat, in a horrifying case of ethical enforcement. Today, the Tangla Anchalik Students' Union of Udalguri district, in protest of the incident that shook the entire state, staged a protest near the Shohid Bhawan in Tangla with black cloths tied around their faces and placards in their hands. Rinku Deka, secretary of the Tangla Anchalik Students' Union, and Pranjal Deka, president of the Tangla Anchalik Students' Union, demanded that the administration should punish the culprits. It also announced that the flag of AASU will be hoisted at half-mast for three days from today. The Tangla Anchalik Students' Union has demanded that

the perpetrators must be arrested and given exemplary punishment so that the perpetrators could not escape from the law.

Programme on Legal Adoption held

Assam Rising, Reporter
Aalo, Nov 30: An Awareness programme on Legal Adoption attended at large by President and General Secretary of APWWS Aalo Branch, and around 50 ANM students participated was conducted in Govt. ANM School, Aalo on November 30. While citing the purpose for observing the month November 2021 as

Adoption Month, the DD ICDS cum DCPO, Aalo Bahi Koyu urged all Women representative of APWWS, Aalo, and others to spread awareness about Legal Adoption among the Public and ensure that all cases of Adoption are legalized in the district. He also briefed them about the Child Protection Society existing in the District which Monitor and Super-

vised regulation relating to adoption. Legal cum Probation Officer Mijum Doke gave PowerPoint presentation on Legal Procedure on Adoption and other Laws relating to Adoption, Pakam, faculty member Govt. ANM School extended her gratitude to all for making awareness of such a new concept for the larger interest of the people.



Dibrugarh University begins with Boro medium teaching

Assam Rising, Reporter
Dhemaji, November 30:

BTC chief Pramod Boro officially opened the state of the art Boro Media Department building at Dibrugarh University on Tuesday. The construction of this building started in 2015 itself. In line with this event, the inaugural function was held at the Theatre auditorium of the University. The event was presided over by Bodo Sahitya Sabha Presi-



dent Taren Chandra Boro. Dr Jitendra Hazarika, Registrar, University delivered the welcome address at the

function. Assam Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary, BTC Chief Pramod Boro, Vice Chan-

cellor Dr Leelakanta Nath, Registrar Dr Jitendra Hazarika, Dibrugarh District Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu, Retired Professor Bhim Kanta Baruah, AABSU President Dipen Boro were among the dignitaries present on the occasion. It may be recalled that with the introduction of independent large medium teaching at Dibrugarh University, the number of departments in the university increased to eighteen

NIRDPR &PR, NERC organized National Webinar

Assam Rising, Reporter
Guwahati, November 30:

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre (Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India), Guwahati (NIRD&PR - NERC), Assam State and ICAR - Research Complex North Eastern Hill Region (ICAR - RCNEHR), Umiam (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India), Umiam, Meghalaya jointly organized a national webinar commemorating the 75th years of progressive India, on the topic "Management of Water surplus - deficit dichotomy in North Eastern Agriculture to enhance the Productivity" on November, 30 to deliberate on the scientific management of water resource from rain and consequent surface flow and underground storages. The efficient utilization and management of

available rainwater is the core issue. The basic issue underlying the water resources problems are: recurring floods, drainage congestion, soil erosion, human influence on environment and so on, and calls for its integrated use for drinking, irrigation, generation of hydropower, navigation, pisciculture, recreation etc. Holistic approaches of the Rural Development flagship programmes including centrally sponsored line department schemes could enhance the farm productivity and economy of rural households. Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Associate Professor and Webinar Coordinator, NIRDPR-NEHC, Guwahati, while welcoming the esteemed dignitaries, eminent panelists and the participants to the event laid focus on the proper management of water resources using scientific intervention in synergy with soil conservation measures as the need

of the hour. While setting the context for the webinar, Dr. Debasish Chakraborty, Scientist, ICAR - RCNEHR, Umiam, focused that despite the huge water resource availability, many a times it becomes a limiting factor for essential activities such as domestic use or agricultural needs. Dr. R. Murugesan, Director, NIRDPR - NERC, Guwahati appraised the importance of the topic. He emphasized that resources like air and water are

thought to be free of cost and therefore being misused nowadays. Delivering the inaugural address Dr. S. Hazarika, Head of the Division of System Research and Engineering and Director (I/C) ICAR - RCNEHR, Umiam, Meghalaya emphasized the importance of water on agriculture. He stated that the north eastern region receives lots of rainfall but utilizes much less i.e. this region has plenty of water but its utilization remains less due to

its skewed distribution. Two expert speakers were invited to the webinar for deliberations on the theme from different perspectives. Dr. Arup Kumar Sarma, Former B.P. Chaliha Chair Professor for Water Resources, Civil Engineering Department, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati deliberated on the "Water Resources Status of the Region and its Spatio-temporal Dimension and Climate Change Impact". The programme con-

cluded with the closing remarks of Dr. Debasish Chakraborty, Scientist, ICAR - RCNEHR and a formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Associate Professor, NIRDPR-NEHC. About 84 participants attended the webinar representing various domains of ICAR scientific institutions, agriculture universities, academicians, researchers and rural development functionaries from different parts of India.

CM Dr Sarma inaugurates "Srimanta Sankardeva Block" at USTM

Assam Rising, Reporter
Guwahati, November 30:

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam has inaugurated the "Srimanta Sankardeva Block" at the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM) today whose foundation laying was earlier done by the Governor of Assam. The Chief Minister was felicitated by the USTM family at the Central Auditorium where he graced the 11th Foundation Day of Udayachal. Speaking on the occasion, Mahabul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM said, "Inclusiveness must be

inculcated for growth and excellence. Here at USTM every nook and corner conveys some message. Srimanta Sankardeva, the Vaishnavite saint philosopher and reformer from Assam worked in this direction long back in the 15th century. We are committed to follow in his footsteps." Hoque also said that USTM will establish a Chair in the name of Sankardeva for research. Prof G. D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM said, "USTM is progressing and contributing immensely to the field of higher education in the re-



gion. Recently the University has been accredited by National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) with "A" Grade in the first cycle of assessment." The university is

now planning to focus more on research and innovation which will facilitate it to achieve excellence in the near future and emerge as an "Institute of Excellence", he added.

Businessman passes away

Assam Rising Correspondent, Biswanath Chari, Nov 29: Mohan Lal Sahu (88); an established businessman of Sootea breathed his last at Tezpur Medical College & Hospital on Monday due to prolonged illness. Sahu's demise was widely mourned at Sootea.



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Mob lynchings: Assam needs strict laws

In a case of mob lynching in Assam, a youth was beaten to death in Jorhat. An All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader was killed and two others, including a journalist, were injured in a case of mob lynching in eastern Assam's Jorhat town on Monday. In this context there is a need for making amendments to Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code to deal with cases of mob lynchings across the country. The Centre should specify penal action against officials and doctors accused of dereliction of duty. The spate of incidents of lynching over the past few years has led to a heightened sense of insecurity among the marginalised communities. Though no data has been compiled by the NCRB of the number of cases of lynching in the country since 2015 for reasons unknown, the figures reported by various sections of the media are troubling. In 2018, the Supreme Court described lynching as a "horrendous act of mobocracy". The Court exhorted the Centre and State governments to frame laws specifically to deal with the crime of lynching and laid down certain guidelines to be incorporated in these laws including fast-track trials, compensation to victims, and disciplinary action against lax law-enforcers. Manipur government came up first with its Bill against lynching in 2018, incorporating some logical and relevant clauses. The Bill specified that there would be nodal officers in each district to control such crimes. Police officers who fail to prevent the crime of lynching in their jurisdiction are liable to be imprisoned for a term that may extend from one to three years with a fine limit of ₹50,000. Additionally, no concurrence of the State government is required to prosecute them for dereliction of duty. It devolves upon the State to protect victims of mob violence and witnesses from any inducement or coercion apart from initiating schemes for rehabilitation and setting up relief camps where a community is displaced. The law provides for adequate monetary compensation to the victims or their immediate kin. The Rajasthan government passed a bill against lynching in August 2019, not a moment too soon, given that according to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal, "After 2014, 86% cases of mob lynching reported in the country happened in Rajasthan." However, not only has the government accepted only a few guidelines issued by the apex court, but is also silent on any action to be initiated against police officers who may be accused of dereliction of duty. West Bengal came up with a more stringent Bill against lynching. Punishment for lynching to death is punishable with the death penalty or life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh. Assam also needs strict laws against mob lynchings.

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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

Indira Gandhi convinced world before 1971. She and Manekshaw both knew timing was key



On 28 or 29 April 1971 - the exact date is unclear - Prime Minister Indira Gandhi convened a crucial cabinet meeting to discuss the crisis in "East Bengal". The term "East Bengal" was first used in a parliamentary resolution of 29 March 1971, condemning the brutal crackdown in "East Pakistan" - a more dispassionate term used on previous occasions. The use of the term "East Bengal", argues Chandrashekar Dasgupta, the author of a remarkable new book on 'India and the Bangladesh Liberation War', showed that the prime minister was a "step ahead of her advisors". "She had quickly grasped," according to Dasgupta - an Indian diplomat who served in Bangladesh between 1972 and 1974 - that Pakistani President Yahya Khan's heavy-handed tactics "had delivered the final death blow to Pakistan's unity." To discuss the crackdown and India's approach to the same, General Sam Manekshaw - then Indian Chief of Army Staff - was invited to the 28/29 April meeting. Others included foreign minister Swarn Singh, possibly defence minister Jagjivan Ram, prime minister's adviser P.N. Haksar, and others. According to Gandhi's biographers, such as Pupul Jayakar, the following exchange took place between the prime minister and her Army Chief: "Refugees are pouring in," Gandhi made clear. "You [Manekshaw] must stop them. If necessary, move into East Pakistan but stop them." In response,

the Army Chief, according to other sources, stated: "I guarantee 100 per cent defeat" if the Indian Army was asked to immediately intervene. Accordingly, Indira Gandhi is said to have been swayed against intervention in the summer of 1971. Take this logic a step forward and it could be deduced - as many have - that India averted military defeat because of Sam Manekshaw. To be sure, this exchange - recounted in numerous secondary accounts - has become something of a living myth. The archival document for this meeting remains classified. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is said to have digitised the records - but nothing has been transferred to the National Archives, as yet - to the best of my knowledge. Dasgupta sets the record straight. Manekshaw, "a gifted raconteur," argues the former diplomat-turned-historian, "circulated a colourful tale about how he had restrained Mrs Gandhi from ordering the Indian Army to march into East Pakistan in April."

This description - that takes-up a couple of paragraphs in this monumental effort of 250 pages - has set the scene for all sorts of literary interventions. According to Arjun Subramaniam, a former Air Vice Marshall and the celebrated author of two fantastic volumes on India's Wars, Dasgupta does a little more than "undermine" an "iconic" Army Chief. For Subramaniam, the suggestion that the Prime Minister and not the Army Chief played a more significant role in those testing summer days seems preposterous. To an extent, the outrage is understandable. For many, especially those who served in the Indian military, Dasgupta's interpretations are emblematic of a particular homily in the larger literature in civil-military relations that consistently undermines the agency of the Indian military. Yet, in this case, Dasgupta appears to have got it more right than wrong. Doing so does in no way take away from Sam Manekshaw's

fundamental contributions to this nation. In fact, continuing to place the spotlight on this narrow episode in history, a mere slice of Manekshaw's role in the 1971 War, does more to undermine an icon that many of us have grown-up with. There are at least two sets of reasons that support Dasgupta's claim that Indira Gandhi had already made-up her mind about the need to delay military intervention, prior to the meeting on 28/29 April. Further, much like any policy process, thinking around an eventual military intervention evolved over the next seven months. To understand the development of policy, the archival records are clear - and easily available in at least half-a-dozen libraries around the world. De-classification of the MEA's records is of course desirable, but it is not essential to understand the motives behind India's decision to wait to intervene until December 1971. First, from the beginning of April 1971, Swarn Singh encouraged restraint. Garnering international support against Yahya's regime and for an

intervention was on the top of the Indian foreign minister's agenda. D. P. Dhar, the Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union had reported that Moscow's support was unclear. He and his deputies had only begun re-exploring the potential of a 'Treaty of Friendship', first mooted by Russia in 1969. It was signed on 9 August 1971. The treaty was seen by many as a diplomatic shield that sought to protect India from American, Chinese and Pakistani collective actions. Yet, as Dasgupta highlights in his book, until November, the Soviet leadership was divided on its support to India. Andrei Gromyko had also conveyed to his American counterparts, early-on in June and July, that the Treaty could in fact restrain India (these correspondences are available in College Park, in the United States National Archives.) None of this was lost on Dhar. In fact, as Srinath Raghavan makes

clear in his magnificent treatise on The Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh, both Gandhi and Haksar believed - as early as the end of March 1971 - that "interference in events internal to Pakistan will not earn us either understanding or goodwill from the majority of nation-states." It was imperative to design an international campaign to win global support. This is exactly what transpired over the following six months. The primary objective of the campaign was to convince capitals around the world of the "genocide" being carried out in East Bengal. Gandhi did not fail to use exactly these terms in interviews she gave across Europe and the United States. Second, Jagjivan Ram - the defence minister - and others cautioned Gandhi about the potential role China could play in the event of an early intervention. This line of thinking deepened following Henry Kissinger's secret visit to Peking in July 1971. The treaty with Russia was seen, in some quarters, as a deterrent that could keep the Chinese at bay. Further, as mentioned above, it was understood to provide a degree of cover in the event of Chinese, American, and Pakistani collusion. Evidence of this collusion became clearer to Swarn Singh in June, when he visited the United States and learnt of American arms shipments to Pakistan. In the end, the deliberations that took place on 28/29 April made clear, as J. N. Dixit writes, that an "evolutionary policy stance" was to be adopted. The objective, according to Dixit, was to leave open the "freedom to exercise the military option if interim measures taken did not resolve the East Pakistan crisis." Manekshaw, without doubt, played a part in the policy stance that grew out of these deliberations. However, it is also clear that Gandhi did not need to be convinced of the decision to reconsider an early intervention. That call had already been taken by her. It was shaped by her advisors, her cabinet and re-confirmed - for more logistical reasons - by her Army Chief.

'History of Revenue Administration in Assam'

Assam has a glorious past. Its name and fame mentioned in the mythological stories of the Holy books of Hindus. Earlier, it was known as 'Pragrajyotishpura' and 'Kamarupa'. Since ancient times, the concept of absolute state ownership of land was prevalent in Assam. Under the Ahom rule, the soil was the absolute property of the Sovereign and the Raiyats held under them under different conditions. The Ahom kingdom was established in 1228 when Sukapha entered the Brahmaputra valley. He did not battle any established kingdom and seem to have occupied a depopulated region on the south bank with the Burhidhing river in the north, the Dihkhau river in the south and the Patkai mountains in the east. He befriended the local groups and finally settled his capital at Charaideo.

The Ahoms brought with them the technology of wet rice cultivation that they shared with other groups. The Ahom rulers had the absolute right over land during their time of reign. Sometimes, they made free grants to Idols, Brahmins, religious institutions and elites in the field of learning and administration. In making such grants, they

alienated their proprietary rights in favour of these grantees. There were three types of land grants, such as: Debottor land (dedicated to idols), Dharmottor land (dedicated to religious purposes) and Brahmottor land (dedicated to priests or Brahmins). All these grants were Lakhiraj or revenue free land, having transferrable and heritable rights.

Apart from these grants made by the Ahom ruler, all other lands of the kingdom were allowed to be cultivated by 'Paiks' or 'Raiyats'. The 'Paik' was a type of corvée labour. Every male in the Ahom kingdom between the ages of fifteen and fifty who was not a noble, a priest, a high caste or a slave was considered as a 'Paik'.

During the time of Ahom rule, the whole population of the kingdom was divided into 'Khels' and each 'Khel' contained 1000 to 5000 persons. Each 'Khel' was sub-divided into 'Gotes'. Each Gote contained 3 to 4 'Paiks'. The Khels were under the jurisdiction of various administrative officials. These officials had to bring out a definite number of Paiks from their Khels for state services. They were not paid with wage for

their services but with landed estates along with a definite number of Paiks for their personal use.

One 'Paik' of each 'Gote' rendered personal service to the king or some officer of the state. In return, each 'Paik' of the 'Gote' was allotted 2 (two) 'Puras' (eight bighas) of rice land or orchard free of rent, the two 'Paiks' who remained at home cultivating not only their own shares but also that of the third Paik, whose turn it was to give his labour to the state. In addition, each 'Paik' was allowed a piece of land for his house and garden for which he paid Rs. 1.00 annually as House Tax or Poll Tax. If a 'Paik' cultivated any rice land in excess of his two Puras, he was assessed to Rs. 1.00 per 'Pura'. The non-cultivation paid a higher rate of Poll Tax, the Pam cultivators paid a tax on their ploughs and the 'Hoe-Tax' was paid by the Hills Tribes.

The Ahoms used the technology of wet rice cultivation. This practice called for settled agricultural practices, in contrast to the erstwhile practices of shifting cultivation, thereby a change in the mode of production. A new class thus emerged

and the land, which was earlier considered as a communal property, started becoming personalized.

Advent of British Rule in Assam

British entered Assam after the landaboo Pact in 1826 and became the absolute owner of land in Assam. The main motive of the colonial administration was to improvise land and maximise profit from the resources available in the region. Several changes marked the beginning of British annexation in Assam. New forms of tax collection were introduced under the new administrative system. Poll tax came up in response to individuals rendering the state services. This was meant for all the people across different classes and groups.

The colonial administration also introduced a new form of governance. There were new administrative cannons introduced by the British in the form of 'excluded' and 'partly excluded areas'. These areas were separated from each other for having a more convenient and smooth administration. Though the British did not completely disapprove the practice of donating land to religious and charitable institutions, they however brought in many changes. The grantees of Debottor, Dharmottor and Brahmottor lands claimed the same proprietary rights as they used to enjoy under the Ahom rule. But the British Govt. did not acknowledge these claims straightway. General Jenkins, the then Commissioner made a detailed enquiry. He acknowledged the Debottor grants as 'Lakhiraj' or revenue free but assessed the other two classes to half the ordinary rates of revenue, which were therefore, known as 'Nisf-khiraj' or half revenue paying estates. On the basis of kind of categorization, various taxes were levied from land. The British government introduced a new system of revenue collection known as the Mauzadary system under which the powerful and the influential people in the village started acting as agents of collecting taxes from different 'Raiyats' in the village and finally submitting it to the state. Based on the total amount of tax collected from the people in the state, the Mauzadars were given a commission in return. For the collection of tax, a new category of officials were introduced which were known as 'Tahsildars'. They were clearly responsible for tax collection and were the paid employees of the colonial state. The village were divided into several circles and each circle was being handled and managed by a 'Mandal'. The whole village system thus operated at a hierarchical level. The Mandal was a government employee and was directly handled and being paid by the state, while the categories of Mauzadars and the Gaonburs were quasi-official.

Scientists sharing Omicron data were heroic. Let's ensure they don't regret it

One of the positive experiences during two years of pandemic gloom has been the speed of scientific progress in understanding and treating Covid. Many effective vaccines were launched in less than a year and rapid large-scale trials found a cheap and effective drug, dexamethasone, that saved thousands of lives. The global scientific community has also carried out "genomic surveillance" - sequencing the genome of the virus to track how it evolves and spreads at an unprecedented level: the public genome database has more than 5.5m genomes. The great value of that genomic surveillance, underpinned by a commitment to rapid and open sharing of the data by all countries in near-real time, has been seen in the last few days as we've learned of the Covid variant called Omicron. The surveillance requires a remarkable amount of cooperation between scientists to build compatible laboratory protocols, software systems and databases. Many of these scientists are not directly paid for this work and do it in addition to their existing jobs. They are motivated by a belief that sharing data relevant to public health, especially in a pandemic, can help speed up scientific understanding, aid in decision-making and contribute to the next generation of medicines. This commitment to rapid data sharing has deep roots in genomics. At a 1996 summit in Bermuda, the leaders of the Human Genome Project established a set of principles to release a new DNA sequence to public databases within 24 hours. This approach departed from the established convention that experimental data only

needed to be released when a study was published, months or years later. Sir John Sulston, founding director of the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said: "All of this [genome data] should be in the public domain... I think we need a public social welfare attitude to the use of this information." That attitude now prevails around the world, as evidenced by the rapid sharing of more than 1m Sars-CoV-2 sequences by the Sanger Institute since March 2020. On 23 November, scientists in Botswana uploaded 99 Sars-CoV-2 genome sequences to this database. Like most submissions that day, nearly all the sequences

Jeffrey Barrett were the

dominant Delta variant. But three of them looked different from anything seen before. Later the same day, an independent team in South Africa uploaded seven nearly identical genomes. These teams noticed that the new variant contained an eye-watering number of mutations in the part of the virus's genome that encodes the spike protein, which it uses to infect human cells. Most concerning, nearly half of these mutations had previously been seen in the earlier variants of concern (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta) or predicted in laboratory experiments to increase the virus's ability to latch on to human cells. They notified health authorities of their concerns and began an immediate investigation into how widespread this new variant might be. While these scientists worked around the clock, the fact that they had shared the sequences with the

world as part of their routine process, before they even knew what they were, meant that other scientists, thousands of miles away, could study them as well. Within just a few hours of the sequences being shared, a post was made on the pango designation forum, a corner of the internet where virus genome experts discuss new sequences and assign name that makes it easier to refer to specific parts of the Sars-CoV-2 family trees. The mutations in the new variant also alarmed the international scientists. It was quickly dubbed B.1.1.529 and prioritised for further study. Once additional evidence gathered by the local teams in South Africa had been presented, the World Health Organization (WHO) made it the fifth variant of concern, Omicron. Just 72 hours had passed since the original discovery. The scientists who sounded the alarm because they are committed to the moral imperative of rapid data sharing knew that in the midst of the pandemic it would have consequences. Tulio de Oliveira, one of the leaders of the South African genomics team, announcing the variant, tweeted: "The world should provide support to South Africa and Africa and not discriminate or isolate it! By protecting and supporting it, we will protect the world!" By the next day, dozens of countries, including the UK, had announced new travel restrictions on countries in southern Africa. Some restrictions may have been unavoidable to buy time to understand this new threat, but travel bans come with serious consequences for people and economies in affected countries. Previously, they have delayed, but not prevented, the spread of new variants.

Simai invites stakeholders to visit Arunachal



Kohima, Nov 30: Attending the International Tourism Mart (ITM) here in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh tourism advisor Laisam Simai during his presentation appealed to the delegates and stakeholders to visit Arunachal and other northeastern states to experience their rich cultural diversity, natural beauty and biodiversity. Simai said that Arunachal Pradesh is the largest of the north-

eastern states with huge tourism potential. He informed that, "with the help of the government of India, the state is quietly becoming one of the best tourism destinations of the country with fast improving roads, thus increasing the number of visitors to the state." He thanked the union tourism ministry and Nagaland Tourism for organizing the ITM, which is organized on a rotation basis by all

eastern states with huge tourism potential. He informed that, "with the help of the government of India, the state is quietly becoming one of the best tourism destinations of the country with fast improving roads, thus increasing the number of visitors to the state." He thanked the union tourism ministry and Nagaland Tourism for organizing the ITM, which is organized on a rotation basis by all

Nagaland undertakes project to popularize Thutho Cattle



Kohima, Nov 30: Nagaland Advisor for Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services and Women Resource Development R Khing inaugurated the Community Thutho Project at Kidima under Kohima district. Community Thutho Project is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under Rashtriya Gokul Mission during 2020-21. Khing said that initially characterization of Thutho was done by few scientists from NRCM-ICAR, Jharnapani. This was jointly pursued by the Department of AH&VS, NLDB and NBAGR (National Bureau of Animal Genetics & Research) and Thutho was finally registered as a new

ties and living quarters for herdsman," the advisor said adding that improvised dung pits have also been provided for farmers to gather enhanced quality manure of their animals individually. Also, to facilitate all the khels, three sheds have been constructed strategically to cater to their need with a capacity to hold over 200 Thutho cattle, he said. "As the topography and climatic conditions of our state is suitable for Thutho rearing and is profitable, we should all put our best efforts in promoting Thutho rearing for the economic upliftment of our people," he added. Further, he encouraged Kidima to set an example and lead the way. Er Zale Neikha, Advisor, Youth Resources and Sports, Nagaland also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, the advisor along with the department officials and village leaders inspected the sites of Tsukhwezou, Kithozou and Ketsazou. The inaugural function was chaired by Khruipi Sothu, secretary Department of AH & Vety Services, Nagaland. Dr Neikheyelie Theunuo, managing director, NLDB delivered keynote address while Kidima Village Council chairman Zakutol Thol delivered short speech. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Kuokehebi Gwirie, project co-coordinator, NLDB.

TMC to expand political base across Northeast ahead of 2024 LS polls: Sangma

Shillong, Nov 30 : Meghalaya TMC leader Mukul Sangma said that Mamata Banerjee's party is looking forward to expanding its political base across the Northeast ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The former Meghalaya chief minister, who recently switched over to the TMC along with 11 other Congress MLAs, told PTI in an interview that the political dynamics in the entire region is going to change with him quitting the grand old party. "I have been holding talks with leaders from other states in the region. They have been calling me up following the political decision that we have taken. This indicates that they are looking for something new in their respective states," he said. The six-times MLA said that former assembly speaker Charles Pynngrope is likely to be TMC state president, while he, as the legislature party leader, will focus on taking on the government head-on, as well as expanding the party in



other neighbouring states. The 12 TMC MLAs have left for Kolkata on Sunday to meet party chief Mamata Banerjee and other senior leaders to finalise the roles of Sangma and Pynngrope. Noting that his joining a new political party was long overdue, Sangma said that the 'lahe lahe' (slowly slowly in Assamese) attitude of Congress has resulted in an exodus of its leaders. "It's always good to have a new party in the game as it generates new interests. Anyone aligning himself/herself with a political organisation has a purpose. The TMC leadership in the state is 'tight' with unanimous vision and responsibility," the two-time

is not new in the state. Former Lok Sabha speaker and Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's father P A Sangma was once elected as a TMC MP from Tura constituency in western Meghalaya. Asked if the people of Meghalaya will accept TMC under the new dispensation, Sangma said, "I trust my people. I know them. My trust and confidence give me strength." Sangma, however, said that providing an alternative also means that a lot of hard work needs to be put in. "There is no time to rest. The 2022 Meghalaya assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are very crucial," he said. Sangma said that the TMC is focussing on the need to implement the Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Meghalaya in the backdrop of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). "The demand for implementation of ILP in Meghalaya has become louder after CAA because there is an anticipated scenario that awaits to be unfolded," he added.

IMR declines, 56% of children aged 6-59 months anaemic: Survey

Itanagar, Nov 30: The infant mortality rate (IMR) in Arunachal Pradesh has declined from 22.9 deaths per 1,000 live births to 12.9 deaths per 1,000 live births during the last five years, according to the National Family Health Survey - 5 (NFHS-5) report released by the health & family welfare ministry. The report, which was released on 24 November, said that 56.6 percent of the children aged between 6 and 59 months in the state are anaemic, while only 22 percent of the children aged 6-23 months received adequate diet. While the under-five mortality rate too has seen a decline from 32.9 deaths per 1,000 live births to 18.8 per 1,000 live births, neonatal mortality has seen a marginal decrease from 11.8 to 7.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in the state during that period, the survey said. The sex ratio of the total population in the state is 997 females against 1,000 males, while the sex ratio at birth of the children born in the last five years stands at 979 females per 1,000 males - a significant improvement from 926 during 2015-16, the survey said. The population below the age of 15 years has seen a 4 percent decline (from 31.7 percent to 27.1 percent) during the last five years. The total fertility rate stands at 1.8 children per woman - a marginal decline from 2.1 during 2015-19. On gender-based violence, the survey said that the percentage of ever-married women aged 18-49 years who have ever experienced spousal violence stands at 24.8 - a slight decline from 31 percent during 2015-16. The percentage of young women aged 18 to 29 years in the state who experienced sexual violence by age 18 is 0.7. The percentage of women who worked in the last 12 months and were paid in cash stands at 23.5. The survey said that 18.8 percent of women aged 15 years and above use any kind of tobacco and 24.2 percent of them use any kind of alcohol. In case of men aged 15 years and above, 50.3 percent use any kind of tobacco and 52.7 percent use any kind of alcohol. On HIV/AIDS, it said, only 12.3 percent of the women have comprehensive knowledge about the disease, while in the case of men, the percentage is 33.4. The NFHS-5 fieldwork for Arunachal was conducted from 13 January, 2020 to 21 March, 2020, prior to the lockdown, and from 7 December, 2020 to 19 April, 2021 post lockdown by Ipsos Research Pvt Ltd. Information was gathered from 18,268 households, 19,765 women, and 2,881 men. Due to the Covid-19 situation and the imposition of lockdown, NFHS-5 fieldwork in Phase 2 states/UTs was conducted in two parts, the ministry said in the release.

Traffic advisory for Hornbill Festival 2021

Kohima, Nov 30 : The Government of Nagaland will be organizing Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama with events at various locations within Kohima Town from December 1 to 10. To ensure smooth traffic during the festive period, the Kohima Police has issued the following advisories for compliance: No heavy vehicles will be allowed to enter Kohima Municipal area after 7:00 am till 10:00 pm from December 1 to 10. To mitigate traffic congestion, all heavy vehicles will be stopped at the following locations: Chaprui Peducha, Jotsoma By-Pass, Khuzama Police check gate. All loading/unloading within Kohima Municipal area must be completed before 7:00 am. The road stretch from Y-Junction Phoolbari to Razhü Point



will be restricted for vehicular traffic from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm on all days during the festival to facilitate Kohima Night Carnival. All traffic will be diverted from Y-Junction to Razhü Point via Local Ground (Khuochiezie). There will be no entry for any vehicular traffic from New Market to New NST from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. No vehicles will be allowed to park between Classic Point and PHQ junction. All displaced vehicles along this stretch will be parked at New Multi-Level Parking building, Old Medical Directorate. The bus stand at PHQ junction (BOC bus stand) will be shifted from the present location to the area opposite NSF Martyrs' park area. Parking facilities will be available at the following locations: New Multi-Level parking building, Old Medical Directorate; City Centre (Old MLA Hostel building); Northern Gate Local Ground, (Khuochiezie). All commercial pick-up vehicles shall be parked at KMC Chaü Parking, Forest Colony and Tata Parking, Bayavü. No commercial pick-up vehicles will be allowed to park in any unauthorised parking areas.

NPCC calls for increase of ex gratia for COVID victims



Kohima, Nov 30 : The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) today said the ex gratia amount of Rs 50,000 to families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is insufficient. In a letter to the Nagaland Chief Minister, the NPCC reminded that on September 11, the Central Government submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court mentioning that it will pay only Rs 50,000 as ex gratia to the families of those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. "Under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) the compensation amount is shared by the Centre and State in 75%-25% respectively," the NPCC noted. "At such difficult times, the meagre amount of Rs. 50,000 as ex gratia compensation is insufficient. The central government has argued that giving 4 lakh as compensation would leave the government with insufficient capital to deal with COVID-19 itself. We cannot understand how, the Central Government continues to collect taxes through rising petrol prices and provide tax relaxation to corporates, but can deny any such relief to the

citizens," it viewed. Meanwhile, the NPCC reminded the CM that after Covid-19 was notified as a disaster under the NDMA by the Central Government, the State Government put down several norms and restrictions upon the citizens to ensure containment of the spread of the virus. "Lockdown was instilled, people were heavily fined for not wearing masks and for not abiding by the Covid-19 protocols. But the norms of assistance, also mentioned under the norms of NDMA, as ex-gratia payment of Rs 4 lakh compensation have not been met," it said. It demanded that the Central Government implement its earlier order notified on March 14, 2020 committing disbursement of ex gratia payment of Rs 4 lakh per deceased. Later the Central Government revised this notification and reduced the ex-gratia payment to Rs. 50,000. "We feel at such times of distress it is imperative that special consideration should be made to fulfill the earlier commitment of 4 lakh by the government," the NPCC said.

No. DDB-14/15thFC/2020-21/831

Dated Dotma, the 29th Nov/2021

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed Tender are inviting for the work under 15th Finance BTC, fund for the year 2020-21 (enclosure herewith the list) from the intending Register Contractor of Class-I and Class-II (A, B & C) category of BTC area PWD (Roads & Building and other department) with affixing non refundable court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only in a prescribe form. The Tender will be received on **04/12/2021** up to 2.00 PM. And will be opened on same day at 2.30 Pm. in the office of the undersigned and the C.S. will be submitted to the Concern Authority of BTC, Kokrajhar for approval.

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated amount	Tender / Bid value	Cost of earnest money 1 % For ST/SC, 2% For Gen.	Cost of Tender documents	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Const. of road with E/F & S/G from Chatamari Kali Mandir to Pakritol Haren Roy house	Rs. 5,00,000.00	Rs. 4,95,000.00	Rs. 5,000 for (ST/SC) Rs. 10,000 (Gen)	500.00	
2	Const. of Tara Pump with Platform and Urinal Hell Bazar	Rs. 3,30,000.00	Rs. 3,26,700.00	Rs. 3,300 for (ST/SC) Rs.6,600 (Gen)	500.00	

The terms & conditions details may be seen at Notice Board of Block Development Officer, Dotma Dev. Block during office hour from **29/11/2021 till 04/12/2021** upto **5.00 P.M.**

Sd/-
Block Development officer,
Dotma Development Block, Dotma

IPR(BTC)-476/2021

Contd. From Page 1

Charles Pyngrope, MLA

Mukul Sangma, who was recently elected as the legislature party leader of the AITC, in the presence of the party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. Speaking over phone, Mukul Sangma informed that they have requested the AITC chairperson to consider their proposal to appoint Pyngrope as president of the state unit. "We proposed this to be considered and she has considered and confirmed," he said. According to him, a similar proposal was also made by them when they were in the Congress. The LP leader further informed that the constitution of the whole state unit will be completed in consultation among the members. When asked, Mukul Sangma said, "Don't ask for a specific time as it will be an exercise since we are trying to do something pertaining to the constitution of the whole state committee for a party which is being adopted rather it is more like a new beginning is being made. So it will take little time as we will discuss, consult and look at all our friends who are available and aggregate our strength accordingly."

Mob Lynching: Minister Ranuj Pegu

reached on spot in some time and the grievously injured trio was rushed to the Jorhat Medical College Hospital (JMCH), where doctors declared Animesh Bhuyan dead on arrival. The deceased AASU leader was the education secretary of AASU Brahmaputra Anchal (Golaghat Unit) along with the other two who travelled to Jorhat for some work on Monday. The two people injured are Mridusmanta Baruah, a journalist with a private television channel and Pranay Datta, another local AASU leader. CMs Himanta, Zoramthanga Likely to Meet Amit Shah Today to Discuss Assam-Mizoram Border Issue in Detail. Animesh's tragic death triggered a rage across the State and so far police have arrested 13 people including the main accused 'kola lora or kola gunda' aka Niraj Das. Other identified culprits arrested by the Assam police are Bitopan Das, Abinash Bora, Chiranjib Das, Bikram Das, Subas Bora, Deba Das, Saru Lora Das and Mohan Das. The main accused 'kola lora' who was absconding since Monday was arrested on Tuesday. The case has been registered under sections 147/148/149/326/302 of IPC. Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced Animesh mob lynching case will be tried in a fast track court and he has also directed the police to file a charge sheet within 15 days. Education Minister Dr Ranuj Pegu visited the victim's residence in Khakandaguri Village following Assam Chief Minister's direction and assured the family of swift justice. Pegu accompanied by MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi shared pictures of his visit to Bhuyan's house on his Twitter handle and wrote: "At Khakandaguri village under Dergaon PS, visited and offered my condolences to the bereaved family members of Animesh Bhuyan who was brutally killed in Jorhat yesterday. Hon'ble CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has already ordered police to file the chargesheet within 15 days," Special Director General of Police (Law & Order), Assam GP Singh on his Twitter handle on Monday evening said the investigation shall be monitored at the highest level including the CID, Assam Police, the Assam government and the CMO. AASU President Dipaka Nath and chief adviser Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharya also visited the victim's residence and met his family members. AASU President assured that the student organisation would fight for Animesh's family and demanded capital punishment for his killers. Dr Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharya appealed for a time-bound justice. The Jorhat lynching death is just an addition to the long list of victims lynched to death in the State over the years. In 2018, a nationwide reaction poured when two Guwahati youths Nilutpal Das, an audio engineer, and Abhijeet Nath, a digital artist, were lynched to death by a mob in Karbi Anglong. Their families still are awaiting justice. The latest crime spot Jorhat district has alone seen three lynching cases in the last three years. In 2019, a veteran doctor Dr Deben Dutta was lynched to death in a tea garden area. Next year, another person Debasish Gogoi was lynched to death and this year, 23-year-old Animesh is murdered by the mob. While many are blaming the police, administration and even the drug menace allegedly running in the area where the incident took place, some others are questioning the failure of the collective conscience of a society where mob lynching cases are so frequent. Pendency and delaying justice in mob violence cases are also criticised for gruesome crimes.

Omicron scare: Assam government

traveller who has arrived from countries categorised as 'at-risk', especially African nations. The Assam health department had a meeting with ICMR on Monday regarding genome sequencing of passengers, who are coming from the 12 'at-risk' countries. "Assam does not have direct flights from the 12 countries. Any Assam-bound passenger from these countries won't be able to board connecting flights to the state unless their RT-PCR test report is negative," said principal secretary to the state health department, Anurag Goel. ICMR sources said such passengers will again be tested in Assam on the eighth day of testing negative on arrival at any of the international airports in the country. If they are found positive in the state, genome sequencing of such passengers will be done to confirm whether the infection is due to the new variant. District administration officials are expecting new guidelines from the state government soon as sources in the health department said discussion is on at the top level to make Covid testing stricter in transit routes. Officials in Kamrup (Metro) district administration said that some passengers got irked with the tightening of rules in the last couple of days. "The fresh guidelines in the wake of Omicron may be published by the state within the next couple of days," a health department official said. About 10 to 20 northeast-bound international fliers land at Guwahati airport every day, but they enter through other airports as the northeast does not have direct commercial air connectivity with any of the foreign nations at present.

Indian economy grew 8.4%

down from a rise of 19.35 percent on year in Q1. The GDP numbers for the second quarter were mostly in line with the projections by leading brokerages and financial institutions. For instance, India Ratings had projected the economy to grow 8.3 percent in Q2 and close the year with 9.4 percent in FY22. The agency had attributed the higher growth to the nine consecutive quarters of over three percent agriculture growth, which had brightened consumer spending. SBI Research had predicted the country's GDP growth to be around 8.1 percent for the second quarter and in the range of 9.3-9.6 percent during fiscal 2022. A report prepared by the economists at private lender HDFC Bank had estimated the September quarter growth at 7.3 percent when looked at from a GVA basis. The gap between GDP and GVA is likely to be driven by higher tax revenue collection and lower subsidy pay-outs in this quarter, said the report released on November 24. Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs on November 23 estimated India's GDP growth at 9.1 percent in 2022. After India's economy contracted by a sharp 7 percent in 2020, Goldman Sachs pegged the economy to grow at 8 percent in 2021 and 9.1 percent in 2022.

Assam CM presents appointment

and failure to do so would bring penal actions such as salary reductions of principals and faculty members. Education Minister Dr Ranuj Pegu, MLA Manab Deka, Education Adviser to Govt. of Assam Dr Nani Gopal Mahanta and other dignitaries were present at the programme.

AAGSU condemns murder of Animesh Bhuyan

A.R Correspondent, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 30 : The central vice president of All Assam Gorkha Students' Union (AAGSU) Dilip Gajurel, condemns the brutal killing of AASU activist Animesh Bhuyan by an unruly mob at Jorhat town on Monday. Talking to this correspondent AAGSU vice president strictly condemns the uncivilized act of the gang and demanded strict actions against those involved in the molestation. He further made an appeal to the state government that all those involved should be brought under judicial custody and be given exemplary punishment.



Free Dental Camp held

STAFF REPORTER, Aalo, Nov 30 : A day-long free Dental Camp was organized by a team of doctors in loving memory of the late Jarbom Gamlin, former Chief Minister of the state on his 7th death anniversary at Gumin Kiin Aalo on November 29 last. The day-long camp was organized by a team of dental doctors, Dr. Jepi Gamlin Padu, Dr. Babi Gamlin Likar and Dr. Chhavi Tyagi and many needy patients who turned up for treatment were treated and given away medicines free of cost on the day.

'Bijli Utsav' Organized in Assam

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 30 : As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – to celebrate 75 years of Independence, REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) Limited, a public infrastructure finance company under the Ministry of Power organized 'Bijli Utsav' in Sonapur village of Kamrup district and adjoining villages in Assam on November 30. Numerous dignitaries such as Bipul Deka, President, Sonapur Gaon Panchayat, Kunjolata Deka, Village Head, Ruhini Kr. Das, Ex-President Sonapur Gaon Panchayat and Upen Bhatlyia – Retired Principal graced the occasion. Manik Deb, Chief Manager (Tech/ Admin) was also present as representative of REC Regional Office, Guwahati. The dignitaries and esteemed guests in their speech highlighted the benefits of electricity, the challenges faced during electrification in remote areas and how the quality of life improves with access to power. Beneficiaries from the villages were also invited on-stage to share their experience and views on how electricity has transformed their lives. To engage with the villagers and children, various competitions and cultural programs were also held in today's event. Nukkad Natak was also performed to impart knowledge on subjects such as benefits of electricity and its conservation, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Covid-19 safety protocols. The event concluded with distribution of LED bulbs as prizes to the winners of the competitions.

Prizes distributed to winners of photography competitions



CORRESPONDENT, Kajalgaon, Nov 30 : The Deputy Commissioner, Chirang, Narendra Kumar Shah on Tuesday gave away the prizes to the winning budding photographers in a prize distribution ceremony held in the conference hall of Deputy commissioner's office at Kajalgaon. In the competition, Hiranmay Basumatary of South Chapaguri, Kajalgaon bagged the first prize of Rs.3000 with citation, Dwidan Muchahary of No.1 Fulbari, Hatisar bagged the second prize of Rs.2000, while Bishal Paul won the third prize of Rs.1000. The Deputy Commissioner Shah congratulated them on winning the competition. The event was organised by the Chirang district administration on October 26 to November 8 this year in order to promote and provide a perfect exposure to the assets like art, culture, wildlife animals, scenic beauty of the district as well as to discover talents of the budding interested photographers. A total of 37 participants, only from the Chirang district, participated in the event.

Drug peddler, land broker arrested

A Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 30: Based on information, Nagaon Itachali TOP police arrested drug peddler Rofiq Ali from Laogaoon Salmari on the outskirts of the town last night. Police subsequently seized 14 numbers of plastic containers with suspected heroin from his possession, sources added. Meanwhile based on a complaint, Khatowal police arrested one land broker named Rafikul Islam from Geruamukh village under Khatowal PS today.

Dharani Rijal memorial meeting held

A.R Correspondent, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 30: The 23rd death anniversary of Dharani Rijal was celebrated at Dharani Rijal Memorial Hall, Gelapohkari here on Tuesday with a day-long programme. The memorial meeting organized by Sajha Kala Gosthi was chaired by Hari Luitel. Retired professor Dhaneswar Bora forwarded Dharani Rijal memorial lecture wherein he fondly recalled the contributions made by late Rijal. The memorial meeting began with lighting of earthen lamps by Basudev Parajuli, retired ACS officer followed by a welcome address. In this connection a book authored by Sanjiv Upadhyaya was released by Khemraj Nepal. The meeting was also addressed by Sarada Parajuli, Ganga Parajuli, Dinesh Nayak among others.

JPP celebrates 74th death anniversary of Bhimbar Deori

Correspondent, Dhemaji, Nov 30: The 74th death anniversary of former forest minister and public leader Bhimbar Deori was celebrated in the premises of Sripani Primary School under the initiative of Jim' Chaya Deori People's Party on November 30. A wreath was paid at the statue of public leader Bhimbar Deori followed by hoisting the JPP flag in the morning. JPP leader Hemkanta Deori participated in the programme and said that Bhimbar Deori was not only a leader of the Deori community but also a leader of the entire Assamese people. JPP demanded that the Central and state governments declare a government holiday in Assam on November 30 and Bogibeel Bridge should be in Bhimbar Deori's name, so that his contribution and sacrifice remain in the heart of each and every people of Assam.



Former AGP MLA Atul Sarma passes away

A Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 30: Ex AGP MLA of Samaguri LAC Atul Sarma breathed his last at Guwahati Medical College Hospital this evening. He was being treated in GMCH for a couple of days after his health deteriorated sharply. Sarma was the president of Nagaon district committee of Asom Gana Parishad and became MLA of Samaguri LAC in 1996. He joined the saffron party in 2016 and served the saffron party till his death. Various organizations as well as other dignitaries of the district including local MLARupak Sarma, ex AGP minister Girindra Kr Boruah, ex Union Railway Minister for State Rajen Gohain, Ex CM Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and other condoled his demise and paid homage to him.



Obituary

Khanamukh Krishna Adhikari

A.R Correspondent, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 30 : An emerging entrepreneur of Khanamukh Krishna Adhikari (38) breathed his last due to liver related ailments in a private hospital at Guwahati on Monday. Adhikari, a resident of Rangajan was closely associated with many socio-cultural organizations of the greater Khanamukh area. Organizations including the greater Gorkha Samaj; Khanamukh, Khanamukh Brick Industry Owners Association, Bharatiya Sahitya Pratisthan etc. paid rich tributes to the moral remains at his residence. He leaves behind his parents, wife and a daughter along with a host of relatives. His untimely demise was widely mourned.



Swachhta Pakhwada observed across Assam Postal Circle

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 30: As part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of Government of India, the Swachhta Pakhwada 2021 was observed from November 16 to 30 across Assam Postal Circle consisting of 19 Head Post Offices, 605 Sub Offices, 9 Postal Division, 2 RMS Division, PSD NESD, MMS and PTC, Guwahati. The Pakhwada Campaign was started with the taking of Pledge on November 16 last. During the Campaign, various activities like Swachhta March, Workshop on conservation of water, Workshop on segregation of wet and dry wastage, organizing essay and quiz competition, Tree Plantation etc were undertaken by the staff of Assam Postal Circle to create awareness on cleanliness among staff and public. Around 4300 staff participated in shramdaan conducted by various units. The Pakhawada concluded today successfully.

Passenger from S Africa lands in Mumbai via Delhi, tests positive

Mumbai, November 30 : A 32-year-old resident of Dombivli in Mumbai, who arrived from South Africa via Delhi on November 24, tested positive upon arrival, though health officials are yet to ascertain if he is infected with the Omicron variant of Covid-19. "The passenger travelled from Cape Town to Delhi via Dubai. He gave a sample in Delhi and was allowed to board the connecting flight to Mumbai. On arrival in Mumbai, he was found to be positive. He is asymptomatic and had home quarantined himself. Later, the corporation quarantined him in an institution," said Pratibha Panpatil, Chief Medical Officer of the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC). KDMC health officials said they have alerted the airport authorities and efforts are on to locate the man's co-passengers. Dr Pradeep Vyas, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) said, "We have sent his samples for genome sequencing to find out if he is carrying the Omicron variant." According to the Centre's November 11 guidelines for international passengers, samples for RT-PCR tests are to be submitted on landing, after which passengers are allowed to leave the airport. Passengers are to follow home quarantine for seven days, with a mandatory retest on the eighth day. Amid rising worries over the Omicron variant, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has begun contacting 466 passengers who arrived in the city over the last 15 days from the "countries of concern", including South Africa, and will take swab samples from them for RT-PCR tests. Officials said that 97 of the 466 passengers who arrived in Mumbai are residents of the city. The civic body is individually contacting all passengers for their health updates. "The passengers who live in Mumbai don't have any symptoms. All are quarantined at home. We will run RT-PCR tests on them on Monday," said BMC Additional Commissioner Suresh Kakani. The Indian Express has learnt that the state government is likely to make seven-day institutional quarantine mandatory for passengers flying into the city from - or transiting through - countries of concern. For domestic passengers, the government is likely to bring back the rule on mandatorily carrying a negative RT-PCR test for entering the state, sources said. These measures were discussed at a Covid-19 review meeting that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray held with Health Minister Rajesh Tope, senior government officials, state Covid task force members, divisional commissioners and district collectors. Thackeray instructed the officials to conduct tests of international and domestic passengers arriving at airports, and asked them to take necessary steps without waiting for the Centre's instructions, according to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office. He asked for monitoring on "war footing" of international passengers who land elsewhere in the country and travel to Maharashtra by domestic airlines, roads and railways. Institutional quarantine for passengers flying from or transiting through South Africa and other southern African countries was discussed. "The suggestion was to have the seven-day mandatory institutional quarantine for these passengers," said an official from the government. On Saturday, the BMC sent a proposal to the state government for making a 14-day institutional quarantine mandatory for passengers flying from or transiting through South Africa. The state government is likely to issue an order about these restrictions in the next one or two days, sources said. "The challenge of the Omicron variant is worrisome. Care should be taken to ensure that the risk of infection (new variant) does not increase under any circumstances. Once the infection is increased, an option like lockdown is not affordable. So, to avoid it, restrictions such as wearing a mask regularly, avoiding unnecessary crowding, and keeping a safe distance must be followed," the Chief Minister said, adding that strict action would be taken against violation. Thackeray asked officials to check availability of oxygen and medicines and carry out fire audits of hospitals. He also emphasized that people should take both doses of the vaccine. In Chandrapur, Palghar, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Gadchiroli, Jalna, Buldhana, Solapur districts and others that have vaccination coverage below 30%, Thackeray asked district officials to ramp up inoculation. On Monday, the CM is scheduled to chair a state cabinet meeting. Sources said that apart from the decision related to caste validity of backward class candidates in local bodies polls, the cabinet is likely to discuss the issue of the new Covid variant and vaccination. Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Dr Pradeep Vyas said the government would ramp up the 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccine' principle. He said daily testing would be increased to over 11 lakh daily from the daily state-wide average of 6.5 lakh tests at present. Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar earlier announced that passengers arriving at the city airport from South Africa would be quarantined and genome sequencing of passengers would be done if they are found Covid-19 positive.

BHA deny former integrity chief went on an 'Oliver Reed-style bender'

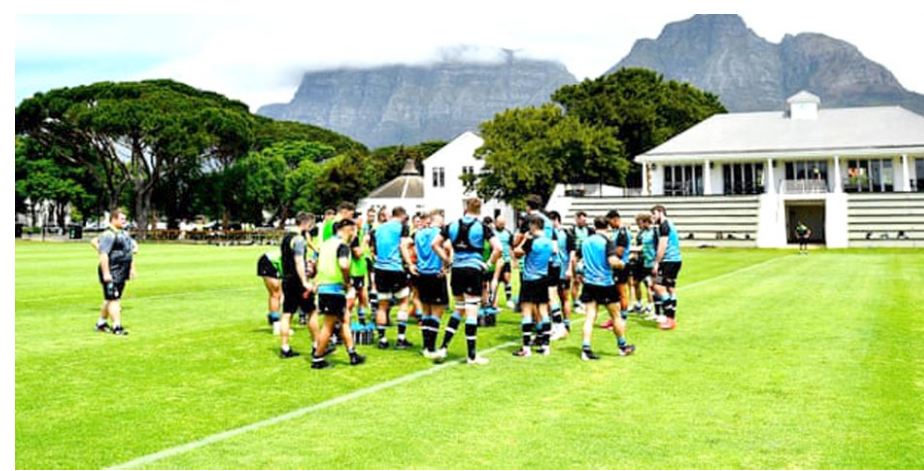


London, November 30 : The British Horseracing Authority have denied a claim by former trainer Charlie Brooks that Chris Watts, the BHA's former head of integrity assurance, left his position after an "Oliver Reed-style bender" in Newmarket earlier this year. In a column in Monday's Daily Telegraph, Brooks also suggested that Watts, a former senior police officer who was the anti-corruption manager for the England and Wales Cricket

Board before moving to the BHA in 2017, was involved in an alcohol-fuelled incident at the British Racing School later the same day. A subsequent disciplinary process involving Watts, according to the column, contributed to delays in convening Tuesday's hearing into Bryony Frost's complaint of bullying by her fellow jockey Robbie Dunne, which Watts helped to investigate. In a statement released a few hours after publication, however, the Authority rebutted Brooks's claims. "The article is misleading and inaccurate and we can categorically deny the suggestion that an

incident of this nature was linked in any way to a BHA regulatory investigation or led to the departure of any staff member from the BHA," the statement said, adding: "The Daily Telegraph have been contacted to inform them of these facts." Watts conducted a number of interviews with members of the weighing room, including both Frost and Dunne, while investigating Frost's complaint. A 120-page report on the investigation, which concluded that there was a case for Dunne to answer and also suggested that some of their fellow riders had been reluctant to cooperate fully with the inquiry, was subsequently leaked to the Sunday Times. Dunne has denied all the allegations.

London, November 30 : Postponement is not an option for the European Champions Cup as rugby union finds itself on the frontline in dealing with the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Organisers of club rugby's elite northern hemisphere tournament are to insist teams do all they can to stage fixtures, when the Champions Cup group stage begins in 10 days' time. This could include listing academy scholars in matchday squads if positive Covid tests and quarantine measures limit player availability. The prospect of an interrupted schedule loomed on Monday, with fallout from the postponement of two rounds of fixtures in the South African leg of the United Rugby Championship continuing to reverberate. Cardiff Rugby



remain stranded in South Africa after reporting two positive Covid cases. A new round of tests have discovered no new cases among the players but quarantine rules mean the team must stay in South Africa, a situation club officials are hoping to rectify. A similar fate has befallen Munster who recorded one positive case this weekend. Cardiff are due to host Toulouse in the Champions Cup on 11 December, while Munster are scheduled to travel to Wasps a day later. Two more URC teams, Scarlets

and the Italian side Zebre, have managed to leave South Africa, with the Welsh side quarantining in Belfast. Their Champions Cup opener is on 11 December at Bristol. URC organisers said: "Having helped to repatriate two teams, [we continue] to support the two remaining teams in South Africa. There is a widespread network of stakeholders working vigorously to ensure the safe return of both Cardiff Rugby and Munster Rugby as soon as possible and keep them comfortable at this time." A

spokesperson for European Professional Club Rugby, organisers of the Champions Cup, said: "We are monitoring the situation and are in contact with the clubs." A lack of flexibility in the calendar means that EPCR cannot rearrange and are faced with two options - ensure matches go ahead or enforce forfeits - but any decisions may be left to the last minute as much remains uncertain about the threat posed by Omicron, including what measures governments will take to limit its spread. Many countries have added

southern African nations to their travel red lists. In Europe, Switzerland has also placed restrictions on UK nationals, with vaccinated travellers expected to quarantine for 10 days in the country. That has already caused problems for Manchester United. They are due to host Young Boys of Bern in the Champions League next week, but it is unclear whether the players will be exempt from quarantine on their return from England. Under Uefa rules, if a match cannot be staged in the designated country then it falls to the host club to find a neutral venue. In domestic football, the Premier League remain confident of the schedule continuing as planned, with no intimation of new measures on player protocols or supporter restrictions coming from government. On Monday, the English top flight announced seven positive Covid tests among players and staff, the highest one-off total since August.

Great Britain can rely on their doubles against Germany in Davis Cup

London, November 30 : Throughout the history of the Davis Cup, one of its defining features has been the pivotal role of doubles, particularly as modern players prioritise singles on the day-to-day grind of the tour. The shortened format of the Davis Cup has made doubles more pronounced and numerous ties in the past week have been settled by the strength of each team's duos. This is a welcome development for Great Britain who have produced numerous capable doubles players in recent years and welcomed one of the best doubles players in the world into their fold this year. With his regular tour partner, Rajeev Ram, Joe Salisbury has thrived. He won his second major at the US Open this year, rising to No 3. He has been dominant in mixed doubles this year, too, winning the French Open and the US Open with Desirae Krawczyk. At 29, he is the youngest player in the ATP doubles top 20. There is much more to come. After the disappointment of Salisbury and Neal Skupski losing Salisbury's debut match in straight sets to France on Saturday, their thorough 6-4, 6-2 defeat of Jiri Vesely and Tomas



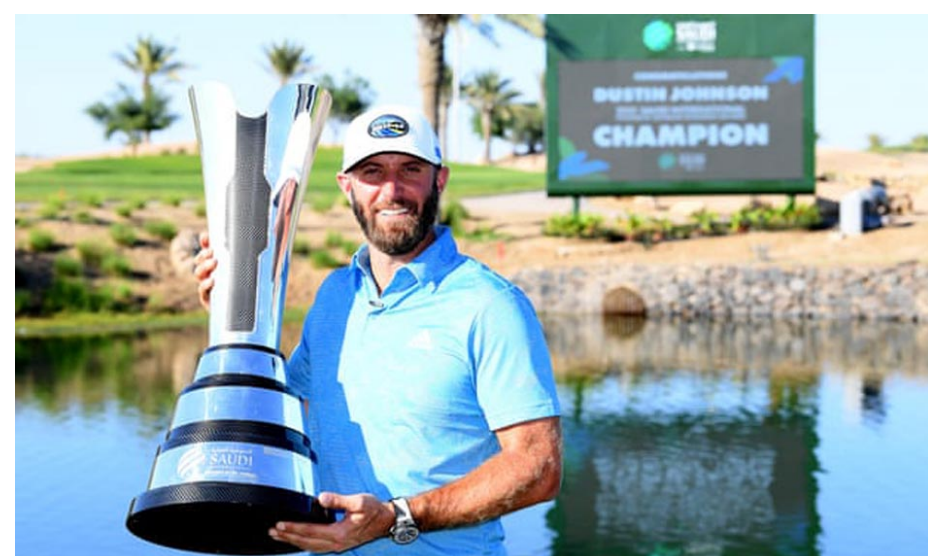
Machac, of the Czech Republic, the following day should provide them with significant confidence for the challenges ahead. That next challenge comes against Germany in Innsbruck on Tuesday, a rematch of the 2019 quarter-final when Kyle Edmund

and Dan Evans beat Philipp Kohlschreiber and Jan-Lennard Struff respectively to send Great Britain through. That encounter underlines the progress Great Britain has made. Evans has improved significantly but he is no longer the country's No 1

since the arrival of Cameron Norrie. As Salisbury has risen to the top, the returning Skupski has firmly established himself in the top 20 after being ranked 31 in 2019. Germany won both of their ties at the weekend to reach the quarter-final, including an excellent win over Novak Djokovic's Serbia, but their progress since 2019 has been more modest. Dominik Koepfer, the world No 54, is an upgrade on the veteran Kohlschreiber. He is a durable left-hander with a sweet cross-court backhand and has played the best tennis of his life over the past 18 months. However, Koepfer and Evans suffered frustrating defeats on Sunday to players outside the top 100 in Jurij Rodionov and Tomas Machac. In the absence of Alexander Zverev, who is not interested in the revamped Davis Cup, 51st-ranked Struff remains Germany's first singles player. His game is replete with weapons and he is more than capable of overpowering Norrie indoors, but Norrie's consistency and his ability to neutralise Struff's serve is more likely to wear him down.

Big names risk wrath of home circuits by committing to play Saudi Invitational

London, November 30 : Twenty-five of the biggest names in golf have committed to play the 2022 Saudi Invitational, potentially placing them on a collision course with their home circuits. The defending champion Dustin Johnson, Tommy Fleetwood, Lee Westwood, Sergio Garcia and Bryson DeChambeau are among the players scheduled to compete in the £3.7m event on 3-6 February. The PGA Tour said in July that it would not grant players the required releases to play in "unsanctioned events", with the DP World Tour - which signed a strategic alliance with the PGA Tour a year ago - expected to follow suit. That could lead to players being fined or even suspended if they opt to play at Royal Greens Golf and Country Club in Jeddah or in other Asian



Tour events. On Monday the PGA Tour said in a statement: "We have not granted any conflicting-event releases for the Saudi International tournament. Per PGA Tour regulations, a decision on conflicting-event releases can be made up until 30 days before the event's first round." The Saudi International was previously on the European Tour but is now the flagship event on the Asian Tour, which is also launching 10 new events spearheaded by the former world number one Greg Norman and backed by \$200m from the Saudi government's Private Investment Fund. The DP World Tour declined to comment on the issue. Meanwhile, Suzann Pettersen admits she has some "big shoes to fill" after

landing her dream role as Europe's Solheim Cup captain. Pettersen has made nine appearances as a player in the biennial contest, most famously as a controversial wildcard selection by captain Catriona Matthew in 2019. Pettersen holed the winning putt on the 18th green at Gleneagles and then immediately announced her retirement. The two-time major winner was also one of Matthew's vice-captains as Europe retained the trophy with just a second win on American soil in Toledo in September. She has now been handed the task of securing an unprecedented hat-trick of victories in Spain in 2023. "It's a dream come true to be able to captain the European team," Pettersen

said. "I was just so honoured. It's been a huge part of my career and obviously a new chapter now leading the way. I was told a few weeks ago and I'm excited to be able to share the news with my friends and the rest of the golfing world." "I was hoping I was going to get a chance. Catriona did a fantastic job at Gleneagles, she did a fantastic job defending it in Toledo, winning away from home and now handing it over to me going for three in a row." "She's leaving some big shoes to fill to be quite honest. It's a big task, a big challenge but like the way I played I'm going to give it my heart and soul and hopefully I'll be able to get the best team together to give it a good solid try."

'The beauty of Test cricket': New Zealand rearguard snatch thrilling draw in India

New Delhi, November 30 : Debutant Rachin Ravindra and No 11 batter Ajaz Patel combined in a stunning rearguard to secure New Zealand's thrilling draw in the opening Test against India. Chasing 284 for victory on a final day surface, New Zealand were in tatters at 155-9 with at least eight overs to go and the light steadily fading at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium. Their last batting pair of Ravindra and Patel faced relentless spin from both ends with a shoal of close-in fielders around the bat but managed to survive the last 52 balls to deny India. "I suppose the beauty of Test cricket really, where there can be a lot of excitement," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said of what he called "an exciting day". "Obviously when the win was out of the question, a draw is the next best option to try and fight for, and there



was a lot of effort going into trying to achieve that." "Rachin in his first Test match and Ajaz as well showed a lot of character to bat those few overs there against high-quality, world class spin as the light was dimming." After a wicketless morning session, seamer Umesh Yadav struck with the first ball after lunch to break the 76-run stand between overnight batsmen Will Somerville and Tom Latham. Somerville had walked out as nightwatchman after Will Young's late dismissal on Sunday but played like a specialist batsman for his 36 off 110 balls. His dismissal opened the floodgates for India's three-pronged spin attack. Ravichandran Ashwin (3-35) cut short Latham's industrious knock of 52 and Ravindra Jadeja (4-40) dismissed veteran Ross Taylor on the stroke of tea. The onus was on Williamson to save the match but the New Zealand captain fell for 24, trapped leg before by a Jadeja delivery that kept low.

Tiger Woods feared losing leg but aims for part-time return to PGA Tour

New York, November 30 : Tiger Woods has admitted he will probably never make a full-time return to professional golf and feared his leg would be amputated following a car crash earlier this year. The 15-time major champion suffered serious leg injuries in the February crash in California. In an interview with Golf Digest on Monday, he said any return to the sport will be limited. "I think something that is realistic is playing the [PGA] tour one day - never full time, ever again - but pick and choose, just like Mr [Ben] Hogan did. Pick and choose a few events a year and you play around that," he said. "You practice around that, and you gear yourself up for that. I think that's how I'm going to have to play it from now on. It's an unfortunate reality, but it's my reality. And I understand it, and I accept it," he said. "There was a point in time when, I wouldn't say it was 50/50, but it was damn near there if I was going to walk out of that hospital with one



leg. The 45-year-old has made remarkable comebacks before, most notably when he returned from a series of back surgeries to win the 2019 Masters. However, he told Golf Digest that his priorities now are his health and children. "I don't have to compete and play against the best players in the world to have a great life," Woods said. "After my back fusion, I had to climb Mount Everest one more time. I had to do it, and I did. This time around, I don't think I'll have the body to climb Mount Everest and

that's OK. "I can still participate in the game of golf. I can still, if my leg gets OK, I can still click off a tournament here or there. But as far as climbing the mountain again and getting all the way to the top, I don't think that's a realistic expectation of me." Woods's 12-year-old son Charlie is also a talented golfer and the pair played together in an exhibition event last year. On Monday, Woods said he took pleasure in seeing his son grow as a golfer and has been helping with the mental side of his game.

Alexia Putellas and Lionel Messi named 2021 Ballon d'Or winners

Barcelona, November 30 : Alexia Putellas and Lionel Messi have been crowned winners of the 2021 Ballon d'Or during a glittering ceremony in Paris. Putellas, who was an integral part of Barcelona's treble-winning side with 18 goals and 12 assists in the Primera División, scored in the 4-0 Champions League final victory against the WSL champions Chelsea and was named in the tournament's squad of the season. The midfielder has already been named Uefa's Women's Player of the Year for her stellar performances and she has followed up last season with a strong opening to this campaign, including a four-minute hat-trick against

Valencia. Putellas edged out her Barcelona teammate Jennifer Hermoso, Chelsea's Sam Kerr and Arsenal's free-scoring striker Vivianne Miedema to lift the trophy. The Chelsea trio of Pernille Harder, Jessie Fleming and Fran Kirby were seventh, ninth and 10th respectively. The 27-year-old follows in the footsteps of Ada Hegerberg and Megan Rapinoe, who won the award in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Putellas said: "I'm very emotional, it's a very special moment. I would like to start by thanking all my teammates, especially my current [Barcelona] teammates. For me it's a collective success." Messi won a seventh Ballon d'Or title, beating Robert Lewandowski to the award.



The Bayern Munich striker finished second after being a heavy favourite to win last year's award only for the ceremony to be cancelled because of Covid-19. Messi claimed his seventh title - moving two ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo in the process - and his first as a Paris Saint-Germain player following his summer move from Barcelona.

Bryony Frost case will put racing's rulers in the dock

London, November 30 :

Fourteen months after Bryony Frost lodged a formal complaint with the British Horseracing Authority that she had been bullied and harassed by her fellow rider, Robbie Dunne, the regulator's independent disciplinary panel will finally convene on Tuesday in London to consider the evidence against him. It is a case with no obvious precedent, which sets one member of the weighing room's apparently tight-knit community against another. It has also been plagued by delays and leaks, including a release of the 120 page report by BHA investigators into Frost's claims to



the Sunday Times, which prompted the authority to refer itself to the information commissioner. The Professional Jockeys' As-

sociation even suggested last month that the whole case should be abandoned, "however unsatisfactory that is". That was never going to

happen, but an uneasy sense of a process that might lurch out of control at any moment has surrounded the case for many months. It

will still hang in the air throughout the hearing. If you switch on a bright light in a room for the first time in years, you can never be entirely sure what you might find in the shadows. Dunne, who denied the allegations in the report, is the focus of Frost's complaint, but the ultimate scope of this week's case goes far beyond what did or did not happen on three days at the races last summer. The weighing room's cherished policy of self-regulation and the authority's competence as racing's regulator will also face the fiercest of scrutiny. With so much at stake, it is little surprise the three-strong panel hearing the case will be chaired by Brian Barker QC, a former recorder of London and appeal court judge, and also the chair of the sport's judicial panel. He will be assisted by HH James O'Mahony, also a former judge, and Alison Royston, who has ridden since childhood and is a former head of administration for the Premier League. It seems fair to assume they will approach the evidence and the case like any other, regardless of extensive coverage in the build-up that has included comments by current and former jockeys to support of the long-established but unwritten rule that what happens in the weighing room stays in the weighing room. But we already know from the leaks to the Sunday Times that the BHA's investigators sensed a definite reluctance by other riders - ie, potential witnesses - to speak fully about what occurred between Frost and Dunne. The BHA already faces criticism for the length of time it has taken to get the case to a hearing, as well as questions about the embarrassing leaks and the sudden departure of Chris Watts, its head of integrity assurance and the leader of the investigation into Frost's complaint, a few months ago. The overarching question will be whether racing's rules and procedures for protecting its participants from bullying and harassment in the workplace are fit for purpose. The simple fact that a complaint by a rider has made it this far could be viewed as a sign the BHA takes its responsibilities seriously. But whether this particular case is upheld or rejected by its independent disciplinary panel, the evidence that will be presented over the course of the hearing may well suggest there is still much more to be done.

Perth Ashes Test still in balance as any chance of quarantine exemptions ruled out



Perth, November 30 :

Perth's hopes of hosting the fifth Ashes Test have taken another big hit after WA premier Mark McGowan reiterated his hardline stance on quarantine rules and banned players' families for the trip west. The 60,000-seat Optus Stadium is slated to host the Ashes finale from 14 January. Earlier this month, McGowan said he was "very confident" the Test match would go ahead, despite it coming just five days after the conclusion of the SCG Test. At that stage, it was believed McGowan was considering relaxing the Covid-19 quarantine rules that players would have to adhere to given the Test match would be played just weeks before WA was due to throw open its borders. But in a dramatic turn over the past week, the emergence of the new Omicron variant has complicated matters. On Saturday, WA Cricket chief executive Christina Matthews said the prospect of Perth hosting the fifth Test had gone from 97% to 50%. Matthews said one of the major stumbling blocks was the sheer size of the broadcast team and the subsequent quarantine complications that would bring. Any chance of players being able to complete a shortened quarantine period instead of the regular 14-day stint was rejected by

McGowan on Tuesday. The same hardline rules will also apply to any staff members or broadcast workers going across. That means all members who fly to Perth will be under strict quarantine conditions throughout the entirety of the Test match - a situation that may not be feasible. "We have put in place very strict rules," McGowan said. "So we've said to them, 'you need to have 14 days quarantine'. And that has to apply to all the broadcast staff, the cricket staff. They can't just bring wives and girlfriends with them - same rules as we put in place for the AFL. It's up to them whether they want to adhere to those rules or not." The MCG is the frontrunner to host the fifth Test - possibly under lights - if Perth is stripped. But the SCG is ready and willing to host the Test if required. "We've said to Cricket Australia that we're here to help if they need it," NSW minister for tourism Stuart Ayres said. "I would love to see Perth host a Test match. That community over there has had to live behind a very closed border for a long time. So they deserve to have some fantastic sporting content." But if the West Australian government doesn't want that to happen, then NSW is ready to help Cricket Australia. "The same hardline rules will also apply to any staff members or broadcast workers going across. That means all members who fly to Perth will be under strict quarantine conditions throughout the entirety of the Test match - a situation that may not be feasible. "We have put in place very strict rules," McGowan said. "So we've said to them, 'you need to have 14 days quarantine'. And that has to apply to all the broadcast staff, the cricket staff. They can't just bring wives and girlfriends with them - same rules as we put in place for the AFL. It's up to them whether they want to adhere to those rules or not." The MCG is the frontrunner to host the fifth Test - possibly under lights - if Perth is stripped. But the SCG is ready and willing to host the Test if required. "We've said to Cricket Australia that we're here to help if they need it," NSW minister for tourism Stuart Ayres said. "I would love to see Perth host a Test match. That community over there has had to live behind a very closed border for a long time. So they deserve to have some fantastic sporting content." But if the West Australian government doesn't want that to happen, then NSW is ready to help Cricket Australia.



Madrid, November 30 : Croatia became the first team to reach the Davis Cup semifinals after seeing off Italy 2-1 on Monday. With the singles squared, the top-ranked doubles team of Mate

Pavic and Nikola Mektić had no trouble seeing off Fabio Fognini and Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-4 in the decider. Sinner replaced Simone Bolelli after winning his singles, which took nearly three hours. But he and Fognini couldn't get a break point against Pavic and Mektić, winners of Wimbledon and the Olympics this year. Croatia, a two-time champion, awaits

Serbia or Kazakhstan. Their quarterfinal is on Wednesday in Madrid. Borna Gojo set up Croatia's win by surprisingly taking the opening singles against Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (2), 2-6, 6-2. Gojo, who is 252 places below the 27th-ranked Sonego, turned around a 4-1 deficit in the opening set to force the tiebreak. Sonego rallied in the second set but continued to make errors in the third, including wasting three break points in the seventh game. "I knew third set it was either one's

game or one set, anything can happen," Gojo said. "It was a really tough game at 4-2 and I managed to hold. So, yeah, I'm really happy." Sinner evened the score when he beat former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3. Ranked No. 10 in the world, he rode passionate home support in Turin, even encouraging the fans several times to cheer even louder. "It's an amazing feeling of course, I don't have the voice anymore," Sinner said with a laugh.

RPF apprehended three touts : Recovered railway e-tickets

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 30 :

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway apprehended three persons in different drives conducted during last week for illegal selling of railway e-tickets. RPF recovered 32 railway e-tickets worth more than Rs. 63 thousand during November 19 to 28 last. Apprehended persons were prosecuted under section 143 of the Railways Act. In an incident on November, 28 RPF team of New Coochbehar received information regarding touting activities by a shop/agency named "Sujata Travels & Internet Café" located at Netaji Road, Ward No. 13, Coochbehar, under police station Kotwali, of Coochbehar (West Bengal). The RPF team conducted a raid and search in the above shop with the assistance of local Police/Kotwali, Coochbehar, during which

they apprehended one person namely, Sujay Barman, resident of Netaji Road, Ward No. 13, Coochbehar, under police station Kotwali, of Coochbehar (West Bengal) and recovered 04 Railway e-Tickets, worth Rs. 7,418.94/-, which were generated by using personal user IDs. One CPU and one mobile phone having 02 SIMs were also recovered / seized from the shop. In this regard, a case has been registered at RPF Post, New Coochbehar under section 143 of the Railways Act. In one such incident on November 25 last, RPF team comprising CIB and Cyber Cell staff of Tinsukia received information regarding touting activities. The RPF team conducted a drive at a shop namely "BITTU MOBILE & ELECTRONIC", situated at Pengaree Chari, under police station Pengaree of Tinsukia (Assam), with the assis-

tance of Local Police, Pengaree. During the drive, they apprehended one person namely, Rahul Sharma, resident of Vill-Nayatola, Bhojpur of Bihar, presently residing at Pengaree Chari, of Tinsukia (Assam) district and recovered of 15 railway e-tickets worth more than Rs. 37 thousand which were generated by using personal user IDs. One Monitor, one CPU, one mobile handset with 02 SIMs were also recovered. In this regard, a case has been registered at RPF Post, Tinsukia under section 143 of the Railways Act. Earlier also on November 19 last CIB and RPF team of Guwahati received information regarding touting activities. The RPF team with the help of local police of Bharalumukh Police Station conducted a drive at a shop named "Journey Mantra Travels" located at Bhoonath Bazar, PS- Bharalumukh, Dist- Kamrup (M) Assam. During the drive, they apprehended one person namely, Kunal Mahato, a resident of



Bhoonath Bazar, under police station Bharalumukh, of Kamrup (M) Assam and recovered 13 railway e-tickets worth about Rs. 19 thousand which were generated by using personal user IDs for his personal gain. One laptop, one mobile phone,

two IRCTC authorization certificates and one agency sign board were also recovered. As such, the recovered e-tickets were seized and the person was taken into custody. In this regard, a case has been registered at RPF Post, Guwahati under section 143 of the Railways Act. It may be mentioned here that RPF of N. F. Railway detected 99 cases of touting activities and apprehended 111 persons involved in illegal selling of railway e-tickets during January to October this year.

ID Cup football started : Khasang FC beat Doimalu club

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 30 : In the opening match of the prestigious - 73rd edition of ID Cup prize money football tournament Khasang football club (Majuli) beat Doimalu club (Udalguri) with a 6-4 margin here at Nagaon Nurul Amin Stadium playground this evening. The match was concluded with 3-3 goals and the match referee invited both the teams to confront the tie breaker where Khasang football club was able to push 3 goals and Doimalu club just only 1. The opening match was inaugurated by former state footballer Dipak Das. Dr Jagannath Biswakarma an NIR and currently residing in Switzerland, Hamen Gohain, the former president of Nagaon Sports Association, Tapan Sarma, Prasanta Bora and other dignitaries of the association were present in the inaugural ceremony.

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